

HANDBOOK OF THE
BIRDS
OF INDIA
AND PAKISTAN

*TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF BANGLADESH,
NEPAL, SIKKIM, BHUTAN AND SRI LANKA*

SÁLIM ALI
AND
S. DILLON RIPLEY

With contributions by T. J. Roberts

Volume 8
WARBLERS TO REDSTARTS
Synopsis Nos. 1471–1680
Colour Plates 83–89

SECOND EDITION

*Sponsored by the
Bombay Natural History Society*

DELHI
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
CALCUTTA CHENNAI MUMBAI

1997

INDEX TO THE VOLUMES BY FAMILY

Latin names (for English names see back endpaper)

- Accipitridae, 1
Aegithalinae (Paridae), 9
Alaudidae, 5
Alcedinidae, 4
Anatidae, 1
Apodidae, 4
Ardeidae, 1
Artamidae, 5
- Bombycillidae, 5
Bucerotidae, 4
Burhinidae, 3
- Campephagidae, 6
Capitonidae, 4
Caprimulgidae, 4
Carduelinae (Fringillidae), 10
Certhiidae, 9
Charadriidae, 2
Ciconiidae, 1
Cinclidae, 9
Columbidae, 3
Coraciidae, 4
Corvidae, 5
Cuculidae, 3
- Dicaeidae, 10
Dicuridae, 5
Dromadidae, 2
- Emberizidae, 10
Estrildinae (Ploceidae), 10
Eurylaimidae, 4
- Falconidae, 1
Fregatidae, 1
Fringillidae, 10
Fringillinae (Fringillidae), 10
- Gaviidae, 1
Glareolidae, 3
Gruidae, 2
- Haematopodidae, 2
Heliornithidae, 2
Hemiprocninae (Apodidae), 4
Hirundinidae, 5
Hydrobatidae, 1
Hypocoliinae (Bombycillidae), 5
- Indicatoridae, 4
Irenidae, 6
- Jaçanidae, 2
Jynginae (Picidae), 4
- Laniidae, 5
Laridae, 3
- Megapodiidae, 2
Meropidae, 4
Monarchinae (Muscicapidae), 7
Motacillidae, 9
Muscicapidae, 6-9
 Monarchinae, 7
 Muscicapinae, 7
 Pachycephalinae, 7
 Sylviinae, 8
 Timaliinae, 6-7
 Turdinae, 8-9
Muscicapinae, 7
- Nectariniidae, 10
- Oriolidae, 5
Otididae, 2
- Pachycephalinae (Muscicapidae), 7
Paridae, 9
Parinae (Paridae), 9
Passerinae (Ploceidae), 10
Pelecanidae, 1
Phaethontidae, 1
Phalacrocoracidae, 1
Phalaropinae (Charadriidae), 2
Phasianidae, 2
Phoenicopteridae, 1
Picidae, 4
Picinae, 4
Picumninae (Picidae), 4
Pittidae, 4
Ploceidae, 10
Ploceinae (Ploceidae), 10
Podargidae, 4
Podicipitidae, 1
Procellariidae, 1
Prunellidae, 9
Psittacidae, 3
Pteroclididae, 3
Pycnonotidae, 6
- Rallidae, 2
Recurvirostridae, 2
Remizinae (Paridae), 9
Rostratulidae, 2
- Salpornitinae (Sittidae), 9
Scolopacinae (Charadriidae), 2
Sittidae, 9
Sittinae (Sittidae), 9
Stercorariidae, 3
Strigidae, 3
Sturnidae, 5
Sulidae, 1
Sylviinae (Muscicapidae), 8
- Threskiornithidae, 1
- Tichodromadinae (Sittidae), 9
Timaliinae (Muscicapidae), 6-7
Troglodytidae, 9
Trogonidae, 4
Turdinae (Muscicapidae), 8-9
Turnicidae, 2
Tytoninae (Strigidae), 3
- Upupidae, 4
- Zosteropidae, 10

Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford New York
Athens Auckland Bangkok Calcutta
Cape Town Chennai Dar es Salaam Delhi
Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City
Mumbai Nairobi Paris Singapore
Taipei Tokyo Toronto
and associates in
Berlin Ibadan

© Oxford University Press, 1973, revised 1991

Sálim ALI 1896 – 1987
Sidney Dillon RIPLEY 1913
Second edition 1997

ISBN 0 19 563657 0

Phototypeset by Taj Services Ltd., E-100, Sector-VI, Noida, U.P.
Printed at Rekha Printers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi 110020
and published by Manzar Khan, Oxford University Press
YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110001

SYSTEMATIC INDEX

Order PASSERIFORMES (cont.)

Family MUSCICAPIDAE (cont.)

Subfamily SYLVIINAE : Warblers

1471	Yellowbrowed Ground Warbler, <i>Tesia cyaniventer</i> Hodgson.....	1
1472	Slatybellied Ground Warbler, <i>Tesia olivea</i> (McClelland).....	3
1473	Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler, <i>Tesia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata</i> (Burton)	4
1474	Palefooted Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia pallidipes pallidipes</i> (Blanford)	6
1475	ssp. <i>osmastonii</i> (Hartert)	8
1476	Japanese Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia diphone canturians</i> (Swinhoe)	8
1477	Strongfooted Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia montana pallida</i> (Brooks)	9
1478	ssp. <i>fortipes</i> (Hodgson)	10
1479	Large Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia major major</i> (Moore)	12
1480	ssp. <i>vafer</i> (Koelz)	13
1481, 1580	Aberrant Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia flavolivacea flavolivacea</i> (Hodgson)	14
1482	ssp. <i>stresemanni</i> (Koelz)	15
1483	<i>alexanderi</i> Ripley	15
1484	Hume's Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia acanthizoides brunnescens</i> (Hume)	16
1485	Rufouscapped Bush Warbler, <i>Cettia brunniifrons whistleri</i> (Ticehurst)	17
1486	ssp. <i>brunniifrons</i> (Hodgson)	17
1487	ssp. <i>muroides</i> (Koelz)	18
1488	Cetti's Warbler, <i>Cettia cetti albiventris</i> Severtzov	19
1489	Spotted Bush Warbler, <i>Bradypterus thoracicus przewalskii</i> (Sushkin)	20
1490	ssp. <i>thoracicus</i> (Blyth)	22
1491	Largebilled Bush Warbler, <i>Bradypterus major major</i> (Brooks)	23
1492	Chinese Bush Warbler, <i>Bradypterus tacsanowskii tacsanowskii</i> (Swinhoe)	24
1493	Brown Bush Warbler, <i>Bradypterus luteoventris luteoventris</i> (Hodgson)	25
1494	Palliser's Bush Warbler, <i>Bradypterus palliseri</i> (Blyth)	26
1496	Fantail Warbler, <i>Cisticola exilis erythrocephala</i> Blyth	28
1497	ssp. <i>tyleri</i> Jerdon	29
1498	Streaked Fantail Warbler, <i>Cisticola juncidis cursitans</i> (Franklin)	31
1499	ssp. <i>salimalii</i> Whistler	34
1500	<i>omalura</i> Blyth	34
1500a	<i>malaya</i> Lynes	35
1501	Rufous Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia rufescens rufescens</i> Blyth	36
1502	Ashy-grey Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia hodgsonii rufula</i> Godwin-Austen	39
1503	ssp. <i>hodgsonii</i> Blyth	41
1504	<i>albogularis</i> Walden	42
1505	<i>pectoralis</i> Legge	43
1506	Rufousfronted Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia buchanani</i> Blyth	44
1507	Hodgson's Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i> Moore	46
1508	Streaked Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia gracilis lepida</i> Blyth	47
1509	ssp. <i>stevensi</i> Hartert	50
1510	Plain Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia subflava terricolor</i> (Hume)	50
1511	ssp. <i>inornata</i> Sykes	52
1512	<i>fusca</i> (Hodgson)	53
1513	<i>franklinii</i> Blyth	54
1514	<i>insularis</i> (Legge)	55
1515	Ashy Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia socialis stewarti</i> Blyth	56
1516	ssp. <i>inglisi</i> Whistler & Kinnear	57
1517	<i>socialis</i> Sykes	58
1518	<i>brevicauda</i> Legge	59
1519	Jungle Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia sylvatica gangetica</i> (Blyth)	60
1520	ssp. <i>insignis</i> (Hume)	62
1521	<i>sylvatica</i> Jerdon	62

1522	<i>mahendrae</i> Koelz	63
1523	<i>valida</i> (Blyth)	64
1524	Yellowbellied Wren-Warbler, <i>Prinia flaviventris sindiana</i> Ticehurst	64
1525	ssp. <i>flaviventris</i> (Delessert)	66
1526	Brown Hill Warbler, <i>Prinia criniger striatula</i> (Hume)	67
1527	ssp. <i>criniger</i> Hodgson	68
1528	<i>catharia</i> Reichenow	69
1529	Blackthroated Hill Warbler, <i>Prinia atrogularis atrogularis</i> (Moore)	70
1530	ssp. <i> khasiana</i> (Godwin-Austen)	71
1531	Longtailed Grass Warbler, <i>Prinia burnesii burnesii</i> (Blyth)	72
1532	ssp. <i> cinerascens</i> (Walden)	74
1533	Streaked Scrub Warbler, <i>Scotocerca inquieta striata</i> (Brooks)	75
1534	Large Grass Warbler, <i>Graminicola bengalensis bengalensis</i> Jerdon	77
1535	Tailor Bird, <i>Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus</i> (Latham)	79
1536	ssp. <i> patia</i> Hodgson	82
1537	<i>luteus</i> Ripley	82
1538	<i>sutorius</i> (Pennant)	83
1539	<i>ferandonis</i> Whistler	84
1540	Blacknecked Tailor Bird, <i>Orthotomus atrogularis nitidus</i> Hume	84
1541	Goldenheaded Tailor Bird, <i>Orthotomus cucullatus coronatus</i> Blyth	85
1542	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, <i>Locustella certhiola centralasiae</i> Sushkin	87
1543	ssp. <i> rubescens</i> Blyth	87
1544	Streaked Grasshopper Warbler, <i>Locustella lanceolata</i> (Temminck)	88
1545	Eastern Grasshopper Warbler, <i>Locustella naevia straminea</i> Seeböhm	89
1546	Broadtailed Grass Warbler, <i>Schoenicola platyura</i> (Jerdon)	91
1547	Bristled Grass Warbler, <i>Chaetornis striatus</i> (Jerdon)	92
1548	Striated Marsh Warbler, <i>Megalurus palustris toklao</i> (Blyth)	94
1549	Thickbilled Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus aedon aedon</i> (Pallas)	97
1550	Indian Great Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens</i> (Jerdon)	99
1551	ssp. <i> meridionalis</i> (Legge)	102
1552	<i>amyae</i> Baker	102
1553	Eurasian Great Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi</i> Hartert	103
1554	Eastern Great Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	104
1555	Blackbrowed Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i> Swinhoe	105
1555a	Asian Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg)	106
1556	Blyth's Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> Blyth	108
1557	Paddyfield Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus agricola agricola</i> (Jerdon)	110
1558	ssp. <i> capistrata</i> (Severtzov)	112
1559	Bluntwinged Paddyfield Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus concinens haringtoni</i> Witherby	112
1560	ssp. <i> stevensi</i> Baker	113
1495	Moustached Sedge Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus</i> (Madarász)	114
1561	Largebilled Reed Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus (stentoreus) orinus</i> Oberholser	116
1561a	Sedge Warbler, <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> (Linnaeus)	117
1562	Booted Tree Warbler, <i>Hippolais caligata caligata</i> (Lichtenstein)	117
1563	ssp. <i> rama</i> (Sykes)	119
1564	Upcher's Tree Warbler, <i>Hippolais languida</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg)	120
1564a	Barred Warbler, <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> (Bechstein)	122
1565	Orphean Warbler, <i>Sylvia hortensis jerdoni</i> (Blyth)	123
1566	Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia communis icterops</i> Ménétries	125
1567	Lesser Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia curruca blythi</i> Ticehurst & Whistler	127
1568	ssp. <i> halimodendri</i> Sushkin	128
1569	<i>minula</i> Hume	129
1570	<i>althaea</i> Hume	130
1571	Desert Warbler, <i>Sylvia nana nana</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg)	131
1571a	Ménétries's Warbler, <i>Sylvia mystacea</i> Ménétries	133

1573	Siberian Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus trochilus yakutensis</i> Ticehurst	136
1574	Chiffchaff, <i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i> (Vieillot)	137
1575	ssp. <i>tristis</i> Blyth	138
1576	Sind Chiffchaff <i>sindianus</i> Brooks	139
1577	Plain Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i> Hume	140
1578	Tytler's Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i> Brooks	142
1579	Tickell's Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus affinis</i> (Tickell)	144
1581	Olivaceous Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i> Blyth	146
1582	Smoky Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus fuligiventer fuligiventer</i> (Hodgson)	147
1583	ssp. <i>tibetanus</i> Ticehurst	148
1584	Dusky Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldi</i> Stresemann	149
1585	ssp. <i>mariae</i> Ripley	149
1586	<i>fuscatus</i> (Blyth)	151
1587	Orangebreasted Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus pulcher kangrae</i> Ticehurst	152
1588, 1589	ssp. <i>pulcher</i> Blyth	153
1590	Yellowbrowed Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus inornatus humei</i> (Brooks)	154
1591	ssp. <i>mandellii</i> (Brooks)	156
1592	<i>inornatus</i> (Blyth)	157
1593	Brooks's Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus subviridis</i> (Brooks)	158
1594	Pallas's Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus proregulus simlaensis</i> Ticehurst	159
1595	ssp. <i>chloronotus</i> (Gray)	161
1596	<i>newtoni</i> Gätke	162
1597	Greyfaced Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus maculipennis virens</i> Ticehurst	162
1598	ssp. <i>centralis</i> Ripley	163
1599	<i>maculipennis</i> (Blyth)	163
1600	Arctic Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus borealis borealis</i> (Blasius)	165
1601	Largebilled Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i> Blyth	165
1602, 1572	Greenish Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i> Blyth	168
1603	ssp. <i>ludlowi</i> Whistler	170
1604	<i>trochiloides</i> (Sundevall)	171
1605	<i>nitidus</i> Blyth	172
1605a	Palelegged Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i> Swinhoe	173
1606	Large Crowned Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis</i> (Blyth)	174
1607	ssp. <i>coronatus</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	176
1608	Crowned Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus reguloides kashmiriensis</i> Ticehurst	177
1609	ssp. <i>reguloides</i> (Blyth)	178
1610	<i>assamensis</i> Hartert	179
1611	<i>claudiae</i> (La Touche)	180
1612	Blackbrowed or Yellowfaced Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	
	<i>cantator</i> (Tickell)	181
1612a	Radde's Leaf Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i> (Radde)	182
1613	Allied Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Seicercus affinis</i> (Hodgson)	183
1614	Blackbrowed Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Seicercus burkii whistleri</i> Ticehurst	184
1615	ssp. <i>burkii</i> (Burton)	185
1615a	<i>tephrocephalus</i> (Anderson)	186
1616	Greyheaded Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Seicercus xanthoschistos albosuperciliaris</i>	
	(Jerdon)	187
1617	ssp. <i>xanthoschistos</i> (Gray)	188
1618	<i>flavogularis</i> (Godwin-Austen)	189
1619	<i>tephrodiras</i> Sick	190
1620	Greycheeked Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Seicercus poliogenys</i> (Blyth)	190
1621	Chestnut-headed Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps</i>	
	(Hodgson)	191
1622	Yellowbellied Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Abrascopus superciliaris flaviventris</i>	
	(Jerdon)	193
1623	ssp. <i>drasticus</i> Deignan	194
1624	Blackfaced Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Abrascopus schisticeps schisticeps</i> (Gray)	195
1625	ssp. <i>flavimentalis</i> (Baker)	196
1626	Whitethroated Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Abrascopus albogularis albogularis</i>	
	(Horsfield & Moore)	196
1627	Broadbilled Flycatcher-Warbler, <i>Abrascopus hodgsoni hodgsoni</i> (Moore)	197

1628	Goldcrest, <i>Regulus regulus tristis</i> Pleske	198
1629	ssp. <i>himalayensis</i> Bonaparte	200
1630	<i>sikkimensis</i> R. & A. Meinertzhagen	201
1631	<i>yunnanensis</i> Rippon	201
1632	Crested Tit-Warbler, <i>Leptopocile elegans</i> Przevalski	202
1633	Stoliczka's Tit-Warbler, <i>Leptopocile sophiae sophiae</i> Severtzov	204
1634	ssp. <i>obscura</i> Przevalski	205

Subfamily TURDINAE : Thrushes and Chats

1635	Gould's Shortwing, <i>Brachypteryx stellata stellata</i> Gould	207
1636	Rustybellied Shortwing, <i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i> Jerdon & Blyth	208
1637	Rufousbellied Shortwing, <i>Brachypteryx major major</i> (Jerdon)	209
1638	ssp. <i>albiventris</i> (Blanford)	209
1639	Lesser Shortwing, <i>Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis</i> Moore	210
1640	Whitebrowed Shortwing, <i>Brachypteryx montana cruralis</i> (Blyth)	212
1641	Rufous Chat, <i>Erythropygia galactotes familiaris</i> (Ménétrières)	213
1642	Nightingale, <i>Erithacus megarhynchos hafizi</i> (Severtzov)	217
1643	Rubythroat, <i>Erithacus calliope</i> (Pallas)	218
1644	Bluethroat, <i>Erithacus suecicus suecicus</i> (Linnaeus)	220
1645	ssp. <i>pallidogularis</i> (Zarudny)	221
1646	<i>abbotti</i> (Richmond)	223
1646a	<i>saturationis</i> (Sushkin)	224
1647	Himalayan Rubythroat, <i>Erithacus pectoralis pectoralis</i> (Gould)	225
1648	ssp. <i>confusus</i> (Hartert)	227
1649	<i>tschebaiewi</i> (Przevalski)	228
1650, 1651	Blue Chat, <i>Erithacus brunneus brunneus</i> (Hodgson)	229
1652	Firethroat, <i>Erithacus pectardens</i> (David)	232
1653	Siberian Blue Chat, <i>Erithacus cyane cyane</i> (Pallas)	233
1654	Redflanked Bush Robin, <i>Erithacus cyanurus pallidior</i> (Baker)	234
1655	ssp. <i>rufilatus</i> (Hodgson)	236
1656	<i>cyanurus</i> (Pallas)	237
1657	Golden Bush Robin, <i>Erithacus chrysaeus whistleri</i> (Ticehurst)	237
1658	ssp. <i>chrysaeus</i> (Hodgson)	238
1659	Whitebrowed Bush Robin, <i>Erithacus indicus indicus</i> (Vieillot)	239
1660	Rufousbellied Bush Robin, <i>Erithacus hyperythrus</i> (Blyth)	241
1661, 1663	Magpie-Robin, <i>Copsychus saularis saularis</i> (Linnaeus)	243
1662	ssp. <i>ceylonensis</i> Sclater	246
1664	<i>andamanensis</i> Hume	247
1665	Shama, <i>Copsychus malabaricus malabaricus</i> (Scopoli)	247
1666	ssp. <i>leggei</i> (Whistler)	249
1667	<i>indicus</i> (Baker)	249
1668	<i>albiventris</i> (Blyth)	251
1669	Eversmann's Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i> (Eversmann)	252
1670	Blueheaded Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus</i> (Vigors)	254
1671	Black Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides</i> (Moore)	256
1672	ssp. <i>rufiventris</i> (Vieillot)	259
1673	Whitefronted Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> (Linnaeus)	259
1674	Hodgson's Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i> (Moore)	260
1675	Bluefronted Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i> (Vigors)	262
1676	Whitethroated Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i> (Gray)	264
1677	Daurian Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus aureoreus leucopterus</i> (Blyth)	266
1678	Güldenstädt's Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster grandis</i> (Gould)	267
1679	Plumbeous Redstart, <i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus</i> (Vigors)	270
1680	Hodgson's Shortwing or Whitebellied Redstart, <i>Hodgsonius phoenicuroides phoenicuroides</i> (Gray)	272

COLOUR PLATES

Synopsis numbers in brackets

(SE) = species extralimital

(RE) = race extralimital

Plate 83

- 1 *Cettia pallidipes*, Palefooted Bush Warbler (1474–1475)
- 2 *Cettia diphone*, Japanese Bush Warbler (1476)
- 3 *Cettia montana*, Strongfooted Bush Warbler (1477–1478)
- 4 *Cettia flavolivacea*, Aberrant Bush Warbler (1481–1483)
- 5 *Cettia brunnifrons*, Rufouscapped Bush Warbler (1485–1487)
- 6 *Cettia major*, Large Bush Warbler (1479–1480)
- 7 *Cettia acanthizoides*, Hume's Bush Warbler (1484)
- 8 *Bradypterus luteoventris*, Brown Bush Warbler (1493)
- 9 *Bradypterus palliseri*, Palliser's Bush Warbler (1494)
- 10 *Bradypterus thoracicus*, Spotted Bush Warbler (1489–1490)
- 11 *Cettia cetti*, Cetti's Warbler (1488)
- 12 *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*, Blackbrowed Reed Warbler (1555)
- 13 *Bradypterus major*, Largebilled Bush Warbler (1491)
- 14 *Acrocephalus aedon*, Thickbilled Warbler (1549)
- 15 *Bradypterus tacsanowskius*, Chinese Bush Warbler (1492)
- 16 *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Blyth's Reed Warbler (1556)
- 17 *Acrocephalus agricola*, Paddyfield Warbler (1557–1558)
- 18 *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Asian Reed Warbler (1555a)
- 19 *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Indian Great Reed Warbler (1550–1552)

Plate 84

- 1 *Sylvia nisoria*, Barred Warbler (1564a)
- 2 *Sylvia communis*, Whitethroat (1566)
- 3 *Sylvia hortensis*, Orphean Warbler (1565)
- 4 *Sylvia curruca minula*, Lesser Whitethroat (1569)
- 5 *ssp althaea* of 1569 (1570)
- 6 *ssp blythi* of 1569 (1567)
- 7 *Sylvia nana*, Desert Warbler (1571)
- 8 *Leptopoecile sophiae*, Stoliczka's Tit-Warbler (1633)
- 9 *ssp obscura* of 1633 (1634)
- 10 *Regulus regulus*, Goldcrest (1628–1631)
- 11 *Sylvia mystacea*, Ménètrières's Warbler (1571a)
- 12 *Leptopoecile elegans*, Crested Tit-Warbler (1632)
- 13 *Prinia socialis*, Ashy Wren-Warbler (1516–1518)
- 14 *ssp stewarti* of 1517 (1515)
- 15 *Prinia cinereocapilla*, Hodgson's Wren-Warbler (1507)
- 16 *Prinia rufescens*, Rufous Wren-Warbler (1501)
- 17 *Prinia hodgsonii*, Ashy-grey Wren-Warbler (1502–1505)

Plate 85

- 1 *Locustella certhiola*, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (1542–1543)
- 2 *Schoenicola platyura*, Broadtailed Grass Warbler (1546)
- 3 *Locustella naevia*, Eastern Grasshopper Warbler (1545)
- 4 *ssp obscurior* of 1545 (RE)
- 5 *Megalurus palustris*, Striated Marsh Warbler (1548)
- 6 *Chaetornis striatus*, Bristled Grass Warbler (1547)
- 7 *Prinia gracilis*, Streaked Wren-Warbler (1508–1509)
- 8 *Prinia buchanani*, Rufousfronted Wren-Warbler (1506)

- 9 *Locustella lanceolata*, Streaked Grasshopper Warbler (1544)
- 10 *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, Moustached Sedge Warbler (1495)
- 11 *Prinia atrogularis*, Blackthroated Hill Warbler (1529–1530)
- 12 *Prinia subflava*, Plain Wren-Warbler (1510–1514)
- 13 *Prinia sylvatica*, Jungle Wren-Warbler (1519–1523)
- 14 ssp. *sindiana* of 1525 (1524)
- 15 *Prinia flaviventris*, Yellowbellied Wren-Warbler (1525)
- 16 ssp. *cinerascens* of 1531 (1532)
- 17 *Prinia burnesii*, Longtailed Grass Warbler (1531)
- 18 *Scotocerca inquieta*, Streaked Scrub Warbler (1533)
- 19 *Prinia criniger*, Brown Hill Warbler (1526–1528)
- 20 *Cisticola juncidis*, Streaked Fantail Warbler (1498–1500a)
- 21 *Graminicola bengalensis*, Large Grass Warbler (1534)
- 22 *Cisticola exilis*, Fantail Warbler (1496–1497)

Plate 86

- 1 *Hippolais languida*, Upcher's Tree Warbler (1564)
- 2 *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Plain Leaf Warbler (1577)
- 3 *Hippolais caligata*, Booted Tree Warbler (1562–1563)
- 4 *Phylloscopus collybita*, Chiffchaff (1574–1576)
- 5 *Phylloscopus tyleri*, Tytler's Leaf Warbler (1578)
- 6 *Phylloscopus affinis*, Tickell's Leaf Warbler (1579)
- 7 *Cettia flavolivacea*, Aberrant Bush Warbler (1481, 1580)
- 8 *Phylloscopus griseolus*, Olivaceous Leaf Warbler (1581)
- 9 *Phylloscopus subviridis*, Brooks's Leaf Warbler (1593)
- 10 *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Yellowbrowed Leaf Warbler (1590–1592)
- 11 *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Dusky Leaf Warbler (1584–1586)
- 12 *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*, Smoky Leaf Warbler (1582–1583)
- 13 *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Radde's Leaf Warbler (1612a)
- 14 *Phylloscopus pulcher*, Orangebarred Leaf Warbler (1588, 1589)
- 15 *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Pallas's Leaf Warbler (1594–1596)
- 16 *Phylloscopus maculipennis*, Greyfaced Leaf Warbler (1597–1599)
- 17 *Phylloscopus cantator*, Blackbrowed or Yellowfaced Leaf Warbler (1612)
- 18 *Phylloscopus occipitalis*, Large Crowned Leaf Warbler (1606)
- 19 ssp. *coronatus* of 1606 (1607)
- 20 *Phylloscopus reguloides*, Crowned Leaf Warbler (1608–1611)
- 21 *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Greenish Leaf Warbler (1602–1605; 1572)
- 22 *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, Largebilled Leaf Warbler (1601)

Plate 87

- 1 *Rhipidura hypoxantha*, Yellowbellied Fantail Flycatcher (1450)
- 2 *Seicercus burkii*, Blackbrowed Flycatcher-Warbler (1614–1615a)
- 3 *Abroscopus albogularis*, Whitethroated Flycatcher-Warbler (1626)
- 4 *Abroscopus schisticeps*, Blackfaced Flycatcher-Warbler (1624–1625)
- 5 *Seicercus affinis*, Allied Flycatcher-Warbler (1613)
- 6 *Abroscopus superciliaris*, Yellowbellied Flycatcher-Warbler (1622–1623)
- 7 *Seicercus xanthoschistos*, Greyheaded Flycatcher-Warbler (1616–1619)
- 8 *Culicicapa ceylonensis*, Greyheaded Flycatcher (1449)
- 9 *Seicercus poliogenys*, Greycheeked Flycatcher-Warbler (1620)
- 10 *Abroscopus hodgsoni*, Broadbilled Flycatcher-Warbler (1627)
- 11 *Orthotomus sutorius*, Tailor Bird (1535–1539)
- 12 *Orthotomus cucullatus*, Goldenheaded Tailor Bird (1541)
- 13 *Seicercus castaneiceps*, Chestnut-headed Flycatcher-Warbler (1621)
- 14 *Orthotomus atrogularis*, Blacknecked Tailor Bird (1540)
- 15 *Tesia cyaniventer*, Yellowbrowed Ground Warbler (1471)
- 16 *Tesia olivacea*, Slatybellied Ground Warbler (1472)
- 17 *Tesia castaneocoronata*, Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler (1473)

Plate 88

- 1 *Brachypteryx stellata*, Gould's Shortwing (1635)
- 2 *Brachypteryx hyperythra*, Rustybellied Shortwing (1636)
- 3 *Brachypteryx leucophrys*, Lesser Shortwing (1639)
- 4 *Brachypteryx major*, Rufousbellied Shortwing (1637-1638)
- 5 *Brachypteryx montana*, Whitebrowed Shortwing (1640)
- 6 *Erithacus megarhynchos*, Nightingale (1642)
- 7 *Erithacus calliope*, Rubythroat (1643)
- 8 *Erithacus pectoralis*, Himalayan Rubythroat (1647-1649)
- 9 *Erithacus svecicus*, Bluethroat (1644-1646a)
- 10 *Erithacus pectardens*, Firethroat (1652)
- 11 *Erithacus brunneus*, Blue Chat (1650, 1651)
- 12 *Erithacus cyane*, Siberian Blue Chat (1653)
- 13 *Erithacus indicus*, Whitebrowed Bush Robin (1659)
- 14 *Erithacus cyanurus*, Redflanked Bush Robin (1654-1656)
- 15 *Erithacus chrysaeus*, Golden Bush Robin (1657-1658)
- 16 *Irania gutturalis*, Whitethroated Robin (SE)
- 17 *Erithacus hyperythrus*, Rufousbellied Bush Robin (1660)

Plate 89

- 1 *Erythropygia galactotes*, Rufous Chat (1641)
- 2 *Phoenicurus erythronotus*, Eversmann's Redstart (1669)
- 3 *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*, Black Redstart (1672)
- 4 ssp *phoenicuroides* of 1672 (1671)
- 5 *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*, Blueheaded Redstart (1670)
- 6 *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Whitefronted Redstart (1673)
- 7 *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*, Hodgson's Redstart (1674)
- 8 *Phoenicurus frontalis*, Bluefronted Redstart (1675)
- 9 *Phoenicurus schisticeps*, Whitethroated Redstart (1676)
- 10 *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*, Gldenstdt's Redstart (1678)
- 11 *Phoenicurus aureus*, Daurian Redstart (1677)
- 12 *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*, Plumbeous Redstart (1679)
- 13 *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides*, Hodgson's Shortwing or Whitebellied Redstart (1680)
- 14 *Cinclidium leucurum*, Whitetailed Blue Robin (1681)
- 15 *Cinclidium frontale*, Bluefronted Robin (1682)
- 16 *Saxicoloides fulicata*, Indian Robin (1720-1721)
- 17 ssp *cambaiensis* of 1720 (1717-1719)
- 18 *Cercomela fusca*, Brown Rock Chat (1692)
- 19 *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*, Whitecapped Redstart or River Chat (1716)

CHANGES IN TERRITORIAL NAMES

The *Handbook* relies on observations made during the last hundred years, during which period many areas have changed their names and boundaries. The authors have striven to keep up with changes which have taken place during the writing and publication of the ten volumes, and hope the following notes will be helpful in interpretation.

ANDHRA PRADESH. Until 1953 the northern half of Madras State, including the deltas of the Krishna and Godavari rivers and the arid hills of the Eastern Ghats.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH. 'The Province of the Dawn.' The Himalayas east of Bhutan, including the Dafla, Abor, Miri and Mishmi hills. Before 1972 this area was the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), comprising the Kameng, Subansiri, Siang and Luhit frontier divisions.

ASSAM. Before 1947 this province included Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland (qq.v.). In 1972 it was restricted to the Brahmaputra Valley.

BANGLADESH. Constituted in 1971, formerly East Pakistan. Besides the Brahmaputra plains it includes the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south.

BENGAL. Prior to 1947 the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta area, later divided into Bangladesh (q.v.) and West Bengal.

HARYANA. The fertile plains area north and west of Delhi, formerly part of the Punjab (q.v.).

HIMACHAL PRADESH. 'The Snowy Province.' The Himalayan hill States were united under this name in 1948, and in 1966 the area was enlarged by the hill regions of the Punjab.

MEGHALAYA. 'Cloud-land.' The Garo, Jaintia, Khasi and Cachar hill districts, constituted a separate State in 1972.

MIZORAM. The Lushai or Mizo Hills area, constituted a separate State in 1972.

NAGALAND. The Naga Hills area, constituted a separate State in 1962.

NEFA. Now Arunachal Pradesh, q.v.

OUDH (=Awadh). The eastern Gangetic plains, now part of Uttar Pradesh ('Northern Province'), the name given in 1950 to the United Provinces (of Agra and Oudh).

PAKISTAN. Before 1972 West Pakistan, including Sind, Baluchistan, Punjab (q.v.), the North-West Frontier Province and Bahawalpur.

PUNJAB. Prior to 1947 the whole of the northern plains area watered by the Indus and its five tributaries, namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. Divided in 1947 into West Punjab (Pakistan) and East Punjab (India). In 1966 East Punjab was further divided into Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh (qq.v.).

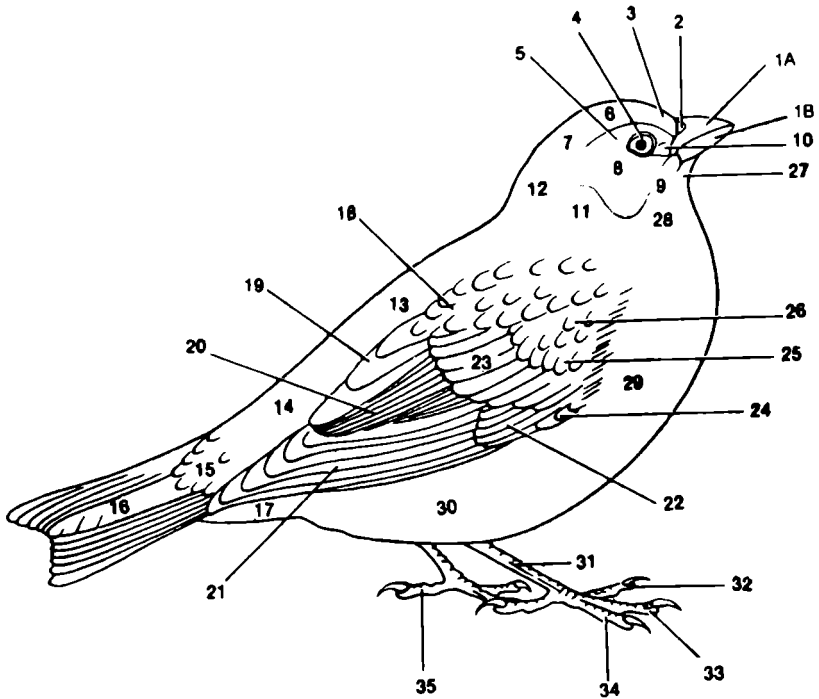
SAURASHTRA. The 'Goodly Land' of Kathiawar. The union of States was merged with Bombay in 1956 and since 1960 has been part of Gujarat.

SRI LANKA. The official name of Ceylon since May 1972.

TAMIL NADU. The name given to Madras State in 1969.

Terms used in the description of a bird's plumage and parts

Topography of a sparrow



- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1A Maxilla (=upper mandible) | 18 Scapulars |
| 1B Mandible (=lower mandible) | 19 Tertiaries |
| 2 Nostril | 20 Secondaries } (remiges) |
| 3 Forehead | 21 Primaries } |
| 4 Iris | 22 Primary coverts |
| 5 Supercilium | 23 Greater coverts |
| 6 Crown | 24 Bastard wing (alula) |
| 7 Hind crown | 25 Median coverts |
| 8 Ear-coverts | 26 Lesser coverts |
| 9 Malar region (malar stripe,
moustache) | 27 Chin |
| 10 Lores | 28 Throat |
| 11 Side of neck | 29 Breast |
| 12 Hindneck (=nape) | 30 Belly (abdomen) |
| 13 Back | 31 Tarsus |
| 14 Rump | 32 Inner toe |
| 15 Upper tail-coverts | 33 Middle toe |
| 16 Tail (rectrices) | 34 Outer toe |
| 17 Under tail-coverts | 35 Hind toe (hallux) |

ABBREVIATIONS

Bull. BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i>
Dementiev	<i>Birds of the Soviet Union</i>
FBI	<i>Fauna of British India, Birds</i>
Ind. Hb.	<i>Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan</i>
J. Orn.	<i>Journal für Ornithologie, Berlin</i>
JBNHS	<i>Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society</i>
PZS	<i>Proceedings of the Zoological Society, London</i>
SF	<i>Stray Feathers</i>
SZ	<i>Spolia Zeylanica</i>
Witherby	<i>The Handbook of British Birds</i>

Abbreviated references to persons frequently quoted

Abdulali or HA	Humayun Abdulali
Alexander or HGA	Horace G. Alexander
Baker	E. C. Stuart Baker
Biswas or BB	Biswamoy Biswas
Desfayes or MD	Michel Desfayes
Diesselhorst or GD	Gerd Diesselhorst
Hartert	Ernst Hartert
Hume	A. O. Hume
Inglis	C. M. Inglis
Inskipp & Inskipp	T. P. & C. Inskipp
Jerdon	T. C. Jerdon
Kinnear or NBK	Sir Norman B. Kinnear
Meinertzhagen or RM	Col. R. Meinertzhagen
Murphy	R. C. Murphy
Osmaston or BBO	B. B. Osmaston
Paynter or RAP	R. A. Paynter
Peters	J. L. Peters
Phillips	W. W. A. Phillips
Ripley or SDR	S. Dillon Ripley
Sálim Ali or SA	Sálim Ali
Stresemann or Stres.	Erwin Stresemann
TJR or Roberts	T. J. Roberts
Ticehurst or CBT	Claud B. Ticehurst
Whistler or HW	Hugh Whistler

Order PASSERIFORMES (cont.)

Family MUSCICAPIDAE (cont.)

Subfamily SYLVIINAE: Warblers

For description and morphological details see Baker, E. C. S., 1924, FBI 2: 382-5 (Family Sylviidae); Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959: 525; Voous, K. H., 1964, article 'Warbler' in Thomson, A. L. (ed.), *A New Dictionary of Birds*, London & New York.

Genus TESIA Hodgson

Tesia Hodgson, 1837, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 6: 101. Type, by subsequent designation, Gray, 1840, List Gen. Bds.: 27, *T. cyaniventris* = *T. cyaniventer* Hodgson
Oligura Hodgson, 1844, in Gray, Zool. Misc.: 82. Type, by subsequent designation, Zimmer & Vaurie, 1954, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 74: 41, *Tesia flaviventer* Hodgson
Chorotesia [sic] Delacour, 1942, Ibis: 515 = *Chlorotesia*, 1943, Ibis 85: 125. Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia?* *castaneocoronata* Burton

Bill equal to or a little longer than half the length of head, broad at base compressed at tip. Rictal bristles short. Tarsus very long. Wing very short and rounded. Tail extremely short.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Underparts yellow.....	<i>T. castaneocoronata</i> 4
B	Underparts not yellow	
1	Underparts slate-colour; crown yellowish green, different from back	<i>T. olivea</i> 3
2	Underparts ashy grey; crown olive, concolorous with back	<i>T. cyaniventer</i> 1

1471. Yellowbrowed Ground Warbler. *Tesia cyaniventer* Hodgson

Tesia cyaniventer Hodgson, 1837, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 6: 101 (Nepal)

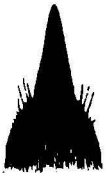
Baker, FBI No. 475 (part), Vol. 1: 463

Plate 87, fig. 15

LOCAL NAMES. *Tisi* (Nepal); *Samtit-tammong* (Lepcha); *Ting-linrui bermai-ga* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A tiny, tailless, dark-coloured, wren-like terrestrial bird. *Above*, olive-green; a long yellowish green supercilium. A noticeable black, post-ocular stripe between the yellowish supercilium and the grey sides of head. *Below*, ashy grey. Sexes alike.



× *c.* 1

The very similar *T. olivea* has dark slate-coloured underparts, much less prominent post-ocular stripe, and orange-red or deep orange base of lower mandible (*v.* yellow or orange in this species).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident subject to seasonal vertical movements; from Garhwal (Baker) and

central Nepal (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985) east through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, thence south through Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and Bangladesh to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Breeds between 1500 and 2550 m, mostly above 1800 m, generally in a higher zone than *T. olivea*; winters from c. 1800 m down to the foothills, sparingly entering the plains of the Brahmaputra. In the breeding season affects bamboo and dense shady forest near small streams in wet ravines with tangled undergrowth of ferns and nettles. In winter may be seen in evergreen and secondary jungle, shady deciduous and sal forest.

Extralimital. Southeastern Tibet south of the main range and east to Yunnan and the Indochinese countries. A closely allied species in Java.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually seen singly but sometimes joins mixed itinerant parties of insectivorous birds. Keeps on or near the ground, skulking in dense undergrowth, bamboo, large nettles and ferns up to three metres high. Extremely inquisitive and restless; dances ceaselessly among the stalks, now clambering up one, now hopping to the next or jumping up and down the same stem like some clockwork toy; may occasionally ascend trees up to about six metres.

FOOD. Ants and other insects; spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. A sharp, characteristic *tchirik* identical to that of *T. olivea* (SDR) and a sharp *tsik* or a rapid *tsik tsik tsik tsik* . . . of alarm (Heinrich). Also a *churr, churr* . . . (Fleming). Song, a short, clear phrase consisting of a soft, twittering introduction of two or three syllables somewhat hesitatingly linked together, followed by three trilled notes in quick succession and ending on a short lower note: *tsitsi-tjütjütjü tjō* (Heinrich), also rendered as a clear rippling whistled '*pip-pipy-pip, pippety-pip*' (Stanford). The song, surprisingly loud for so tiny a creature, is uttered as the bird hops about close to the ground. Another distinctive utterance consists of three high-pitched descending notes with a pause of one to two seconds between each note (Smythies). Both call and song deceptively ventriloquial. Song period chiefly April and May.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a ball of green moss, some 10 to 12 cm in diameter, lined with moss roots or fine moss and with a circular entrance-hole c. 4 cm across, near the top; placed 30 cm or so up in low bushes, in creepers or in long streamers of moss growing against tree-trunks, less often against rocks. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, usually 4, bright, pale pink profusely stippled with tiny specks of bright brick-red. Average size of 50 eggs 17.4 × 12.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young, above browner, less green than adult. Underparts entirely greyish olive.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47-54	13-15	22-25	18-20 mm
♀♀	44-50	13-15	22-25	17-19 mm

(BB, SA, NBK, Stres., MD)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 8.6-9.5; 1 ♀ 8.4 g (Hume, Cripps); 3 ♂♀ 10-12 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish horny, lower yellow to dull orange; inside gape reddish orange. Legs and feet dark olivaceous.

1472. **Slatybellied Ground Warbler.** *Tesia olivea* (McClelland)

Saxicola? *olivea* McClelland, 1839 (1840), in Horsfield,
Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 161 (Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 475 (part), Vol. 1: 463
Plate 87, fig. 16

LOCAL NAMES. *Samtit-tammong* (Lepcha); *Ting-linrui bermai-ga* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. SPARROW —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A tiny, tailless, dark-coloured, wren-like bird, very similar to 1471. *Above*, back dark olive-green, crown yellowish green, but contrast not appreciable except at very close range. A dark post-ocular stripe, hardly noticeable in the field. *Below*, dark slaty. Sexes alike.

T. cyaniventer (1471) has paler, ashy grey underparts and its black, post-ocular stripe is very distinct; its lower mandible is orange-yellow or yellow (*v.* bright orange-red or deep orange in *olivea*).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common, resident subject to seasonal vertical movements. Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya in the Khasi Hills (specimen in Koelz Coll.), Assam and Manipur. Altitudinal distribution little known. There are no summer records for our territory; in Burma the species has been recorded at 1500 and 2000 m. It evidently breeds in a lower zone than *T. cyaniventer*. Winters from at least 1000 m down to the foothills, sparingly entering the plains. Affects dense undergrowth of ferns, nettles and weeds in humid, tropical forest.

Extralimital. Extends to Yunnan and Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary. Keeps near the ground, extremely restless, never still. Hops about so lightly among the rootstocks that hardly a leaf stirs to betray its position though its insistent ventriloquistic *tchirik-tchirik* may proclaim its presence only a few metres away. Has an amusing habit of jumping back and forth along the same branch like a clockwork toy; also of clapping its wings up over its back every now and then.

FOOD. Insects and spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. A sharp *tchirik-tchirik* (SDR); distinctive and rather ventriloquial. Specific description of song as compared with that of 1471 very desirable.

BREEDING. Unrecorded or confused with that of *T. cyaniventer*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young undescribed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47–51	13–14	21–24	16–21 mm
♀♀	45–48			

(NBK, SA, MD)

Weight 1 ♂ 6 g (Hume); 2 ♀ ♀, 1 o? 6–9 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish, lower orange-red or deep orange yellowish towards tip. Legs and feet brown; soles olive-yellow.

1473. **Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler.** *Tesia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata* (Burton)

Sylvia? castaneo-coronata Burton, 1836 (1835), Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 152 (Himalayas, restricted to Nepal by Ripley, Synopsis, 1961, 1st ed.: 441)

Tesia castaneocoronata regia Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 11 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)

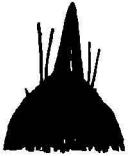
Baker, FBI No. 476, Vol. 1: 465

Plate 87, fig. 17

LOCAL NAMES. *Tisi* (Nepal); *Samtit-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 8 cm (3 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A tiny, wren-like bird with bright yellow underparts and extremely short tail. *Above*, forehead, crown and nape bright chestnut, rest of upperparts olive-green. *Below*, throat bright lemon-yellow; breast and belly yellow washed with olive; flanks olive. Sexes alike.



× *c.* 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident, subject to seasonal vertical movements; from Kangra (Kulu and Parbati valleys) east along the Himalayas to Arunachal Pradesh in the Mishmi Hills, (Nagaland and Manipur?), Meghalaya and Mizoram (Koelz); also to the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh (Rashid). Breeds between 1800 and 4000 m, more commonly above 2400 m and locally up to 3900 m (central Nepal—Polunin, JBNHS 52: 890). Winters from *c.* 1800 m down to the foothills, entering the adjacent plains in the Brahmaputra Valley. Affects undergrowth in high, rather open forest, whether light brushwood, ferns, nettles, dense bushes or impenetrable dwarf bamboo, especially in dank ravines and in the vicinity of streamlets. In winter (October to March) may be seen in dense scrub along shady nullahs and in secondary forest.

Extralimital. Burma. The species extends to Sichuan and northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary or sometimes in company with *T. cyaniventer*; in pairs during the breeding season. Though shy and elusive, it is not quite as difficult to see and not as restless as the latter or *T. olivæa*. It is also less of a ground bird though it generally keeps within a metre or so from the ground, hopping about in cover or sometimes among moss-covered boulders or fallen logs.

Display. 'Two birds were in the same bush one keeping mostly to the upper branches where it ran or rather strutted backwards and forwards with wings drooping, bill turned straight upwards, yellow throat puffed out, tiny tail held bolt upright, uttering a continual, rapid *tsk tsk tsk* . . . The second bird behaved in exactly the same way in the lower part of the bush. Every now and again the two birds would approach each other, the excitement rising to fever pitch, but when about two inches apart they would turn away and resume their initial positions. This was repeated again and again for an hour until I was obliged to leave and never discovered if they were a pair in courtship display or two males challenging each other' (Proud, JBNHS 55: 349).

FOOD. Insects and spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. A chattering *chirik-chirik* like that of 1472 (SA). A single, loud and piercing *tzeet* sometimes repeated twice in alarm (various authors). A single, distinctive *wee* repeated at intervals of several seconds (SDR). The body is jerked when the call-note is uttered. A very loud song of four shrill notes, not unlike that of *Culicicapa* (Osmaston), reminiscent of that of *Tesia cyaniventer* but thinner and more twittering (Heinrich); rendered by Smythies as *sip, sip-it-up*. Song period in Nepal March to June (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a neat but rather flimsy ball of moss lined with rootlets and feathers woven into and suspended from a small branch within a couple of metres of the ground. *Eggs*, 2, uniform dark terracotta or dull chestnut with a faint cap of mottlings at the large end. Average size of 18 eggs 17.4 × 12.9 mm (Baker). Incubation by both sexes; period undetermined. Brood-parasitism by *Cuculus poliocephalus* reported by Baker (JBNHS 17: 353; locality corrected p. 841).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

YOUNG very distinctive: *above* (including crown), dark olive-green with a brownish tinge; *below* chestnut.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47-53	11-12	21-24	26-29 mm
♀♀	45-50	11-12	21-24	22-26 mm
			(SA, BB, Stresemann)	

Weight ♂♀ 8-10 g (GD, SDR, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower yellowish to orange at base, brown at tip. Legs and feet olive-brown or greenish yellow.

Genus *CETTIA* Bonaparte

Cettia Bonaparte, 1834, Icon. Fauna Italica I, text to pl. 29. Type, by original designation, *Sylvia Cetti* Marmorata

Horeites Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 30. Type, by subsequent designation, *H. pollicaris* = *brunnifrons* Hodgson

Neornis Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 590. Type, by monotypy, *N. flavolivacea* Blyth

Homochlams Salvadori, 1870, Atti R. Acad. Sci. Torino 5: 510. Type, by monotypy, *H. luscini* Salvadori = *Arundinax canturians* Swinhoe

Urosphena Swinhoe, 1877, Ibis: 204, 205. Type, by monotypy, *Tribura squamiceps* Swinhoe

Urophlexis Stejneger, 1892, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 15: 341. New name for *Urosphena* Swinhoe, not preoccupied

Cf. Delacour, J., 1942, Ibis: 509-19; 1943, ibid.: 27-31

Bill thin, narrow and pointed; some short and fine rictal bristles. Tail rounded, of ten broad and soft rectrices; laterals shorter than middle pair. Eggs characteristic, dark terracotta.

Key to the Species

	Page
I Abdomen pale yellow <i>C. acanthizoides</i>	15
II Abdomen buffish or whitish	
A Crown differently coloured from back	
1 Tarsus over 20 mm <i>C. major</i>	12
2 Tarsus under 20 mm <i>C. brunifrons</i>	16
B Crown not contrastingly different from back	
3 Upperparts and tail rufous brown <i>C. cetti</i>	19
4 Upperparts olive-brown	
a Tarsus 20 mm or less; under tail-coverts cream-buff <i>C. pallidipes</i>	6
b Tarsus over 20 mm; under tail-coverts olive-buff	
i Throat and breast greyish; no band across breast	
. <i>C. flavolivacea</i>	13
ii Throat and breast fulvous; a slightly darker band across breast	
o Tarsus 23 mm or over <i>C. diphone</i>	8
oo Tarsus under 23 mm <i>C. montana</i>	9

CETTIA PALLIDIPES (Blanford): PALEFOOTED BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

More olive above; belly tinged with buff <i>C. p. pallidipes</i>	
Richer, more rufous above; centre of belly a purer white <i>C. p. osmastonii</i>	

1474. *Cettia pallidipes pallidipes* (Blanford)

Phylloscopus pallidipes Blanford, 1872, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 41: 162
(Sikkim)

Baker, FBI No. 913, Vol. 2: 508

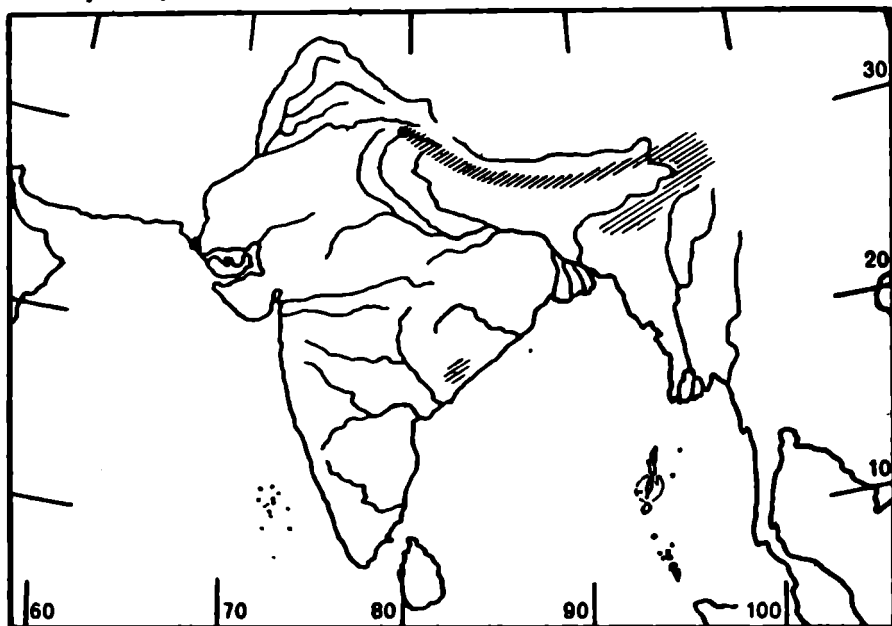
Plate 83, fig. 1

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha gashim* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small warbler of the foothills. *Above*, brown with a pale supercilium and a noticeable dark stripe through eye. *Below*, cream-coloured, with pale yellowish legs. Sexes alike. As for most bush warblers, recognized mostly by its song (q.v.), which is characteristic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements; on the whole scarce and probably often overlooked, but locally common. The Himalayan foothills from Dehra Dun (Osmaston, JBNHS 26: 426) east through Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh (Ali & Ripley, JBNHS 48: 31), Meghalaya in the Khasi and Assam in the Cachar hills. No records from Nagaland or Manipur though it occurs in northern Burma. Breeding zone not satisfactorily known, most records lying between December and April. In the west, appears to breed in the duns and has been recorded in the terai until May. Said to breed around Darjeeling and in Sikkim at *c.* 1200–1500 m (Baker, *Nidification* 2: 461). In Meghalaya, breeds above *c.* 1000 m (Baker, loc. cit.). May also breed in the Eastern Ghats: a specimen collected at Sankrametta, 1000 m (Visakhapatnam dist.) on 12 April. Winters in the foothills, terai, duars and adjacent plains

Cettia pallidipes

Distributional ranges

▨ *pallidipes* (1474).

□ *osmastonii* (1475).

(northern Bengal); Rashid (1967) lists it as a winter visitor to the Bangladesh foothills and the Chittagong region. Affects grass-and-bush jungle on the edge of sal forest, secondary jungle, and glades in evergreen or in pine forest.

Extralimital. Northern Burma. The species extends to Laos, northern Vietnam and southern China. Also Andaman Islands.

GENERAL HABITS. An adept skulker, often heard, rarely seen. When disturbed, will flutter through the grass to the farther edge of a thicket and scuttle to the next cluster just off the ground, scarcely allowing a glimpse of itself.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A most characteristic peculiar song, loud and persistent, rendered as *rip . . . rip-chick-a-chuck*. Also a fast-repeated *paree-choop* and *riti-jee* (Fleming). Alarm-note *chick-chick* (Osmaston).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a rather untidy ball of grass lined with feathers, and placed in bushes overgrown with grass. *Eggs*, probably 4, deep mahogany-red, not distinguishable from those of *C. m. fortipes* (1478) and *pallida* (1477). Average size of 40 eggs 17.1 × 13.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47-55	c. 14	19-20	45-52 mm
♀♀	52-57	c. 14	19-20	41-43 mm

(BB, HW, SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower flesh-colour. Legs and feet flesh-colour.

1475. *Cettia pallidipes osmastoni* (Hartert)

Horeites pallidipes osmastoni Hartert, 1908, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 21: 107
(Andaman Is.)

Baker, FBI No. 914, Vol. 2: 509

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1474, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, common but localized. South Andaman Island (Mt Harriet). Affects dense undergrowth in high or secondary forest.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. Probably as in 1474.

VOICE and CALLS. Described as 'most characteristic and peculiar, of 3 or 4 notes only, loud for the size of the bird, and insistent' (Osmaston, JBNHS 35: 892-3).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a deep cup of dry bamboo leaves very loosely put together, lined with fine flowering grass-heads or rootlets and supported by the stems and leaf stalks of a plant, near the ground. *Eggs*, 4, bright chestnut, mottled all over, especially at the large end with a deeper shade of chestnut. Average size of 8 eggs 17 × 13.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race (1474) in being a darker, richer brown above, more rufous, less olive. Flanks and sides of breast washed with richer, more ochre brown. Centre of abdomen a purer white.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	51-53	<i>c.</i> 12	<i>c.</i> 21	36-37 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Not recorded.

1476. **Japanese Bush Warbler.** *Cettia diphone canturians* (Swinhoe)

Arundinax canturians Swinhoe, 1860, Ibis: 52

(Amoy in winter, Shanghai in summer)

Baker, FBI No. 916, Vol. 2: 511

Plate 83, fig. 2

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length ♂ *c.* 16; ♀ *c.* 14 cm (5½-6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. The largest bush warbler, superficially very similar to and confusable with Thickbilled Warbler [*Phragmaticola aedon* (1549)].

Above, russet brown, browner on head. A pale supercilium and a dark stripe through eye. *Below*, dull white washed with fulvous on breast and belly. Flanks fulvous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Accidental winter visitor. Two

records from Cachar (Assam) [Hume, SF 11: 202-4 (1 Jan. 1881) and Baker, FBI 2: 511]. Affects thick brushwood and reeds.

Extralimal. Breeds in northern China; winters in Taiwan, the Philippines, southern China and the Indochinese countries. The species extends from southeastern Siberia to Japan and the Philippines.

GENERAL HABITS. Skulks in dense bushes like other bush warblers. In winter may be seen in large banyan trees, exploring quite openly the boughs of these trees (La Touche). 'If hard pressed quietly slips out of the other side of the bush and flits to a further cover' (Swinhoe).

FOOD. Insects. Diptera and larvae in gizzard of a specimen collected.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a harsh *charr*. Call-note, a discreet though fairly loud *chak-chak* (La Touche). The abrupt song not given in winter.

BREEDING. Extralimal.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS. (Note the great difference in size of the sexes.)

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail	
♂♂	72-79	28-30	68-79	mm
♀♀	59-64	23-25	57-59	mm
			(La Touche)	

Bill from skull ♂ *c.* 17-18; ♀ 15-16 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower mandible and edge of upper greyish pink. Legs and feet pinkish grey.

CETTIA MONTANA (Horsfield)¹: STRONGFOOTED BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- More rufous above *C. m. fortipes*
- More olive above *C. m. pallida*

1477. *Cettia montana pallida* (Brooks)

Horeites pallidus Brooks, 1872, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 41: 78 (Kashmir)
Baker, FBI No. 912, Vol. 2: 507

LOCAL NAME. *Dofa pich* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 11 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1478. See Museum Diagnosis. Better identified by its striking song (q.v.).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common altitudinal migrant. The western Himalayas from Swat across the Indus Valley east to western Nepal (Fleming & Traylor, *Fieldiana* 53: 178). Breeds above 1800 m, mostly between 1200 m in the west and 3000 m. Winters (end of October to April) from *c.* 1800 m down to the foothills, seldom venturing into adjacent plains (Peshawar, Campbellpore). Affects bush-covered hillsides, mixed cultivation and bushes or rank herbage, open mixed forest with plenty of undergrowth and bushes along nullahs; noted in winter in *sarpat* grass.

¹ For discussion on use of *montana* versus *fortipes*, see JBNHS 65: 223 and 224. Also see D. Wells, Bull. B. O. C. 102 (2) for discussion of *Fortipes* sp. complex.

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1478.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A single harsh *pick* or *tchuk* while skulking through shrubbery, reminiscent of *Phylloscopus griseolus* (1581). A peculiar, unmistakable song, remarkably loud and far-carrying, consisting of two phrases, each starting with a high-pitched long-drawn-out whistle of over one second, immediately followed by a few quick, explosive notes, well rendered by Osmaston as

You . . . mixed-it-so-quick
He'll . . . beat-you

each phrase given alternately on a high and low key. See also 1478 for more renderings and other notes. Song period March till end of August. Song delivered perched hunch-backed on a twig, with plumage slightly fluffed out, tail depressed, and wings drooped. Commencing with the initial whistle body slowly tilted forward at 45° angle to the perch, and by the time the whistle ends it has fully stretched forward. At the final outburst of notes, head bobbed furiously, tail jerked, and each sequence appears sung at its loudest (Nitin Jamdar, JBNHS 85: 194).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August, chiefly June and July. May be double-brooded. *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1478. Average size of 80 eggs 17.4 × 13.1 mm (Baker, Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from nominate *fortipes* (1478) in being less rufous more olive above, and paler, more greyish olive below. For details of plumage see Baker, loc. cit.

Young. Upperparts, ear-coverts and sides of head more olivaceous than in adult; supercilium dull yellow. Underparts dull yellow washed with olive on flanks and across breast.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	c. 57	c. 14	c. 21	50–53 mm
♀♀	56–57	c. 14	21–22	c. 52 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower paler, dark at tip. Legs and feet brownish or fleshy brown.

1478. *Cettia montana fortipes* (Hodgson)

Horornis fortipes Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 31 (The Cachar, Nepal)

Homochlamys fortipes manis Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 18 (Mawphlang, Khasi Hills)

Homochlamys fortipes mizorum Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 18 (Sangau, Lushai Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 910, Vol. 2: 506

Plate 83, fig. 3

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha gashim* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 11 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small, skulking bush warbler better identified (in



× c. 1

season) by its distinctive whistled, explosive song (q.v.). *Above*, dark rufous olive-brown; a narrow buff supercilium to nape; a brown line from lores through eye. *Below*, dull whitish washed with olive-brown on sides of breast and fulvous on flanks. Sexes alike.

The smaller *C. pallidipes* (1474) may be distinguished by its pale flesh-coloured or yellowish legs (*v.* brownish in *fortipes*).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An altitudinal migrant, common except in Nepal where it appears to be mostly replaced by *C. brunniifrons*. From Nepal (Ilam district, Fleming & Traylor, *Fieldiana* 35: 540) east through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, thence south through Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Breeds between 2000 and 3300 m (in Meghalaya from 1200 to 2000 m); winters from *c.* 2100 down to the foothills and, less commonly, the adjacent plains of the Brahmaputra and northern Bengal. Affects bush jungle, tea-gardens, open forest with dense undergrowth, bamboo and bramble thickets, and lush vegetation on swampy ground. Its absence from most of Nepal may be correlated with the lack of temperate dry forest (see map of climatic types, Vol. 1, after p. xlvii).

Extralimital. Northern Burma. The species extends east to Taiwan and south through the Sunda Islands to Timor and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. An arrant skulker often heard but extremely difficult to see although it may sneak around almost within arm's length. Solitary; keeps close to the ground, hopping among bushes in search of food, seldom ascending trees.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud, staccato *tyit-tyu-tyu*, a soft churring alarm-note, and a single *tsik* or *chuk*. Song, a thin, prolonged and rising whistle *whheeeee* (*c.* 1 second) followed by a loud and quickly uttered (explosive), short phrase *chiiwiyou*, thus: *whheeeee . . . chiiwiyou* (SA). The phrases, with some variations, are alternately given in high and low pitches. Song period, March to August. See also 1477.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, rather untidy, varying from a deep cup to a domed or globular structure with a large entrance near the top; made of broad-leaved grasses and copiously lined with feathers. Placed in dense, low bushes within 50 cm from the ground, seldom higher. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, usually 4, deep chestnut with a cloudy ring of deeper colour at the large end. Average size of 60 eggs 17.3 × 13.4 mm (Baker). Incubation by both sexes; period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *pallida* (1477) in being more rufous above, and darker, more brownish below. For details of plumage see Baker, loc. cit.



Wing, × c. 1

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	50-58	13-15	21-22	49-58 mm
♀♀	47-56	c. 14	20-22	44-53 mm

(Mayr, HW, Stevens, NBK, SA)

Weight 1 ♂ 10; 2 ♀ ♀ 8, 9 g (SDR); 10 ♂♀ 8-11.5 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, base of lower mandible pinkish horn. Legs and feet brownish flesh or yellowish brown.

CETTIA MAJOR (MOORE): LARGE BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Browner, less olive.....	<i>C. m. vafer</i>
Paler, more olive.....	<i>C. m. major</i>

1479. *Cettia major major* (Moore)*Horeites major* Moore, in Horsfield & Moore, 1854, Cat. Bds. Mus. E. I. Co. 1: 323 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 915, Vol. 2: 510

Plate 83, fig. 6

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A dark olive-brown bird with chestnut forehead and crown. A long supercilium, rusty on lores, whitish beyond eye. Underparts dull whitish. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, probably subject to vertical movements. Garhwal and Kumaon (Koelz, *Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration*, No. 1: 18), Nepal (not recorded since Hodgson's days), Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (upper Subansiri). The highest-altitude bush warbler; found in summer between 3300 and 4000 m (Ludlow). Winter data entirely lacking; recorded at 3900 and 2400 m in October. Affects dense rhododendron jungle in silver fir forest at timber-line, or dwarf rhododendron thickets beyond.*Extralimital.* Extends to southeastern Tibet, Yunnan and Sichuan.

GENERAL HABITS. Nothing recorded except that it is a skulker.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. Known only from a single nest sent to Baker from Sikkim, said to have been taken on the Singalila Ridge at 'over 16,000 ft' (4880+ m). It was globular, loosely made of grass and bamboo leaves outside, fine grass and roots inside and lined with soft feathers; placed in scrub at the edge of dense forest on a steep hillside. No date given but a bird with a yolk egg has been collected on 10 June. *Eggs*, similar to those of *C. montana*. Size 18.3 × 13.9 mm (Baker). See also 1480, Breeding.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For details of plumage see Baker, loc. cit.

Young. *Above*, olive-brown. *Below*, throat greenish white with faint dusky marks; breast greenish grey; belly whitish. Younger birds are more washed with yellowish on underparts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	63 (one)	14	23-24	44-51 mm
♀♀	59, 61 (two)	14	—	— mm

(Wing by NBK, bill by MD, tarsus and tail by Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower yellow.

1480. *Cettia major vafer* (Koelz)

Homochlamys major vafer Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 18
(Phulbari, Garo Hills)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1479.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Scarce resident, subject to vertical movements. Nagaland (Dimapur, Koelz, loc. cit.), Meghalaya in the Garo (Koelz) and Assam in the Cachar hills, 'confined to the highest peaks about Hungrum' (Baker, JBNHS 9: 22). Altitude in summer c. 1800 m; habitat undescribed. See 1479.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. No dates given. *Nest*, a very deep cup of fine grasses and a few bamboo leaves outside, shreds of fine grass inside, lined with feathers. Of three nests, one contained 3 eggs and two contained 2 each. *Eggs* similar in colour to those of *C. montana* (Baker, JBNHS 9: 22). These records perhaps dubious as not included subsequently in *Nidification*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *major* in being more saturated, browner, less olive on back, crown more chestnut, less ferruginous (Koelz).

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1479.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill pale yellowish brown, culmen and tip darker. Legs and feet reddish flesh (Baker).

CETTIA FLAVOLIVACEA (Hodgson): ABERRANT BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Paler above	<i>C. f. flavolivacea</i> 14
B	Darker above	
1	Olive-green above	<i>C. f. stresemanni</i> 15
2	Olive-brown above	<i>C. f. alexanderi</i> 15

1481, 1580. *Cettia flavolivacea flavolivacea* (Hodgson)

N.(eornis) flavolivacea Hodgson, 1845, in Blyth, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 590 (Nepal)

Phylloscopus subaffinis arcanus Ripley, 1950, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 63: 105 (Tikapur, Kailali District, western Nepal)¹

Baker, FBI No. 906, Vol. 2: 502

Plate 83, fig. 4 and Plate 86, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Superficially like a leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus*) with yellowish underparts and no wing-bars. *Above*, olive-brown. A pale yellowish supercilium and a dark line through eye. Sides of head mottled yellow and brown. *Below*, dull fulvous yellow tinged with olive on throat and flanks. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to vertical movements. The Himalayas from Garhwal east through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh in the Pachakshiri area (and probably throughout the State at suitable altitudes). Breeds between 2400 and 3600 m; recorded in winter between *c.* 700 and 2700 m. Affects long grass and thick scrub, bamboo and ferns. In winter always near reed-beds (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985).

GENERAL HABITS. Usually difficult to see as it skulks in dense cover, but sometimes inquisitive and not shy.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A harsh, grating alarm-note and a *tsick* call. Song, see 1483.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, domed with a side entrance, made of grass and bamboo leaves, lined with feathers, usually placed at the base of thick clumps of grass. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, varying from pink to dark terracotta, with a darker crown at the large end. Average size of 11 eggs 17.2 × 12.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Subspecies, and Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

Young, like adults but edges of wings and tail darker. Underparts paler yellow, not so buffish.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53–57	<i>c.</i> 14	22–23	47–57 mm
♀♀	50–60	13–14	21–23	50–59 mm

(BB, Rand & Fleming, SA)

(Bill by Rand & Fleming: 1 ♂ 15; 4 ♀♀ 14–17 mm)

Weight 1 ♂ 9 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown, paler yellowish brown on lower mandible. Legs and feet pale yellowish brown.

¹ See P. Ahlström *et al.*, Bull. BOC. September 1993.

1482. *Cettia flavolivacea stresemanni* (Koelz)

Neornis flavolivaceus stresemanni Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 17 (Mawryngkneng, Khasi Hills)

Neornis flavolivaceus circumspectus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 18 (Mawphlang, Khasi Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 907 (part), Vol. 2: 503

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1481, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. Meghalaya in the Garo and Khasi hills, from *c.* 1200 m to the summits. Reaches the foothills in winter (arriving in December). Affects long grass and scrub, and bushes in pine forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1481.

BREEDING. As in 1481.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *flavolivacea* in being darker above, dark greyish olive instead of brownish olive. Underparts greenish yellow but flanks washed with grey. Differs from *alexanderi* in being olive-green, not olive-brown, above; more citrine, without strong orange-buff wash, below.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing		Tail
7 ♂♂	51–58	4 ♂♂	52–58 mm
5 ♀♀	51–57	5 ♀♀	51–59 mm

(Koelz)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1483.

1483. *Cettia flavolivacea alexanderi* Ripley

Cettia flavolivacea alexanderi Ripley, 1951, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 6: 6 (Phek-Meluri Road, 60 miles east of Kohima, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 907 (part), Vol. 2: 503

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1481, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, from 1100 m in winter to 2900 m in summer. Affects tall grass and light, second-growth scrub.

Extralimital. The species extends to northern Vietnam and Fujian.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1481.

VOICE and CALLS. A short grating song (SDR). A short, extremely high and thin whistled strophe (Heinrich).

BREEDING. As in 1481.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *flavolivacea* (1481) in being darker below, more olive-buff with dark buffy breast and flanks; from *stresemanni* (1482) in being olive-brown above, not olive-green, and less yellow below with an orange-buff wash.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail
2 ♂♂	52, 52	56, 57 mm
3 ♀♀	48-51	53-54 mm
		(Kociz, SDR)

Weight 2 ♀♀ 6, 7 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible black; lower mandible yellowish, brown at tip, pinkish horn at base. Legs and feet flesh to pale brown.

1484. **Hume's Bush Warbler.** *Cettia acanthizoides brunnescens* (Hume)

Horeites brunnescens Hume, 1872, Ibis: 109 (neighbourhood of Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 909, Vol. 2: 505

Plate 83, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A skulking rufous-brown warbler with pale yellow underparts. A broad pale buff supercilium. Sexes alike. For other details see Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon or local resident, subject to vertical movements. The Himalayas from Garhwal through Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh; from 2400 to 3300 m (up to 3750 m in SE. Tibet). Recorded in winter at 1350 m (Garhwal) and *c.* 2100 m (Tibet), and in October at 2700 m (Tibet). Affects mostly dense ringal bamboo (*Arundinaria*) in pure stands or in open forest.

Extralimital. The species extends east through southern China to Taiwan.

GENERAL HABITS. A warbler of the dense ringal bamboo on hillsides. A great skulker, very difficult to observe.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song described by observers variously as 'most amazing', 'extraordinary', 'striking', and 'peculiar': a series of three or four long-drawn-out, thin whistles each lasting about two seconds, uttered slowly and deliberately in ascending scale, followed by several quick-repeated up and down *chee chew* notes resembling call of Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*, 1873) (Ludlow, Osmaston). Alarm-note a quick *birrh*. Call-note *tik, tik, tik* (Ludlow).

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a domed structure of grass and bamboo leaves, copiously lined with feathers, the entrance near the top; placed low down in bushes in thick ringal undergrowth, *c.* 50 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, deep terracotta with a ring or cap of darker tint at the large end. Average size of 20 eggs 17 × 12.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Exposed portions of wings and tail brighter rufous than rest of upperparts; lores and behind eye dark brown; cheeks and ear-coverts mottled brown and yellowish. Underparts greyish buff, browner on flanks.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	52-56	12-13	21-22	40-49 mm
♀♀	47-50	11-12	—	— mm
				(NBK, Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown, lower mandible fleshy brown. Legs and feet fleshy or yellowish brown.

CETTIA BRUNNIFRONS (Hodgson): RUFOSCAPPED BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Palest, less rufous on back <i>C. b. whistleri</i>	17
B	Darker, more rufous on back <i>C. b. brunnicfrons</i>	17
C	Darkest, more richly coloured <i>C. b. muroides</i>	18

1485. *Cettia brunnicfrons whistleri* (Ticehurst)

Horeites brunnicfrons whistleri Ticehurst, 1923, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 44: 28 (Simla)
Baker, FBI No. 918, Vol. 2: 513

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1486, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common vertical migrant. The western Himalayas from the Kaghan Valley, Hazara dist., Pakistan (Roberts, JBNHS 78: 75), the Pir Panjal range in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and east to Mussooree (where it intergrades with *brunnicfrons*). Breeds between 3000 and 3600 m; winters between 1000 and 2100 m, probably reaching the foothills locally. Movements take place in April and October. Affects stunted juniper and furze on stony hillsides at or above tree-line, and bushes around open margs. In winter frequents bush-clad hillsides and undergrowth in open forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1486.

BREEDING. As in 1486.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *brunnicfrons* (1486) in being paler on head, paler and less rufous on back and edges of wings, and in having paler under tail-coverts and thighs.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1486.

1486. *Cettia brunnicfrons brunnicfrons* (Hodgson)

Prinia brunnicfrons Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 29 (Northern region of hills near snows, Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 917 (part), Vol. 2: 512

Plate 83, fig. 5

LOCAL NAME. *Lik-lik-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufous olive-brown with a rufous-chestnut crown, long buff supercilium and dark stripe from lores through eye, all noticeable in the field. *Below*, throat and belly white; breast and sides grey; flanks and vent olive-brown. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common vertical migrant. The Himalayas from Mussooree, east through Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan. Breeds between *c.* 2700 and 4000 m; winters from *c.* 2200 m down to

the foothills. Affects dwarf rhododendron, *Berberis*, bamboo clumps and other bushes in forest clearings and margins, and thickets in open coniferous forest up to the limit of bracken growth. In winter frequents dense undergrowth in open forest, tea-gardens, bushes and high grass in shady areas.

GENERAL HABITS. Generally a skulker difficult to observe, but at times very inquisitive and forthcoming. Will perch on the top of a bush or rock to utter its song within a few metres of the observer. Usually feeds among the bushes but has been observed creeping on the ground in and out of crevices. When forced to break cover, seldom rises much above the ground or flies far, promptly diving into the nearest shrubbery, hardly giving a glimpse of itself.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a shrill piercing whistle and a rasping scolding note (Ludlow). Call-note a soft *tsik . . . tsik*. *Song*, very characteristic and peculiar: a loud *sip-ti-ti-sip* uttered continuously, often followed by an extraordinary sound, rather like that produced by somebody blowing through a comb (Proud); 'a curious grating mouse-like sound, twice repeated and of a ventriloquial nature' (Osmaston). Song period mid April to early August with a resumption in September-October.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to early July. *Nest*, domed, made of grass, lined with feathers and placed in low shrubs about 50 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, usually 4, sometimes 3 or 5, varying from pale to dark terracotta with a cap of deeper colour at the large end. Average size of 30 eggs 17.9 × 13 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young, head same colour as back which is slightly duller than that of adult. Underparts greenish brown not grey, with a tinge of yellow. Supercilium light brown not whitish.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	42-51	11-12	18-20	43-45 mm
♀♀	43-47	11-12	18-19	41-47 mm

(BB, Stevens, Stresemann, SA)

Weight 6 ♂♂ 8-9; 2 ♀♀ 8, 9 g (May-Oct.)—GD. 8 ♂♂ 6-8 g (Oct.-March)—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower pale yellowish, darker at tip. Legs and feet pale brownish or greyish brown.

1487. *Cettia brunnifrons muroides* (Koelz)

Horeites brunnifrons muroides Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 18 (Bamanigaon, Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 917 (part), Vol. 2: 512

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1486, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements: Arunachal Pradesh and adjacent Tibet from 3000 to 4000 m. Habitat as in 1486. Winters from at least 1200 m down to the foothills and over the

plains of the Brahmaputra, arriving in September; in the latter area frequents bracken and grass, especially along rivers. Not known to breed south of the Brahmaputra but recorded in Meghalaya at the edge of the Garo-Khasi foothills in winter (Koelz, loc. cit.). Obtained in the Chin Hills of Burma (season ?).

Extralimital. The species extends to northern Yunnan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1486.

BREEDING. As in 1486.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *brunnifrons* (1486) in being darker and richer coloured above.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1486.

1488. Cetti's Warbler. *Cettia cetti albiventris* Severtzov

Cettia albiventris Severtzov, 1872, Vertik. Turkest. Zhivotn.: 131 (Kara Tau)

Cettia Cettioides Hume, 1873, Stray Feathers 1: 194 (Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 920, Vol. 2: 514

Plate 83, fig. 11

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, entirely rufous brown. A short supercilium and eye-ring whitish. *Below*, centre of throat, breast and belly nearly white, flanks and vent greyish brown. Sexes alike. The ruddy brown colour and very broad longish round tail are diagnostic.



Tail from below, $\times c. \frac{1}{2}$

(After Hartert)

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to suitable habitat from the Vale of Peshawar through the Indus plains to Sind; possibly Baluchistan, though reported occurrence at Quetta and Sibi not yet confirmed (CBT). Also ringed at

Harike Lake (32.13N., 75.12E.), Punjab, in March (V. Prakash & S. A. Akhtar, JBNHS 86: 245), and collected in October at Bharatpur (23.13N., 77.32E.), Rajasthan (S.A. Hussain, JBNHS 71: 611). Very local. Affects partially submerged bulrushes, reeds, high grass and tamarisks, in *dhands* and at the edge of inundated tamarisk jungle.

Extralimital. Breeds from Iran and the Caspian east to Russian Turkestan; winters south to southern Iran and Afghanistan. The species ranges west through the Mediterranean countries to the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco. For details see Vaurie, 1959, 1: 227

Migration. Arrives in its winter quarters in October, leaves in March. Recorded as common on migration (March) in Kohat. At this time may be seen in reed-beds, gardens and dense cover near water.

GENERAL HABITS. A great skulker, usually detected only by its loud clicking note. Creeps about in very dense cover, seldom if at all showing itself or flying.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A rather loud *click* or *chey* repeated at intervals. Bursts of its loud, clear song may be heard before spring departure.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	68-73	11-12	25-26	52-65 mm
♀♀	60-69			

(Wing CBT, rest Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown above, paler and yellowish below. Legs and feet brownish flesh.

Genus *BRADYPTERUS* Swainson

Bradypterus Swainson, 1837, *Classif. Bds.* 2: 241. Type, by monotypy, *Bradypterus platyurus* Swainson = *Sylvia brachyptera* Vieillot (= *S. baboecala* Vieillot)

Tribura Hodgson, 1845, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*: 30. Type, by original designation, *T. luteoventris* Hodgson

Horornis Hodgson, 1845, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*: 31. Type, by subsequent designation, Gray, 1855, *Cat. Gen. Subgen. Bds.*: 351, *H. flaviventris* Hodgson = *T. luteoventris* Hodgson

Elaphornis Legge, 1879, *Bds. Ceylon*: 514. Type, by monotypy, *Brachypteryx? palliseri* Blyth

Bill slender and straight. Rictal bristles minute and inconspicuous. Tail much rounded, about equal to wing or longer; rectrices rather pointed.

Key to the Species

	Page
A Lower throat distinctly spotted	
1 Breast grey	<i>B. thoracicus</i> 20
2 Breast buff	
a Bill from skull over 16 mm	<i>B. major</i> 23
b Bill from skull under 16 mm	<i>B. tacsanowskii</i> 24
B Throat not spotted (or sometimes with faint specks)	
3 Throat ochraceous buff contrasting with rest of underparts	<i>B. palliseri</i> 26
4 Throat colour not contrasting with rest of underparts ...	<i>B. luteoventris</i> 25

BRADYPTERUS THORACICUS (Blyth): SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Flanks paler	<i>B. t. przewalskii</i>
Flanks darker	<i>B. t. thoracicus</i>

1489. *Bradypterus thoracicus przewalskii* (Sushkin)

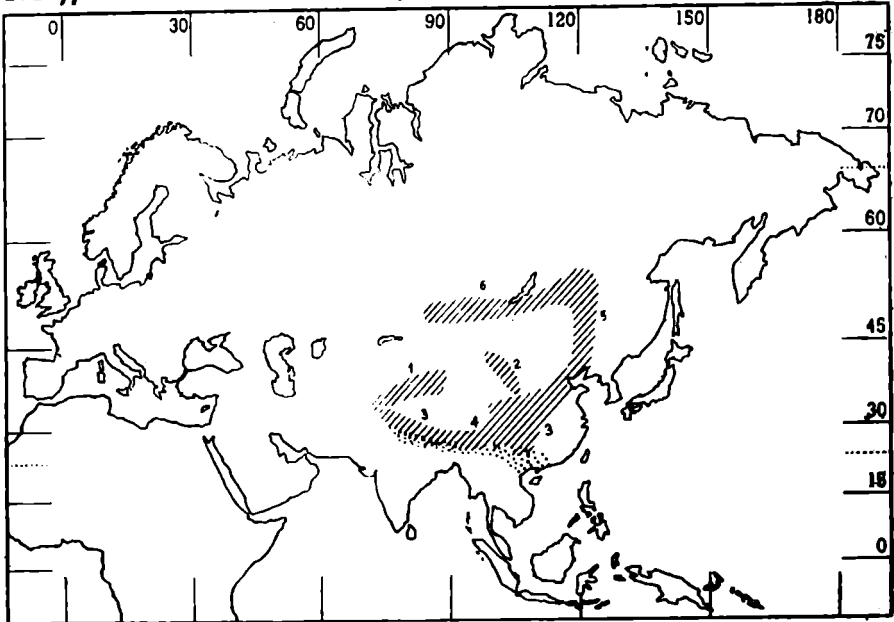
Dumeticola thoracica przewalskii Sushkin, 1925, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 38: 41
(Dshachar Mts, upper Hwangho)

Dumeticola thoracica kashmirensis Sushkin, 1925, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 38: 42
(northwestern Himalaya)

Baker, *FBI No. 810 (part)*, Vol. 2: 405

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

Bradypterus thoracicus* and *B. major**Distributional ranges**

 Breeding

 Winter (species *thoracicus* only)

1 *B. m. major* (1491). 2 *B. m. netrix* (RE). 3 *B. t. przewalskii* (1489).

4 *B. t. thoracicus* (1490). 5 *B. t. davidi* (RE). 6 *B. t. suschkini* (RE).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1490, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common vertical migrant. The western Himalayas in 'Kashmir' (Borendo Pass = Ladakh—specimens in Brit. Mus.), Garhwal and Kumaon. Breeds between 3000 and 4000 m mainly around 3600 m. There are no winter records for this race; the eastern race is known to descend to the foothills in the cold season. Affects open grassy places, especially rank grass and *Rumex* growing on well-manured soil where cattle are temporarily quartered; occasionally also low shrubs and dwarf junipers.

Extralimital. 'Shensi (Tsingling Range) westward through Kansu and Sichuan to eastern Tsinghai north to eastern Nan Shan, south through eastern and central Sikang to northern Yunnan, and possibly northern Burma' (Vaurie).

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1490.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A most persistent *see-see* note, and when uttering its song usually rises a short distance above the ground dropping again out of sight into the grass' (A. E. Osmaston). This description appears to be that of its song.

BREEDING. As in 1490.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *thoracicus* (1490) in being paler on flanks. Eye-streak a little more distinct.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1490.

1490. *Bradypterus thoracicus thoracicus* (Blyth)

D. (umeticola) thoracica Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 584
(Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 810 (part), Vol. 2: 405

Plate 83, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A skulking plain brown bird of scrub and shrubbery. *Above*, dark rufous-brown. Sides of head and supercilium grey. *Below*, chin white; throat ashy spotted with blackish brown. Breast grey; centre of belly white; flanks olive-brown. Under tail-coverts olive-brown barred with white. Sexes alike.

The boldly spotted throat, grey breast and barred under tail-coverts are diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common vertical migrant. Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh from 3300 to 4350 m (old summer records at '5000 feet' and '400 feet' are certainly erroneous). Recorded in winter in the terai, duars and the plains of Jalpaiguri district; south to Sylhet (Godwin-Austen) and Calcutta (Holmes, 1968, JBNHS 65: 779). A specimen of juvenile male from 'Shillong' in the British Museum is dated 30 August. Affects shrubbery on the edge of open grassy places and pastures, dwarf junipers and rhododendrons near timber-line, low scrub above timber-line, and bracken, rank grass and bushes between patches of forest. In winter may be seen in heavy grass jungle and reed-beds (*Phragmites*).

Extralimital. 'Neighbouring parts of southern Tibet and southwestern Sikkang to Pome . . .' (Vaurie). Southeastern Tibet. The species ranges north to Amurland, Transbaikalia and Altai.

GENERAL HABITS. Apparently not such an arrant skulker as other bush warblers, showing itself somewhat more freely as it weaves its way through the shrubbery.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. As in 1489.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, domed or deep cup-shaped loosely made of rather coarse grass outside, finer inside, without true lining but often with a feather or two; placed in tufts of grass or in low scrub, usually within *c.* 50 cm from the ground, well concealed. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, white, lightly freckled with pinky red or brick-red, with a tendency to form a ring or cap at the large end. Average size of 50 eggs 18.4 × 13.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Subspecies. For details of plumages see Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	50–58	10–11	18–19	46–53 mm
♀♀	52–55			

(Wing NBK, Ludlow; rest Baker)

Bill from skull *c.* 15 mm

Weight 1 ♂ 10 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown to black. Legs and feet fleshy yellow to pale brown.

1491. **Largebilled Bush Warbler.** *Bradypterus major major*
(Brooks)

Dumeticola major Brooks, 1871, Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal: 210 (Cashmir)
Baker, FBI No. 808, Vol. 2: 403

Plate 83, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. *Tiktik pitta* (Kagan Valley); *Chibi marta* (Ladakh).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown. A short pale supercilium and a pale eye-ring. *Below*, chin and throat white, the latter sometimes spotted with brown, more heavily so at base. Breast and under tail-coverts fulvous; sides of breast and flanks olive-brown; centre of belly white. Sexes alike.

Doubtfully distinguishable from 1489 unless in the hand. See Key to the Species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common vertical migrant. The extreme western Himalayas from Gilgit and the Indus Valley (Kagan) east through Ladakh (to Upshi) and Kashmir (to the Suru Valley). Breeds between 2400 and 3600 m, arriving on its summer grounds in early June. Winters down to *c.* 1200 m. Affects low thorny scrub (*Lonicera*, *Hippophae*) interspersed with rank grass, bracken and tangled herbage fringing the forest, and irrigated crops (barley etc.).

This species and *B. thoracicus* are presumably allopatric and have the same habits; study of their distribution between Kashmir and Garhwal is desirable.

Extralimital. The species extends to the Kun Lun range and western Astin Tagh.

GENERAL HABITS. A skulker, scuttling off like a mouse at amazing speed through the rootstocks of the grasses and difficult to flush; when forced to fly will drop again into cover after a few hurried metres. When alarmed flicks its tail and wings.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a grating *trr*. Song comprises a series of stridulant monotonous clicks (up to 200 without a break) at a rate of about three to four per second, evenly spaced, rendered as *chipi-chipi-chipi . . .* or *clipper-clipper-clipper . . .* (Whistler, Osmaston). Usually uttered from the topmost twig of a bush.

BREEDING. *Season*, June and July. *Nest*, a deep cup of grass lined with finer stems and a few hairs, resembling that of *Locustella*; placed very near the ground at the base of some low shrub. Very difficult to find as the owner usually runs through the grass on leaving the nest. *Eggs*, 3, or more often 4, pinkish, spotted all over but especially at the broad end with bright terracotta, with a few underlying markings and occasionally very thin black lines. Average size of 34 eggs 18.9 × 14.3 mm (Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species.

Young, like adult but upperparts browner; underparts pale yellow, throat spots indistinct and cloudy; flanks washed with ochraceous-olive.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	
♂♀	55-65	c. 18	21-22	59-63	mm (Hartert)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill: upper mandible brownish black, lower brownish flesh. Legs and feet pale brownish flesh.

1492. **Chinese Bush Warbler.** *Bradypterus tacsanowskii*
tacsanowskii (Swinhoe)

Locustella tacsanowskia Swinhoe, 1871, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 355
(Transbaicalia)

Baker, FBI No. 809, Vol. 2: 404

Plate 83, fig. 15

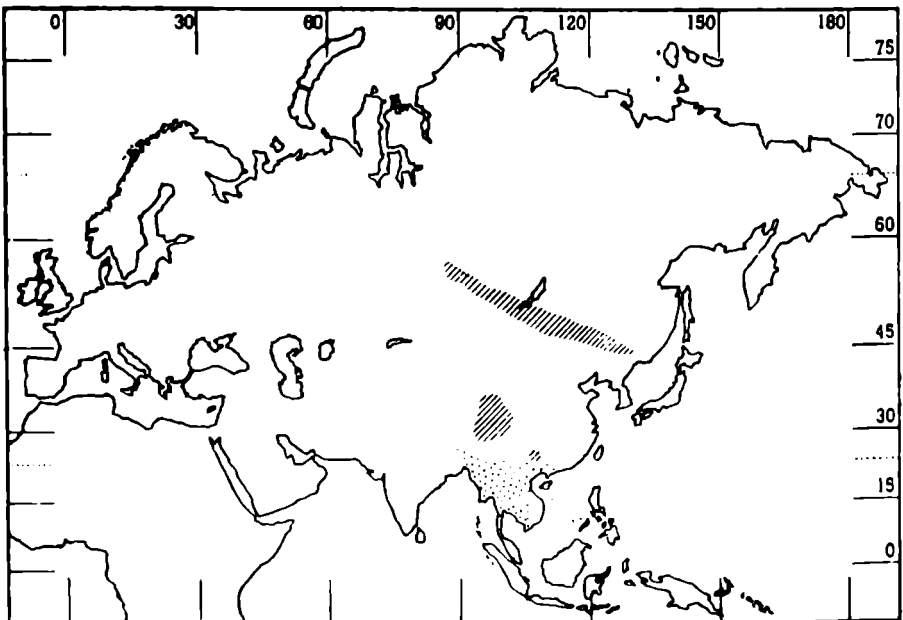
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, russet olive-brown; a short, narrow whitish supercilium. *Below*, chin and throat whitish, the latter with a few brown specks. Rest of underparts buffish suffused with pale brown on breast and flanks. Sexes alike.

Difficult to identify unless in the hand.

Bradypterus t. tacsanowskii



 Breeding

 Winter

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Very scarce winter visitor. One record from 'Bhutan duars' (Mandelli) and several from Nepal from Sukla Phanta in the extreme west to Kosi Barrage in the east (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985). In view of its skulking and silent habits, may be more frequent than the records indicate. Affects suitable fields, grass and bushes, standing rice until cut, and reed-beds, apparently in the plains only. May be expected between October and March. In summer frequents shrubs, undergrowth and grassy glades in open *Abies* forest from *c.* 2800 to 3600 m.

Extralimital. Breeds in southern Siberia from the Yenisey to Ussuriland and adjacent parts of northern China and Mongolia; also from northern Sichuan and eastern Qinghai south to southeastern Tibet (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1951: 563) and northern Yunnan (Likiang Mts, specimens collected by J. F. Rock). The subspecies *chui* (Yen) 1933 was described on specimens collected on Yao Shan, Guangxi, in June. Winters in southern China, northern Indochinese countries and southern Burma.

GENERAL HABITS. Very skulking, restless and difficult to observe. Escapes by creeping on the ground among grass roots and under small bushes. On being flushed, rises a little but settles again almost at once to resume the creeping.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A call-note similar to but recognizable from that of *Locustella lanceolata* (1544) which frequents the same grounds. In the breeding season has a stridulant song reminiscent of that of *Locustella naevia* (1545) but shorter.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species. Tail obsoletely cross-rayed above, with white shafts to the feathers below.

Young, yellowish buff below, and slightly paler than adult above.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	52-56	<i>c.</i> 14	<i>c.</i> 20	53-58 mm (MD, Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower yellowish, brown at tip. Legs and feet flesh colour.

1493. **Brown Bush Warbler. *Bradypterus luteoventris luteoventris***
(Hodgson)

Tribura luteoventris Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 30 (Nepal)
Baker, FBI No. 811, Vol. 2: 406

Plate 83, fig. 8

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha-tchik* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow' —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufous-brown; a short pale supercilium and a pale eye-ring. *Below*, chin, throat and belly white tinged with buff on sides; throat sometimes with fine dark specks. Upper breast, flanks and under tail-coverts rufous-brown. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A vertical migrant, locally common. Western Nepal through Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh (Lhalung,

Pachakshiri area, and probably throughout the State); also Meghalaya in the Khasi and Assam in the Cachar hills, Nagaland, Manipur (?) south to the Chin Hills of Burma. Breeds between 2100 and 3300 m, in a lower zone than *B. thoracicus*, but the two species may occur on the same grounds. In the Khasi Hills breeds between 1200 and 1600 m and on Mt Victoria from 2500 m to the summit. Affects grassy downs, high grass- and bracken-covered hillsides in treeless regions, but in the Khasi Hills frequents undergrowth of bushes, bracken and grass in pine forest. Winters in the foothills.

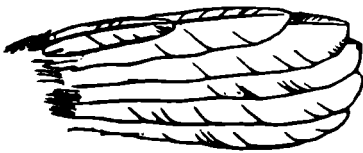
Extralimital. Extends to central China, Fujian and northern Vietnam. Other subspecies in Vietnam, southeastern China, Taiwan and Luzon.

GENERAL HABITS. Skulking; similar to those of other bush warblers.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-notes *teck . . . teck*. Song, a very peculiar grating trill deceptively like that of a grasshopper (Heinrich). Described as a rapid repetition of two notes, a sort of screech followed by a sharp short note, at the rate of two or three pairs of notes per second, *creee-ut-creee-ut . . .*; very slight pauses are made every few seconds (Smythies). Sings from a concealed perch near the ground.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, usually a deep cup, sometimes domed, made of grass blades with finer material inside; placed in bushes or clumps of grass, generally within a metre from the ground, sometimes a little higher; rarely on the ground, under a tuft of grass.



Wing, $\times c. 1$

Eggs, normally 4, often 3, rarely 5, white to pale pink, marked with reddish brown freckles or sometimes blotches, in some eggs coalescing to form a crown around the large end. Average size of 200 eggs 18.2×14.3

mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes but mostly by female; period 12 or 13 days.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species. First primary (as.) about half the length of second.

Young, like adult but underparts tinged with yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	51-54	c. 14	c. 19	55-56 mm
♀♀	49-52			

(Stresemann, Ludlow, Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown or blackish, lower fleshy yellow. Legs and feet flesh colour, fleshy yellow to fleshy brown.

1494. **Palliser's Bush Warbler.** *Bradypterus palliseri* (Blyth)

Brachypteryx palliseri Blyth, 1852, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 178 (Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 812, Vol. 2: 408

Plate 83, fig. 9

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, brown. A pale grey supercilium and a pale eye-ring. *Below*, throat ochraceous buff, a diagnostic character. Rest of underparts olive-grey, centre of belly pale yellowish. Sexes alike, except that male has red iris and female pale buff.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Endemic to Sri Lanka. Common resident in the hills above 900 m, more common above *c.* 1300 m. Affects undergrowth of *Strobilanthes* and dwarf bamboo in damp forest, occasionally venturing into tea-plantation where it borders the jungle.

GENERAL HABITS. Skulks in dense cover, creeping about the stems, seldom ascending more than a metre or two above the ground; continually flicks its tail. In the non-breeding season may be seen in small family parties.

FOOD. Grubs, worms, green grasshoppers and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Usually very silent, the only note being a low, single, explosive *quitze* or *qtz* (Betts)—sometimes sounding more like *queek* (Henry). This also uttered on alarm, e.g. when nest is approached. In the breeding season, a queer, rather squeaky song of a few scattered notes given from a commanding position on a stem (Betts, Henry).

BREEDING. *Season*, March to May, occasionally (second brood?) in August-September. *Nest*, a deep, substantial cup of moss, dead leaves and rootlets, lined with skeleton leaves; occasionally nests may be made of bamboo leaves and lined with fine grass as is usual in other bush warblers; usually placed in a low shrub or clump of bamboo within a metre or so from the ground, often near a forest path. *Eggs*, usually 2, pale pink, covered with fine purple-brown specks often coalescing at the larger end; also numerous underlying grey freckles. Average size of 5 eggs 21.7 × 16.1 mm (Phillips). A close sitter; when disturbed the birds scuttle about under cover in the immediate vicinity continually uttering their alarm-notes. Feeding of young by both sexes. Share in other duties not determined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young, like adult but rufous throat replaced by whitish, the feathers tipped with olive-grey; rest of underparts more yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	61-64	18-19	25-28	65-70 mm
2 ♀♀	60, 61	18	24, 26	65 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 9 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown to bright red (♂), pale buff (♀). Bill: upper mandible black, lower paler and greyer. Legs and feet purplish brown or mauve-grey.

[1495 relocated after No. 1560 at p. 114]

Genus CISTICOLA Kaup

Cisticola Kaup, 1829, Skizz. Entwickl. Nat. Syst.: 119.

Type, by monotypy and tautonymy, *Sylvia cisticola* Temminck =
Sylvia juncidis Rafinesque

First primary (as.) very small. Bill slender and pointed. Rictal bristles (two) short.

Key to the Species

	Page
Tips of all rectrices dull fulvous, indistinct	<i>C. exilis</i> 28
Tips of outer rectrices nearly white, broad	<i>C. juncidis</i> 31

CISTICOLA EXILIS (Vigors & Horsfield): FANTAIL WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- A Crown unstreaked
- 1 Crown deep rufous *C. e. erythrocephala* ♂ summer
 - 2 Crown orange-yellow *C. e. tyleri* ♂ summer
- B Crown streaked
- 3 Rufous more prominent than black on crown
..... *C. e. erythrocephala* ♂ winter, ♀
 - 4 Black more prominent than rufous on crown
..... *C. e. tyleri* ♂ winter, ♀

1496. *Cisticola exilis erythrocephala* Blyth

Cisticola erythrocephala Blyth, 1851, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 523
(Nilgiris)

Baker, FBI No. 822, Vol. 2: 420

LOCAL NAMES. *Yedru-jitta* (Telugu); *Nelpottan* (Malayalam); *Vayalān chittu* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A diminutive warbler of grassy hill slopes.

Male (adult), summer. *Above*, crown rufous. Back boldly streaked with black. Tail black narrowly tipped with buff. *Below*, ochraceous buff, centre of belly white.

The unstreaked rufous crown distinguishes it from *C. juncidis*.

Male, winter and Female. *Above*, crown and back boldly streaked with black. Tail brown, obsoletely cross-rayed and narrowly tipped with buff. *Below*, whitish buff, darker on flanks, white on belly. Tail greyish with black subterminal spots.

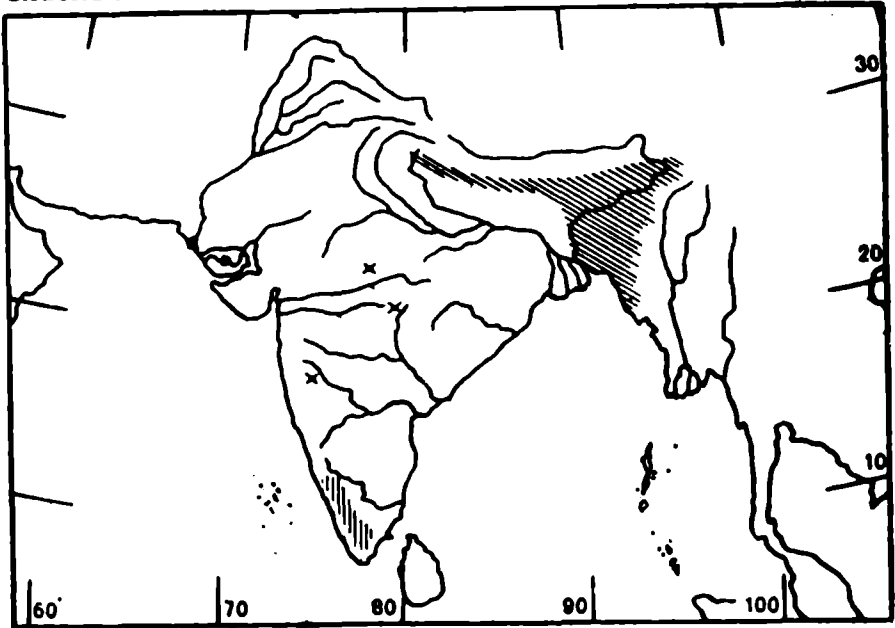
Distinguished from *C. juncidis* by the rufous-brown nuchal collar and by the longer tail being tipped with greyish buff (*v.* white).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident in the hills of southern India from the High Range of Kerala to the Palnis, and north to Karnataka in the Brahmagiris, Bababudangiri and the Billigirirangans. Farther north there are but three records: Ahmednagar (central Maharashtra), Balaghat (south-central M.P.) and Sagar (north-central M.P.). In the southern hills, occurs above *c.* 900 m. Affects tall coarse grass, and low *Strobilanthes* and bracken scrub on open hill slopes alternating with sholas.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1497.

BREEDING. Unrecorded. *Season*, from circumstantial evidence (juveniles) November and December (SA), and May to August (Lynes, *Ibis* 1930, Supplement: 201).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Subspecies. For details of plumages see Baker, loc. cit.

Cisticola exilis

Distributional ranges

*tyleri*. (1497).*erythrocephala* (1496).*erythrocephala*, isolated records.

Young has the black markings of upperparts less extensive and less well defined. Underparts pale sulphur-yellow washed with buff on flanks.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail (winter dress)
4 ♂♂	46-51	11-12	19	48-56 mm
2 ♀♀	43, 45	11	—	46, 54 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris tan or light brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower pale yellowish brown. Legs and feet fleshy white to fleshy brown.

1497. ***Cisticola exilis tyleri*** Jerdon

Cisticola Tyleri Jerdon, 1863, Bds. India 2: 176 (Dacca, Bengal)

Baker, FBI No. 823, Vol. 2: 420

Plate 85, fig. 22

LOCAL NAMES. *Lāl sīr-phūtki* (Hindi); *Titi-daotisha* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1496, q.v. See Key to the Subspecies and Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The Kumaon terai (Smythies, JBNHS 44: 292-3), Nepal terai (Rand & Fleming, *Fieldiana* 41: 169) and from northern Bengal east through the Bhutan duars

and Arunachal foothills, the plains of the Brahmaputra in Assam, Nagaland (?), Manipur; Bangladesh south to the Chittagong region. Breeds in loose colonies, mostly at the base of the hills up to *c.* 800 m, locally up to 1200 m and in the adjacent plains. Extends more over the plains in winter. Affects tall grass areas.

Extralimital. Burma. The species ranges through southeast Asia to Taiwan, the Philippines, New Guinea and northern Australia.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in loose parties among tall grass. Seldom shows itself but from time to time mounts to the top of a blade, giving away its presence. If walked up, a surprising number may often be flushed one by one in the same patch of ground, though an observer may wander great distances through what appears an equally suitable habitat before meeting another colony. When forced to rise, pops out of cover when almost trodden on, flies a few metres hurriedly and dives headlong into the grass, quickly weaving its way through the tangled stems so that, if further pressed, it rises again from quite a different spot to where it disappeared. The tail is constantly flicked open like a fan.

Display. The male circles over its territory in a characteristic flight. The take-off is straight but then the bird begins to spiral, mounting steadily upward for fifty metres or so. At this point it circles for varying periods, sometimes five minutes or more, in a series of very rapid (hovering) wing-beats followed by a pause with wings closed, resulting in a gentle dip. The descent is an almost vertical nose-dive at astonishing speed, the bird flattening out when only a few metres above the ground and returning to its perch on a reed-stem with swift, darting, erratic flight. During the whole performance the bird utters its characteristic song, a wheeze or nasal bleat, likened to the twang of a taut rubber-band, followed after an interval by a liquid, explosive bell-like note, rendered by Lynes as *scrrrrrrrr plook* repeated at several seconds' intervals *ad lib.* During the take-off, and again during the descent, a series of short staccato nasal, monotonous bleats is uttered. Both song and flight are quite different from those of *C. juncidis*. The display of *exilis* is faster, smoother (not nearly so jerky or undulating), generally much more sustained and at a considerably greater height (Smythies). Alarm-note, a scolding *squeee*.

According to Lynes, this species has a blunt, erectile crest, spread like a little mop in courtship or alarm; mention of this character is absent from all accounts of its habits.

FOOD. Ants and other small insects.

VOICE and CALLS. See Display, above.

BREEDING. *Season,* April to August. *Nest,* of two types: the commoner is a fragile cup fixed to the side of an upright broad leaf. The materials, very fine grass stems, are forced through holes made by the beak in various parts of the leaf and then knotted with tufts of flowering grass ends on the outside. The other type is an oval or purse-like structure of very fine grass lined with the feathery ends of the same. *Eggs,* normally 4, occasionally 5, bright blue marked with red-brown blotches, spots and specks, practically confined to the larger end; very similar to those of the Tailor Bird. Average size of 120 eggs 14.8 × 11.4 mm. Building of nest by both sexes, though male only brings the material to the female. Both birds incubate but male much less than female; period eleven days (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *C. e. erythrocephala* (1496) in summer in having the crown a paler orange-yellow, at all seasons in having the rufous nuchal collar more pronounced and the upperparts darker, the black centres being broader and bolder, the rufous edges less wide.

Tail of non-breeding birds longer than in breeding dress. Prenuptial moult in spring involves all feathers except wing-coverts. Postnuptial moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail		mm
		summer	winter	
♂♀	44-47	25-26	46-48	(Baker)

Bill and tarsus as in 1496.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1496.

CISTICOLA JUNCIDIS (Rafinesque): STREAKED FANTAIL WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Paler	<i>C. j. cursitans</i> 31
B	Darker and more richly coloured	
1	Bill and size as in A	<i>C. j. salimalii</i> 34
2	Bill as in A; size smaller, wing average 50 mm	<i>C. j. malaya</i> 35
3	Bill stronger and longer; 12 mm or over, size larger, wing average c. 54 mm	<i>C. j. omalura</i> 34

1498. *Cisticola juncidis cursitans* (Franklin)

Prinia cursitans Franklin, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 118
(between Calcutta and Benares)

Baker, FBI No. 825 (part), Vol. 2: 422

Plate 85, fig. 20

LOCAL NAMES. *Ghāski-phūtki*, *Ghāski-pitpiti* (Hindi); *Khergusa* (Bhagalpur); *Tūntūnia* (Monghyr); *Yedru-jitta* (Telugu).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A tiny rufous-brown warbler boldly streaked with black above, with a prominently white-tipped fan-shaped tail. Underparts whitish buff, darker on flanks. Sexes alike.

Absence of nuchal collar, and broader whitish tips to rectrices, distinguish it from *C. exilis* (1496-7).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A common and wide-spread resident, subject to local movements. Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and India from the Himalayan foothills south to Kanyakumari (except for the range of *salimalii*), and Sri Lanka in the low-country Dry zone (Phillips, 1958, SZ 28: 191).

Intergrades with *malaya* in Manipur and adjacent regions. Absent from desert tracts; scarce in Tamil Nadu. Ascends the hills up to c. 1400 m, locally to 1900 m (Himalayas) and 1800 m (Meghalaya and southern India). Affects tall grass and reed-beds, especially along the margins of tanks, lagoons, tidal creeks, wet paddyfields, and also open, dry grasslands and crops of cereals,



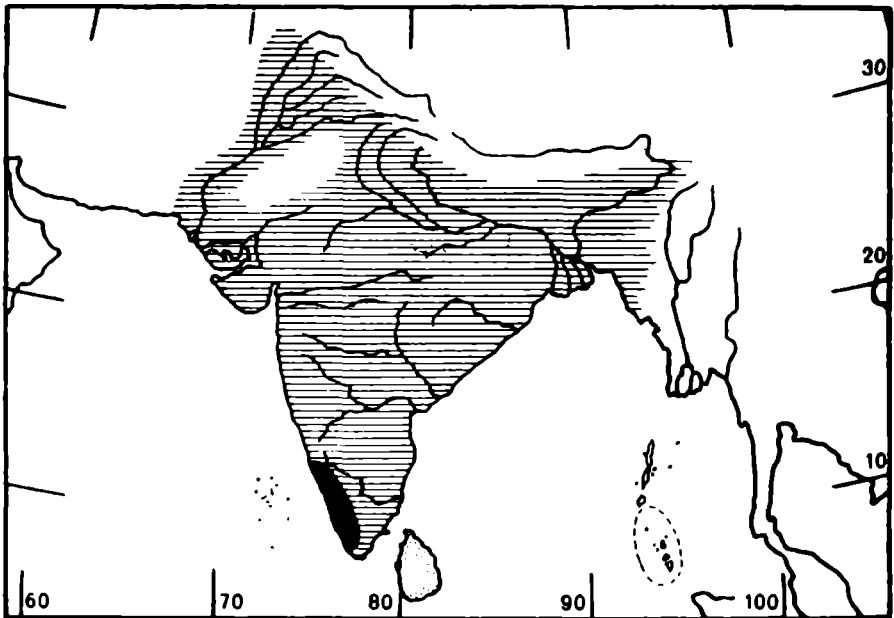
× c. 1

lucerne, sugarcane, etc. Paddyfields have probably attracted this species into the Himalayan valleys where they are its almost exclusive habitat.

Extralimal. The species ranges from Africa and southern Europe through southern Asia to China, Japan and south to northern Australia.

MIGRATION and MOVEMENTS. Resident in the rice-growing tracts of the plains of N.W.F.P. and northern Punjab, mostly a summer visitor to the rice-growing tracts in the Himalayan foothills and Nepal main valley (March or April to September). In other parts of its range it is subject to local, somewhat unpredictable and erratic movements with seasonal conditions, mainly rainfall or drought, affecting its habitat. In some areas may be a winter visitor only (e.g. Khandesh) while in others (Ghazipur, Mhow) it is a summer visitor, sometimes disappearing without visible reason. Mostly a resident in southern India, Bangladesh and Assam.

Cisticola juncidis



Distributional ranges

 *cursitans* (1498).

 *salimalii* (1499).

 *omalura* (1500).

 *malaya* (1500a).

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in loose 'colonies' of 10 to 15 birds. Skulks among grass and herbage, making short low flights when flushed and pitching quickly into the stems again. Feeds on or near the ground, seldom flitting about or on to tops of bushes or grass clumps in the manner of wren-warblers. Flight jerky, undulating—similar to that of *Prinias*.

Display. Has a rambling, mounting flight, in which the white-tipped fanned tail is conspicuous—each upward motion accompanied by a sharp characteristic *zit* or *chip*, sounding in the distance remarkably like the snip of a barber's scissors. This also uttered from a grass tip at the rate of *c.* 3 *chips* in 2 seconds. Sometimes skims over the vegetation, but most commonly rises

high in the air in erratic zigzags, flying in wide circles and suddenly nose-diving after a while to alight gently on a grass blade.

FOOD. Insects: small grasshoppers, weevils, tenebrionid beetles, ants, aphids and caterpillars identified among stomach contents (Mason & Lefroy, 1912). Also takes spiders and, rarely, some green tender seeds.

VOICE and CALLS. One alarm-call is an excited, rapid *zit-zit-zit* (Lynes). Song: see Display, above. Very silent outside the breeding season.

BREEDING. *Season*, correlated with the rains and availability of suitable ground vegetation. Over most of peninsular India breeding starts in May, in Assam in March and in Sind in April or even as early as February, and generally lasts till October; in Sri Lanka breeds most of the year with a peak period about June. Two or three broods may be reared. *Nest*, of two types: the more common is a small, cylindrical, narrow purse of fine grass-stems drawn together, fastened with cobweb and vegetable down. The other type is a deepish oval pouch, the small end up with a large entrance at the top; felted inside with vegetable down. It is fastened to several stems of grass which are incorporated with the nest materials, thus reinforcing the otherwise flimsy structure; usually hidden in the base of grass tufts and seldom more than half a metre or so above the ground—sometimes in clumps of rushes standing in water. Often several nests in a restricted patch, in a scattered colony. *Eggs*, in most of the Peninsula generally 5, sometimes 4 or 6, in Assam normally 4, often 5, in Sri Lanka mostly 3 or 4; ground colour usually white, sometimes pale blue, speckled, spotted or sometimes blotched with pale red or red-brown. Average size of 400 eggs 15×11.5 mm (Baker). Building of nest and incubation by both sexes though more by female; period ten days. Often brood-parasitized by cuckoo (*C. canorus*) in Assam—Baker, JBNHS 17: 792, 876.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See keys to the Species and Subspecies; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit. Winter plumage rather lighter in colour, supercilium more clearly defined. Complete moult in May (Sind).

Young (juvenile) resembles adult in winter plumage but underparts yellowish and upperparts more streaked with ochraceous, especially on head.

For differences from *salimalii*, *omalura* and *malaya*, see 1499, 1500 and 1500a respectively.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	48–55	10–11	19–20	31–43 mm
♀♀	45–55	11–12	18–19	29–43 mm

(SA, HW, Rand & Fleming)

Tail, summer: 36–40; winter 41–47 mm (Ticehurst)

Weight 1 ♂ (June) 8 g—GD; 2 oo? (March) 6, 7 g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel-brown, olive-brown or straw-coloured. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower flesh; mouth black in summer, fleshy pink in winter. Legs and feet flesh-coloured.

1499. *Cisticola juncidis salimalii* Whistler

Cisticola juncidis salimalii Whistler, 1936, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 38: 487
(Peermade, Travancore)

Baker, FBI No. 825 (part), Vol. 2: 422

LOCAL NAME. *Potappottan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1498, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident in Kerala from the low country to 2100 m. Affects paddyfields, tall grass especially where moist or waterlogged, and swampy depressions among the hilltops.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1498.

BREEDING. *Season*, August to March. *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1498.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *cursitans* in being darker, more richly coloured. Rump bright reddish brown (*v. rufous*) and flanks washed with bright rufous.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	
5 ♂♂ (summer)	51–56	11	19	33–34	mm
6 ♂♂ (winter)	47–53	11	19	37–40	mm
3 ♀♀ (summer)	45–49	11	18–19	33–37	mm
4 ♀♀ (winter)	46–49	11	17–18	35–40	mm

(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale hazel-brown or pale olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible and tip of lower pale horny brown; commissure and rest of lower mandible pinkish flesh; mouth pink, brownish pink or pale yellowish flesh, in some individuals streaked or blotched with brown (seasonal variations? See 1498). Legs and feet pale brownish flesh; claws dusker.

1500. *Cisticola juncidis omalura* Blyth

Cisticola omalura Blyth, 1851, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 176 (Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 826, Vol. 2: 424

LOCAL NAMES. *Tanacolā-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Tinu-kūrūvi*, *Vayalān* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1498, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Subspecies endemic to Sri Lanka. Common resident in the low-country Wet zone and Hill zone up to over 2100 m. Affects paddyfields, swamps and tall grassland. Very common in *Salicornia* and other salt-marsh herbage in northern coastal areas (Jaffna district).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1498.

BREEDING. *Season*, most of the year but with two peak periods: March–April and July to September. *Nest*, as in 1498. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, sometimes 5, similar to those of *cursitans*. Average size of 50 eggs 15.7 × 11.9 mm (Phillips).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. As richly coloured as *salimalii* but distinguished by its much larger bill. Complete moult takes place in October.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	50-58	12-14	20-21	36-42 mm
♀♀	49-50	12-13	19-20	36-39 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 8 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1499.

1500a. *Cisticola juncidis malaya* Lynes

Cisticola juncidis malaya Lynes, 1930, Ibis, Suppl.: 92 (Klang, Malay Peninsula)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1498, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Nicobar Islands (Car Nicobar, Trinkut, Camorta and Great Nicobar). Affects grass fields.

Extralimital. Lower Burma, Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and western Java.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1498.

BREEDING. Unrecorded. Presumably as in 1498, but season apparently July to January (from circumstantial evidence of plumage).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *cursitans* but more richly coloured. Pattern stronger and colour markedly richer throughout. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young shows much more yellow around chin and breast than *cursitans* and has more prominent streaks on head.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
Nicobars (decidedly larger)				
3 ♂♂	51-53	12-13	18-20	40-45 mm
Burma, Thailand, West Sumatra				
10 ♂♂	45-53	11-12	18-20	30-40 mm
3 ♀♀	43-46	11-12	17 (3)	34 (3) mm (MD)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded, probably as in *cursitans*.

Genus PRINIA Horsfield

Prinia Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 165. Type, by monotypy, *Prinia familiaris* Horsfield

Suya Hodgson, 1836, Asiat. Res. 19: 183. Type, by original designation, *Suya criniger* Hodgson

Laticilla Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 596, new name for *Eurycercus* Baird, 1843. Type, by monotypy, *E. burnesii* Blyth

Franklinia 'Blyth' = Jerdon, 1863, Bds. India 2: 186. Type, by monotypy, *Prinia buchanani* Blyth

Cf. Deignan, H. G., 1942, *Smiths. Misc. Coll.* 103: 1-12

Key to the Species

	Page
I Upperparts streaked	
A Underparts ashy white	<i>P. burnesii</i> 72
B Underparts buff	<i>P. criniger</i> 67
II Upperparts except crown not streaked	
C Belly lemon-yellow	<i>P. flaviventris</i> 64
D Throat black	<i>P. atrogularis</i> 70
E Not as C or D	
a Crown and nape dark grey or slaty	
1 Forehead usually with some rufous	<i>P. cinereocapilla</i> 46
2 No rufous on forehead	<i>P. socialis</i> 55
b Crown not dark grey	
3 Belly white or creamy white	
i Crown rufous	<i>P. buchanani</i> 44
ii Crown sandy brown concolorous with back	
a ¹ Crown streaked	<i>P. gracilis</i> 47
b ² Crown not streaked	
o' Larger; tarsus usually 22 mm or more, bill (from skull) 14 mm or more; upperparts earthy brown with white outer rectrices (summer) or warm rufous brown (winter) <i>P. sylvatica</i>	60
o'' Smaller; tarsus usually 21 mm or less, bill (from skull) 14 mm or less; upperparts earthy brown, outer rectrices pale brown	<i>P. subflava</i> 50
iii A grey pectoral band	<i>P. hodgsonii pectoralis</i> 43 (Sri Lanka race)
4 Belly ochraceous	
iv Tail grey, pectoral band present or absent	<i>P. hodgsonii</i> 38 (continental races)
v Tail rufous	<i>P. rufescens</i> 36

1501. **Rufous Wren-Warbler.** *Prinia rufescens rufescens* Blyth

Pr.(inia) rufescens Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 456
(Arracan)

Franklinia rufescens austeni Baker, 1924, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 44: 39
(Lhota, Naga Hills)

Franklinia rufescens assamensis Baker, 1924, Fauna Brit. Ind., Bds. 2: 427.
Nom. nud.

Baker, FBI No. 829, Vol. 2: 427

Plate 84, fig. 16

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha gajao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 11 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slim, skulking wren-warbler with a long graduated black-and-white-tipped tail carried almost erect and incessantly shaken up and down.

Above (including tail), rufous brown; crown and nape ashy brown in summer, almost concolorous with back in winter. Lores and supercilium

buff. A pale eye-rim. *Below*, pale buff, more ochraceous on flanks and lower belly. Sexes alike.

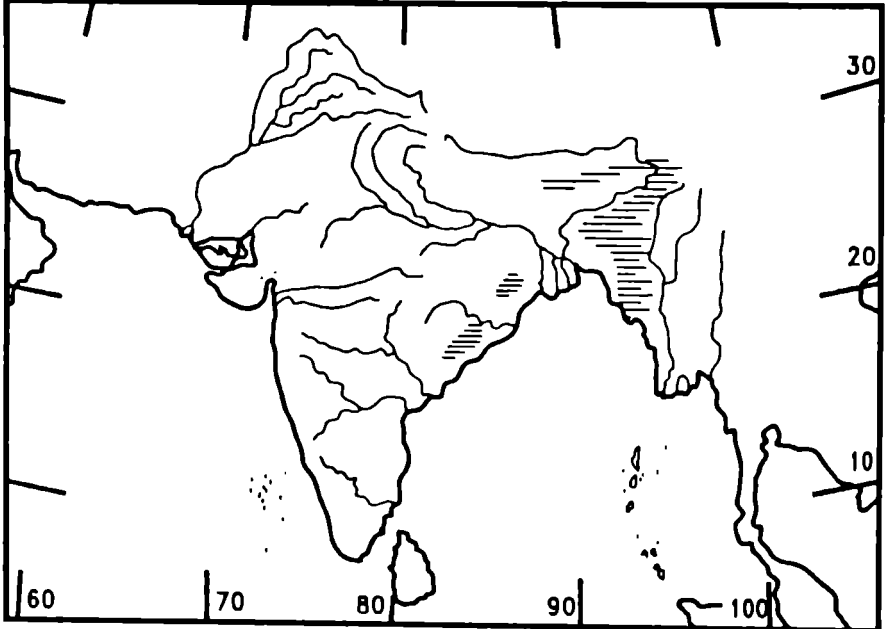
Recognized by its rufous back and tail. The very similar *P. hodgsonii* (1503) has a grey tail (also black-and-white-tipped), a shorter supercilium and, in summer, a diffuse grey band across the breast. *P. subflava* (1511) is sand-coloured above (including tail which lacks the white terminal spots), nearly white below. *P. sylvatica* (1521) is darker above and has a brown tail. *P. socialis* (1517) has a grey crown, white lores but no supercilium. *P. cinereocapilla* (1507) has a grey crown, blackish lores and a narrow rufous supercilium.


STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Nepal (one Hodgson specimen), Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh (?), the Patkai Range, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram; Bangladesh south to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Also northeastern Orissa in the Simlipal hills (Mukherjee, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 50: 166) and Andhra Pradesh in the Visakhapatnam Hills (Ripley, *JBNHS* 85: 99). Breeds in the foothills up to *c.* 1200 m (Sikkim) and up to 1800 m, mostly 500–1200 m in the eastern hills. Affects long grassland or patches of light grass under groves of deciduous trees, and low *Eupatorium* and other weeds and scrub on openly forested hillsides, terraced cultivation, fringes of forest and secondary growth. More of a forest bird than *P. hodgsonii*, though it seldom nests inside forest.

Extralimital. Extends east to Vietnam. Other subspecies in southern Thailand and Malaya.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly, in pairs or small parties. Seldom shows

Prinia r. rufescens



 Distributional range

itself except for momentary glimpses as it makes short, jerky flights of a few metres to dive into cover again. Thereafter its presence is revealed only by the slight movement of herbage which marks its progress through the stems. Occasionally found in hunting parties with *Stachyris* or other skulking babblers. Habits very similar to those of *Prinia hodgsonii* (1503), q.v.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A feeble *seep* (or *sip*), *seep*, *seep*. . . confusable with notes of *Rhipidura hypoxantha* or *Seicercus burkii*' (SA). Described also as rather harsh grating or churring trills, and a continual monotonous *chip*, and a double *chip-wee chip-wee*. Song said to be similar to that of *P. hodgsonii*, but no comparable description available.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to September, chiefly May and June. *Nest*, similar to that of *P. hodgsonii*. *Eggs* also similar, but larger, and as a series somewhat bluer. Average size of 200 eggs 16.1 × 11.8 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For details of plumages see Deignan, loc. cit., p. 2. Distinguished from *P. hodgsonii* as follows:

	Winter plumage	
	<i>P. hodgsonii</i>	<i>P. rufescens</i>
Upperparts	duller, more olive; tail grey-brown	brighter, more fulvous, tail bright fulvous
	Summer plumage	
Upperparts and tail	uniform leaden grey, wings washed with dull chestnut.	fulvous brown, crown and nape leaden grey, wings washed with dull chestnut.
Underparts	pale fulvous white, a leaden grey band across breast.	fulvous white, warmer on sides of breast and flanks.

P. rufescens generally has a heavier bill.

Young, like adult in fresh winter plumage but paler above and more or less washed with yellow on belly.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail	
				summer	winter
♂♀	43-47	c. 11	c. 20	30-47	48-67 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull 12-13 mm (SA)

Weight 8 ♂♀ 6-7 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill black, edges of lower mandible paler. Legs and feet flesh-colour.

PRINIA HODGSONII Blyth: ASHY-GREY WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

(there is of course complete intergradation)

	page
A Above olive-brown	
1 Above warm rufous olive-brown <i>P. h. rufula</i>	39
2 Above more greyish <i>P. h. hodgsonii</i>	41
B Above slate-brown	
3 Grey on breast in summer only <i>P. h. albogularis</i>	42
4 Grey on breast the year round <i>P. h. pectoralis</i>	43

1502. *Prinia hodgsonii rufula* Godwin-Austen

Prinia rufula Godwin-Austen, 1874, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 47
(Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 827 (part), Vol. 2: 425

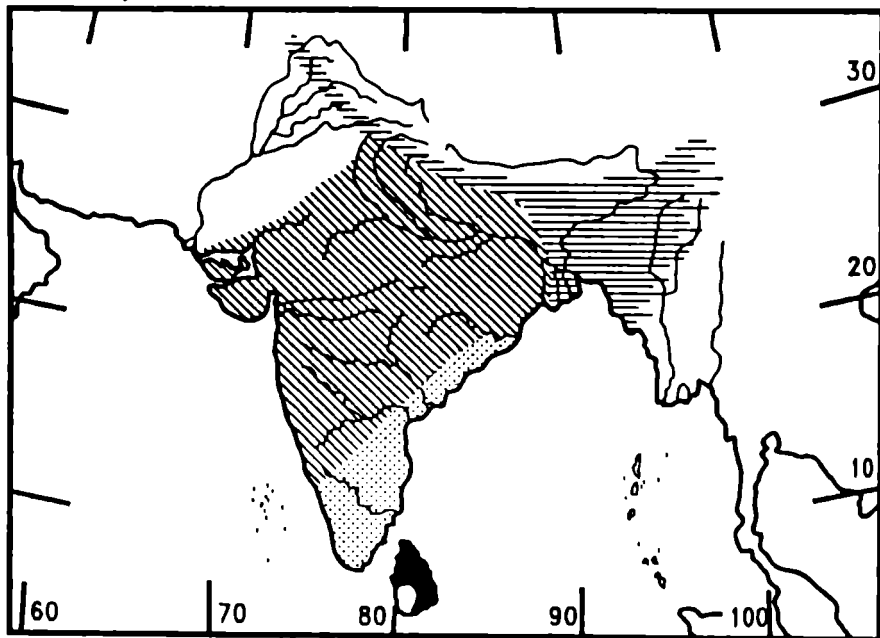
LOCAL NAMES. *Dao pitti*, *Daotisha-pitti* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1503. Distinguished from *P. rufescens* by the grey (*v.* rufous) tail, and in summer by the cloudy grey band across breast. For distinction from other species, see 1501, Field Characters.


STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, locally subject to slight downward movements during cold weather. The Himalayan foothills from lower Swat east to Arunachal Pradesh including the Sadiya Frontier tract; Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and most of Bangladesh south to the Chittagong region; from the plains generally to *c.* 1200 m, locally up to 1600 m (Simla, Nepal) or 1800 m (Meghalaya); also breeds in the plains of Bangladesh and Assam. Affects scrub and grass jungle, forest clearings, cultivation and bushes in and around villages. A bird of scrub jungle and forest edges rather than open grassland (TJR).

Prinia hodgsonii



Distributional ranges

 *rufula* (1502)

 *ho 'gsonii* (1503)

 *albogularis* (1504)

 *pectoralis* (1505)

Extralimital. Burma. The species extends to Yunnan and Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1503.

VOICE and CALLS. A distinctive *chew-chew-chew* and a rapid, trilling *twirrr-twirrr* (Smythies). For description of song see 1503.

BREEDING. *Season*, correlated with the rains: mostly from mid June to September, but sometimes as early as April, especially in Assam. Two or three broods may be reared. *Nest*, a rough cup of grass and fibres built inside a broad, pendent leaf, rarely two or three, the edges of which are sewn together to form a cone. The nest and method of supporting it closely resemble the Tailor Bird's, except that the structure is more globular and the cup usually not lined with felted flower-heads of grasses; normally placed less than half a metre or so from the ground. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, very variable: white or pale blue, sometimes unspotted, more often marked with pale reddish to reddish brown specks and spots distributed fairly evenly over the whole surface. Unspotted eggs are much more common in the early part of the year than later. Out of 178 eggs laid in April–June, 60 were plain blue and 12 plain white; of 266 eggs seen in July–September, only 9 were unspotted blue and 2 white (Baker). Average size of 400 eggs 14.7×11.7 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes; construction takes four to eight days; eggs deposited before completion of nest. Incubation period ten or eleven days, generally the latter.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Summer plumage: Upperparts, hair brown tinged rufescent on mantle, rump and upper tail-coverts. Supraloral region concolorous with crown. Swollen edges of eyelid orange, tiny feathers of both eyelids slaty. Underparts, white with a broad pectoral band and flanks deep ashy grey, the throat and centre of abdomen washed with cream.

Winter plumage: Upperparts, dark olivaceous brown suffused with rufescent, faintly on forehead, crown and nape, more strongly on mantle, conspicuously on rump and upper tail-coverts. Supraloral streak ashy white. Edges of eyelids neither swollen nor brightly coloured, the tiny feathers of the upper eyelid mixed ashy, grey and white, those of the lower eyelid white. Underparts, white (more or less sullied with ashy grey on breast and upper flanks) washed with cream which posteriorly changes to light rufous cream (Deignan).

Differs from the peninsular *hodgsonii* (1503) in being a warmer rufous olive-brown above and on edges of wing; flanks washed with rusty cream. According to Ticehurst & Whistler (*Ibis* 1939: 762) birds from the Himalayan foothills have no pectoral band.

For details on moults see 1503. Tail shorter in summer, longer in winter (data not available but see 1504 for comparative measurements).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail (March to June)
17 ♂♂	42–49	13–14	c. 20 (one)	45–55 mm
2 ♀♀	43, 48	13	—	— mm
				(BB)

Weight ♂♀ (winter) 5–7 g (SDR). 5 ♂♂ (March–April) 5.5–6.8 g; 3 ♀♀ (March–April) 5.5–6.5 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris and edges of eyelids dull brownish orange. Bill black. Legs and feet yellow; claws horny; soles white.

1503. *Prinia hodgsonii hodgsonii* Blyth

Pr.(inia) Hodgsonii Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 376
 New name for *Prinia gracilis* Franklin, 1831, not *Sylvia* (= *Prinia*)
gracilis Lichtenstein, 1823

Prinia gracilis Franklin, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 119
 (Mirzapur District, restricted by Ticehurst & Whistler, Ibis 1939: 763)

Prinia hodgsonii pallidior Koelz, 1950, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1452: 8
 (Sihor, Kathiawar)

Baker, FBI No. 827 (part), Vol. 2: 425

Plate 84, fig. 17

LOCAL NAME. *Phūtki* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small, rufous brown wren-warbler recognized mainly by its longish grey tail tipped with black and white. Sexes alike.



× *c.* 1

Separable from sympatric *Prinia* species in *winter* in having its unstreaked crown concolorous with mantle, and in *summer* by its conspicuous grey crown, nape and breast band (TJR). For distinction from other unstreaked species, see 1501, Field Characters.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Indian Peninsula between Pakistan and Bangladesh, and between the ranges of *rufula* (Himalayan foothills etc.) and *albogularis* (southern India); in the plains and hills up to at least 1000 m. May be subject to local movements: occurs commonly in the plains of Madhya Pradesh during winter but has been noted as absent during the rains. Affects scrub jungle with coarse grass and thorn bushes, mango groves and deciduous forest with rank undergrowth, gardens, bushes and hedgerows in cultivation, and to some extent bamboo jungle, mangrove swamps and reeds.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in roving parties of five to ten, sometimes up to twenty or more individuals. More gregarious than *P. subflava* but otherwise very similar to it in habits. Works its way through undergrowth, hunts among twigs and foliage of small trees, and flits jerkily from bush to bush with a constant flicking of the tail, the birds loosely following one another. Rather noisy and conspicuous in the breeding season when the males sing vehemently from exposed situations. Pairs form between March and May according to local weather conditions.

Display. A lively and spirited performance. The male mounts to a prominent perch on a bare tree- or bush-top and excitedly warbles his loud, squeaky song (see below). Another turn in the display consists of some spectacular acrobatics when the bird springs up in the air and executes a series of vertical wave-crests and steep nose-dives in quick succession, to the accompaniment of the song (SA).

FOOD. Chiefly insects: ants, tiny beetles, caterpillars, etc. Also takes nectar from blossoms of *Butea*, *Erythrina*, *Bombax*, *Woodfordia*, etc. and often carries pollen adhering to forehead feathers.

VOICE and CALLS. Conversational call-notes, an incessant tinkling *zee-zee-*

zee or *pree-dee-dee* as the birds move along. During the breeding season the male pours forth a vehement, squeaky song from a bush-top: *chiwee-chiwee-chiwi-chip-chip-chip* (or *yousee-yousee-yousee-which-which-which-which*). The *chiwee* portion starts low and feebly and is quickly repeated three or four times. It rises in pitch at each successive note and ends loudly and abruptly after the third or fourth *chip* (SA). Reminiscent of the song of *P. socialis* in overall pattern yet distinct enough to be unmistakable.

BREEDING. *Season*, from the middle of June to October, chiefly July and August, during the height of the monsoon. Also in February–March (Gujarat — Dharmakumarsinhji). *Nest* (of Tailor Bird type), and *eggs*, as in 1502.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For details of plumage see 1502.

Differs from *rufula* in being more greyish and pale olive-brown above and on the edges of wing. Flanks suffused with cream. *Albogularis* is slate-brown above, almost pure white below, and also has a grey pectoral band in summer. For distinction from *P. rufescens* see 1501, Museum Diagnosis.

This species usually has two or three filoplumes projecting behind nape. Tail with 12 rectrices.

Young resembles adult in winter plumage but upperparts, edges of wing and tail more rufous; underparts pale yellow, buffish on flanks and thighs.

Postjuvénal moult to winter dress complete. Prenuptial moult complete and takes place about the end of February to beginning of April. Postnuptial moult complete and takes place in October, November and December (Ticehurst & Whistler, 1939, *Ibis*: 761–3).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
10 ♂♂	44–51 (av. 47.8)	11–13	18–20	46–58 mm (summer and winter)
5 ♀♀	44–48 (av. 46)	11–13	18–20	44–55 mm (winter) (SA)

Weight 8 ♂♀ 5–9 (av. 6.4) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow to orange-brown; eye-rim brownish yellow. Bill black, commissures and tip paler; mouth black or dark brown (pale flesh with brown blotches in juvenile). Legs and feet pale yellow, brownish fleshy or yellowish fleshy.

1504. *Prinia hodgsonii albogularis* Walden

Prinia albogularis Walden, 1870, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 5: 219 (Coorg)
Baker, FBI No. 827 (part), Vol. 2: 425

LOCAL NAMES. *Talikkūrūvi* (Malayalam); *Kosu katai*, *Nunni chirai* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1503, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to some seasonal local movements. The southern Indian Peninsula including Kerala, western Tamil Nadu, southern Karnataka and the Eastern Ghats north to the Visakhapatnam district; in the plains and hills up to *c.* 1500 m but mostly

under 1000 m. Affects thorn scrub, lantana brakes and deciduous jungle with tall grass and bushes and, to some extent, coffee plantations.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1503.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to August, chiefly July and August during the height of the monsoon. *Nest*, built in large-leaved herbaceous plants growing in the open among tall grass, of two types: one is a cup of fine grass flower-heads, lined with still finer grass stems, slung by threads of cobweb round the rim to the underside of a broad leaf which forms a lid, leaving a small entrance where the leaf-stalk joins the stem of a plant. The other type is similar to that of the Tailor Bird: the two sides and the end of a large leaf are sewn into a bag and the nest proper built inside (Betts). *Eggs*, normally 3, similar to those of *rufula* (1502), q.v.; breeding biology as of that subspecies.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For details of plumage see 1502. Differs from *hodgsonii* in being more slate-brown above; edges of wings brown; flanks and underparts almost pure white, without a cream wash. Differs from *pectoralis* of Sri Lanka in having the grey pectoral band less marked.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		mm
				summer	winter	
♂♂	45-52	12-13	17-19	45-50	55-57	
♀♀	42-48	12	17-19	39-50	55 (one)	(SA)

Weight 1 ♂ 5; ♀♀ 6 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. *Adult*: Iris straw colour. Bill black; horny at base of lower mandible; mouth slaty brown and pink or pinkish brown. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws horny brown. *Immature*: Iris orange-straw. Bill dark horny brown, paler at commissures and gape; mouth pale yellowish cream with slaty blotches. Legs and feet yellowish flesh; claws horny brown.

1505. *Prinia hodgsonii pectoralis* Legge

Prinia pectoralis Legge, 1874, Ceylon Blue Book: 9

(Hambantota District, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 827 (part), Vol. 2: 425

LOCAL NAMES. *Hambu-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Tinu-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1503 but with a grey breast-band throughout the year. Female differs in having this band incomplete in the middle.

The pectoral band identifies this bird in Sri Lanka.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, moderately plentiful. The eastern and southeastern part of Sri Lanka from Mankulam in the Northern Province (*Spolia Zeylanica* 28: 190) south to Tangalla, and inland to the foothills of the Uva and Central provinces; in the low-country Dry zone and Hill zone up to 1400 m (Hoffmann, JBNHS 86: 15). Affects scrub country and parkland, preferring bushes and small trees to grass.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1503.

VOICE and CALLS. A rapid chatter of three to five notes *chchchchch*, less loud and less musical than a very similar note produced by *P. socialis* (Henry). See also 1503.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June, perhaps extending till October. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1504.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from peninsular races in having winter and summer plumages alike, both of the summer type, i.e. with the grey pectoral band present the year round. This band is also better marked.

Young, dark brown with an olive tinge above, becoming almost greenish on crown. Wings and tail as in adults. Underparts white, washed with fulvous brown on flanks and greyish olive on sides of breast. No pectoral band.

Moult sequence unclear. Some birds collected in May, August and October were in complete moult while others were in fresh plumage.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
8 ♂♂	45-48	13-14	18-20	42-47 mm (summer)
4 ♀♀	43-46	c. 13	17-18	40-44 mm (summer) (HW)

It is not known whether there is a seasonal variation in the length of tail.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish. Bill blackish. Legs and feet fleshy yellow.

1506. Rufousfronted Wren-Warbler. *Prinia buchanani* Blyth

P. (Prinia) Buchanani Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 376, new name for *Prinia rufifrons* Jerdon, 1840, *nec Prinia rufifrons* Rüppell, 1835

Prinia rufifrons Jerdon, 1840, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 11: 4
(neighbourhood of Jalna, northwestern Hyderabad)

F. (ranklinia) cleghorniae Blyth, 1867, Ibis: 24 (northwest of Delhi)
Baker, FBI No. 831, Vol. 2: 429

Plate 85, fig. 8

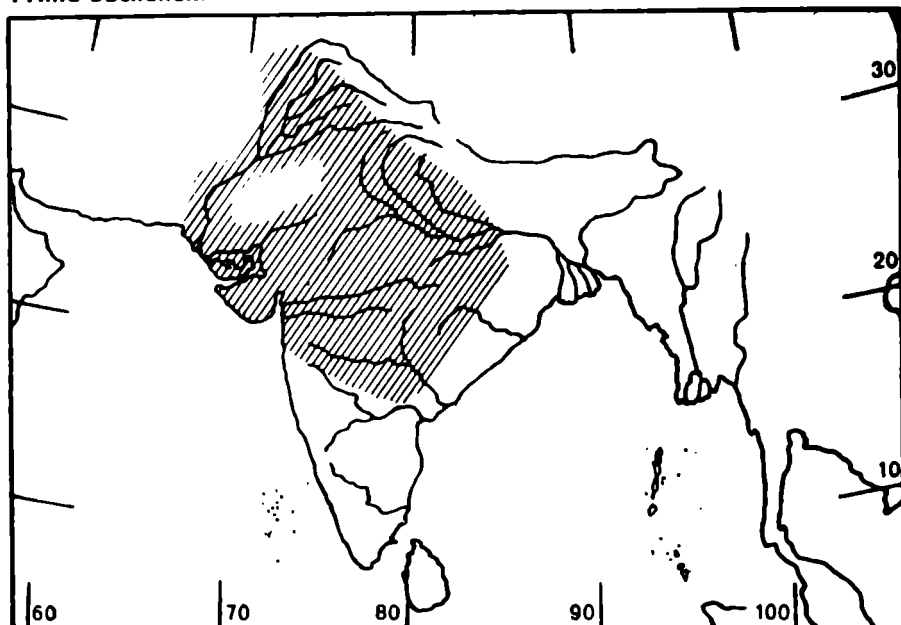
LOCAL NAMES. *Chiho* (Sind); *Lālbhālñi fūdki* (Gujarati).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead and crown rufous; lores and a narrow supercilium whitish. Back grey-brown. Tail dark brown with broad white tips (except on central pair of rectrices) showing up as a conspicuous white fringe when tail fanned while bird alighting. *Below*, whitish, tinged with fulvous on flanks and vent. Sexes alike.

In worn plumage the white tips of rectrices become abraded and the bird looks confusingly like *P. subflava*; the rufous forehead provides a clue to its identity but is sometimes very faint; tail darker. *P. sylvatica* is larger, lacks the white tips to tail-feathers and has buff underparts. *P. hodgsonii* is olive-brown above and has a buff belly. For other species see 1501, Field Characters.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, locally subject to some seasonal movements. Pakistan in the plains of the upper Indus river system from Peshawar and Bannu (summer only) north to the Himalayan foothills, south at least to Bahawalpur; the southern part of Pakistan from the Hab hill range in Baluchistan east throughout Sind (northern extension not known), and India from Punjab, Rajasthan (Jodhpur dist.), N. Gujarat (including Kathiawar and Kutch) east to Bihar (Palamau) and south

Prinia buchanani

 Distributional range

through the central tableland to Andhra Pradesh (common around Secunderabad—R. Sparrow *in epist.* to HW) and central Maharashtra (Ahmednagar). Affects arid scrub jungle mixed with coarse grass, babool scrub in ravines, and stony semi-desert studded with *Capparis*, *Prosopis* and *Zizyphus* bushes, occasionally entering nearby high crops (paddy, wheat, mustard). Prefers a drier biotope than *P. hodgsonii* and *P. subflava*.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or in small parties according to the season, frequently in company with *Prinia hodgsonii* and *Chrysomma sinense*, but is more terrestrial-feeding than either. Hops on the ground among grass tussocks and thorn scrub, tail slightly cocked, looking very much like *Scotocerca*; also creeps about in bushes, loosely switching the tail—then suggesting a miniature Common Babbler (*T. caudatus*, 1254).

FOOD. Insects and larvae.

VOICE and CALLS. A lively reeling, twittering song consisting of 'a trill followed by a triple note like *sirriget-sirriget-sirriget*' (Basil-Edwardes), given vehemently from an exposed twig or a bush-top, tail spread out and partially cocked, showing off the white tips prominently; reminiscent of the song of *P. socialis* but distinct enough to be quite unmistakable. May be heard from February onward. Call-note, a shrill *chirrup* constantly uttered while foraging.

BREEDING. *Season*, mainly during the monsoon, i.e. end of June to September; breeds earlier in the western part of its range (Gujarat, Rajasthan and Pakistan) where nesting has been recorded from March to August. Nests also found in October and December. Nest varies from a cup-shaped to a domed, oblong purse-like structure with entrance near top

(the latter type more common) made of fine grass and silky fibres and lined with finer grass and vegetable down; placed in a grass tussock or thorn bush, usually within a metre from the ground. *Eggs* 4 or 5, white, faintly tinged with pink or bluish, profusely speckled and spotted with reddish brown or deep chestnut. Average size of 100 eggs 15.9 × 12 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. This species has twelve rectrices. A complete moult takes place in May and June, and again in October–November.

Young, like adult but paler above; crown concolorous with back, supercilium whiter. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		mm
				summer	winter	
♂♂	51–55	12–14	18–19	53–56	61–70	(SA)
♀♀	47–51	12–14	17–19	51–60	68 (one)	

Weight 3 oo? 5–9 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow-brown. Bill brown, flesh-colour at base, darker in summer. Nestlings have two black spots on tongue. Legs and feet pale flesh.

1507. Hodgson's Wren-Warbler. *Prinia cinereocapilla* Moore

Prinia cinereocapilla Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds.

Mus. E.I. Co. 1: 322 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 830, Vol. 2: 428

Plate 84, fig. 15

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow –; length *c.* 11 cm. (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead and a narrow supercilium rufous, this colour sometimes reduced or completely absent; lores blackish. Crown, nape and sides of neck dark grey; rest of upperparts dark rufous. Tail rufous-brown with a subterminal dark brown patch on rectrices. *Below*, fulvous, darker on lower flanks and vent. Sexes alike.

The dark grey cap with creamy rufous supercilium and very rufous back and wings identify this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A little known, yet fairly common resident species within its very restricted range. The Himalayan foothills, duns and bhabar from Kumaon through Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan. Also North Cachar (Assam), where it is very rare (Baker, JBNHS 9: 15); from the edge of the plains to 1600 m (eastern Nepal) [Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985]. Affects dense jungle, secondary growth and trees.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known except that it is more arboreal than other wren-warblers; also found in company with *P. hodgsonii*.

FOOD. Insects; flower-nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A trilled note with a rising inflection (like an iora), then a loud drawn out *sw-e-e-e-e-chor*' (Fleming & Traylor). Song said to be 'quite different from that of any other *Prinia*, better and more varied' (Brooks, SF 3: 242).

BREEDING. *Season*, about June. *Nest*, very similar to that of *P. hodgsonii*, made of fine grass and enclosed in a single broad leaf, the edges of which are

stitched with cobweb and the feathery ends of grasses forming the container. *Eggs*, pale blue, spotless; clutch size unrecorded. Average size of 10 eggs from North Cachar 15 × 10·7 mm (Baker, JBNHS 9: 15). Two eggs from Bhutan measured 16·1 × 11·7 and 16 × 11·6 mm (Baker, 1933).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Tail with 12 rectrices. For discussion on variation of amount of rufous on head, see Biswas, JBNHS 59: 427. Young undescribed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
9 ♂♂	42-46	13-14	c. 20	40-50 mm
4 ♀♀	42-43	14	—	39-44 mm (BB)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris and edges of eyelids yellow ochre with a pinkish tinge. Bill black. Legs and feet yellowish brown; claws horny; soles white.

PRINIA GRACILIS (Lichtenstein): STREAKED WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Paler above, purer fulvous below *P. g. lepida*
- Darker above, fulvous tinged with brown below *P. g. stevensi*

1508. *Prinia gracilis lepida* Blyth

P.(rinia) lepida Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 376
 (Indus territories = Sind *vide* Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, JBNHS 36: 579)
 Baker, FBI No. 931, Vol. 2: 526

Plate 85, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. *Pitāk* (Brahui); *Door* (Sind); *Khār phūtki* (Hindi); *Vid fudki* (Gujarati).

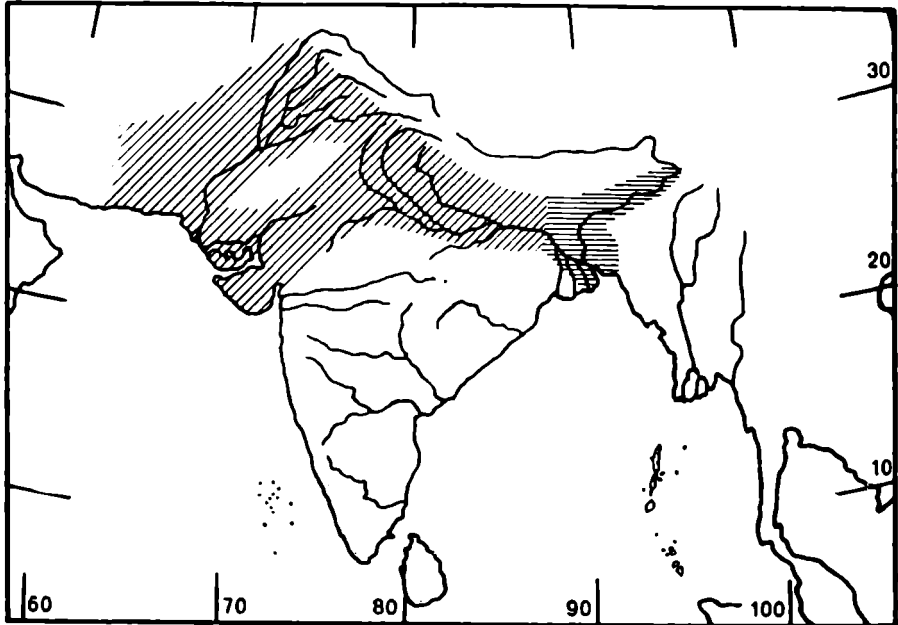
SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale drab brown, crown and back with dark streaks. Lores and round the eye whitish. Tail long, graduated, faintly cross-banded, the rectrices tipped whitish with a subterminal dusky spot. *Below*, whitish, washed with buff on lower belly. Sexes alike. Superficially a tiny miniature of Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*) except for tail tip.

Small size and paleness distinguish it from the other two streaked wren-warblers (1527, 1531, qq.v.).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Pakistan from Kohat and the Himalayan foothills south through the plains of the Indus and Quetta, and west through southern Baluchistan to Iran; India in Gujarat (Kutch, Kathiawar and east to Cambay), western Rajasthan, Punjab and the Gangetic Plain east through Bihar;¹ in the foothills of Pakistan up to c. 1000 m. Affects tamarisk jungle, rank herbage, sarkhan grass (*Saccharum*) and scrub, particularly along rivers, canals, jheels and on river islands; also more sparingly in sandy, semi-desert country with scrub and coarse grass tussocks.

¹ The observation by Proud attributed to this species by Biswas (JBNHS 59: 427), pertains to *Franklinia gracilis* (= *Prinia hodgsonii*). However, see next subspecies.

Prinia gracilis

Distributional ranges

 *lepida* (1508).

 *stevensi* (1509).

Extralimital. Extends westward through SW. Afghanistan and Iran. The species ranges to Egypt and Somalia.

GENERAL HABITS. Lives in pairs or small loose parties according to the season. Flies from bush to bush in search of food, just above the ground, occasionally up to *c.* 4 metres. On the ground, hops about energetically and will make a long spring if necessary to secure an insect. All the while flicks the wings like a *Phylloscopus* and loosely switches its tail from side to side with a slight upward flick. Slips smoothly through grass, clinging sideways to stems and slipping down like a reed warbler. Occasionally catches an insect in flight or hovers to pick a caterpillar off a leaf. Flight jerky, undulating, characteristic of the genus.

Display. 'The male shoots almost vertically upwards for a few feet with very rapid movements in which the wings are used extremely quickly and the tail cocked up repeatedly, giving the whole display a jerky nature. When the peak of the ascent is reached the bird may either flit about erratically before perching again, or dive straight down to its original post before repeating the performance. All the while, a triple wing-snapping is heard, sounding like a quick, crackling *brrrp-brrrp-brrrp*. Wing-snapping is essentially a reaction to other individuals of the same species and is confined to the reproductive cycle. Female does a less intense snapping and jerky flight as predator reactions, but in threat and not in sexual circumstances.' For other forms of display (bowing, flicking and wing-fanning) as well as an excellent study of the behaviour and biology of this species in Egypt, see K. E. L. Simmons, 1954, *Ibis* 96: 262-92.

FOOD. Grasshoppers, small beetles, caterpillars and other insects; spiders. Also a small amount of vegetable matter.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a wheezy, reeling warble, of similar pattern to that of *P. s. inornata* (1511) and often indistinguishable from it. A hard, thin, somewhat slurred and disyllabic note delivered in phrases of from one to fifteen, sometimes up to thirty, sung persistently and monotonously in fast, non-stop succession—*ze(r)witze(r)witze(r)wil . . .* Singing from a vantage point, the black gape very conspicuous. Song also given during wing-snapping display; uttered regularly from February to September but snatches may be heard in October, December and January. Call-note, a drawn out *breep* or *tzeep* uttered by both sexes to keep in touch. Alarm-note a few *trrt-trrt-trrt* with a slight inflection at the end of each note, which may develop into a reeling succession of notes slurred together in a fast, ticking stream. Also a flat *jit* of threat (Simmons). A bill-snapping noise, noted by some observers in India, is not mentioned by Simmons who describes (p.268) wing-snapping flight and display. (See also p. 292 of same paper for wing-snapping in the Sylviidae.)

BREEDING. *Season*, February to October with two peak periods: March–April, particularly in the western part of its range where suitable vegetation is found along rivers, and, for the majority, July–August, especially in the east where suitable vegetation is governed by the monsoon; the same peculiarity is apparent in *Cisticola juncidis cursitans*, *Prinia h. hodgsonii* and *Prinia buchanani*. *Nest*, a domed structure or upright oval pouch, very like that of *P. s. inornata* (1511), with the entrance-hole about two-thirds of the way up; woven mostly of dry grass bound with vegetable down or cobweb, and lined with downy vegetable matter. It is placed in bushes or clumps of grass, usually within a metre from the ground. Nest-site selected by male. Construction almost entirely by male, helped by female mainly with the lining. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, normally 4, pale greenish profusely covered with small, light to dark reddish blotches. Average size of 100 eggs 13.8 × 10.7 mm (Baker). Incubation by both sexes, share not determined; period 12 days ± 1 day. Brooding, feeding young, and nest sanitation by both sexes, chiefly by female; male takes over feeding of juveniles, presumably while female prepares for another brood. Two broods are reared in one peak period. For further details of breeding biology see Simmons, loc. cit.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Keys to the Species and Subspecies. Tail graduated, of ten rectrices.

Young, like adult, but streaks on upperparts broader and more shadowy; a distinct yellow tinge on the sides of neck and upper breast.

Two moults a year, before and after reproductive activity.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		mm
				summer	winter	
♂♂	43–46	c. 12	17–18	59–61	68–72	
♀♀	40–45	11–12	17–18	54–56	68–71	
						(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow to brown. Bill: winter, brown above, yellowish brown below; summer, black; inside of mouth black during the breeding season, this colour being lost during the postnuptial moult and regained during the spring one. Legs and feet pale flesh.

1509. *Prinia gracilis stevensi* Hartert

Prinia gracilis stevensi Hartert, 1923, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 18: 132
(N. Lakhimpur)

Baker, FBI No. 932, Vol. 2: 527

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1509, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The plains of the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers. Recorded from the Subansiri river, Dibong, Tezpur, Dacca, and the Morang district of southeastern Nepal. Affects tall grass in sandy areas along the margins and on islands of big rivers.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1508.

BREEDING. Nests found in April. *Season*, probably as in 1508. *Nest and eggs* as in 1508. Average size of seven eggs 13.7 × 10.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *lepida* but darker above, and underparts tinged with brown rather than fulvous.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1508.

PRINIA SUBFLAVA (Gmelin): PLAIN WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Winter and summer plumages alike. Bill longer	<i>P. s. insularis</i> 55
B	Winter and summer plumages not alike. Bill shorter	
1	Palest; dark subterminal bar of tail almost obsolete	<i>P. s. terricolor</i> 50
2	Intermediate between preceding and the two following	<i>P. s. inornata</i> 52
3	Darker; underparts browner	<i>P. s. fusca</i> 53
4	Darkest; underparts more fulvous	<i>P. s. franklinii</i> 54

1510. *Prinia subflava terricolor* (Hume)

Drymoipus terricolor Hume, 1874, Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds: 349
(N.-W. India = Oudh, Agra)

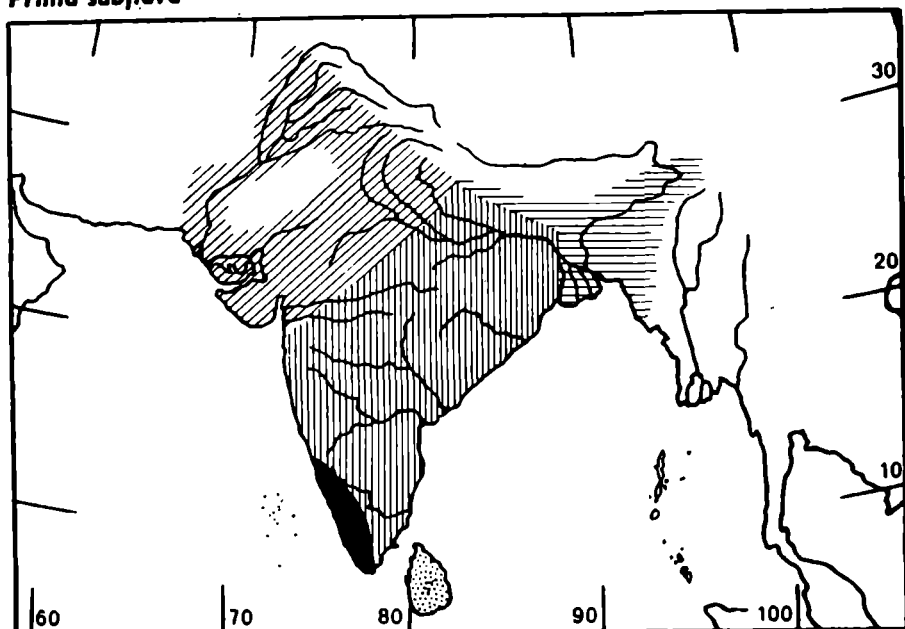
Baker, FBI No. 940 (part), Vol. 2: 534

LOCAL NAME. *Phūtki* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1511, q.v. See Key to the Subspecies and Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. The commonest and most widespread wren-warbler; locally subject to short-range seasonal movements, especially in the north. The plains of Pakistan from N.W.F.P. (Peshawar, Thal, Bannu) and eastern Baluchistan (Hab valley and probably the Sibi plain) east to northwestern India in Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Eastern limit roughly a line from Baroda to the extreme western Nepal terai, east of which it intergrades with the adjacent subspecies (1511, 1512). In the Himalayan foothills up to *c.* 800 m, in smaller numbers up to *c.* 1200 m. Affects tamarisk and thorn scrub jungle mixed with tall grass (*Saccharum* etc.)

Prinia subflava

Distributional ranges

 *terricolor* (1510).

 *fusca* (1512).

 *inornata* (1511).

 *franklinii* (1513).

 *insularis* (1514).

and cultivation, especially wheatfields, curiously avoiding even larger suburban gardens preferring a more open habitat. Commoner near water, but more tolerant of arid conditions than *P. socialis*, being met with also in sandy or stony semi-desert. Often found in same facies as *P. gracilis*.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1511.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to October but chiefly during the monsoon (June—September). *Nest*, as in 1511: purse-shaped type more common. *Eggs*, as in 1511.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *inornata* but paler. Colour of tail more uniform; dark subterminal bar obsolete. Tail of ten rectrices; longer in winter.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		mm
				summer	winter	
♂♂	47–54	12–13	19–21	48–56	59–85	mm
♀♀	48–50	12–13	19–21	—	64–75	

(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1511.

1511. *Prinia subflava inornata* Sykes

Prinia inornata Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 89 (Dukhun)
Baker, FBI No. 940 (part), Vol. 2: 534

LOCAL NAMES. *Phūtki* (Hindi); *Lota-kun-jitta* (Telugu); *Chitakul* (Saugor, M.P.).
SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A plain, sand-coloured wren-warbler with a longish, graduated tail; in the peculiar jerky switchback flight it gives the impression of being too heavy for the bird. *Above*, sandy brown; lores, narrow supercilium and sides of head creamy white. Outer rectrices whitish. *Below*, entirely cream-coloured, more yellow in fresh nuptial plumage. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Central India east of the range of *terricolor* (1510, q.v.) and from the Gangetic Plain in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and lower Bengal, south through Tamil Nadu, but exclusive of the range of *franklinii* (1513). Affects scrub and boulder country, rank grassland, thorn thickets mixed with high grass, wild cane and tall grass in damp situations, and open cultivation with suitable high crops; also mangroves and salt-marsh vegetation in coastal areas. As a rule frequents a less dry facies than typical of *P. sylvatica* and less wet than that of *P. socialis*.

GENERAL HABITS. Found in pairs or small parties according to the season. Flits, clambers and creeps about among grass and bushes in the erratic, jerky manner of most wren-warblers, tail erect and loosely flicked up and down and sideways.

FOOD. Insects: caterpillars, ants, small beetles, etc. Flower-nectar: *Salmalia*, *Erythrina* and other species.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-notes, a rather plaintive *tee-tee-tee* (SA); other notes recorded as *kink*, *kink* . . . or *chi-up* rapidly repeated many times. Alarm-note (or wing-snapping?) rendered as *creak*, *creak*, *creak* like sharply striking the point of a quill across a comb (cf. Ashy Wren-Warbler, 1517). Song, reminiscent of a grasshopper and similar to the song of *P. gracilis*, being more wheezy and insect-like than that of the Ashy Wren-Warbler: a rapid *tlick-tlick-tlick* . . . sustained sometimes for ten seconds or more without a pause; given lustily from a prominent perch, on a reed or bush-top, with the body flattened down, head thrown back, tail fanned out, and an excited opening and shutting of wings; sometimes in jerky switchback flight. A wing-snapping is heard when the bird is disturbed from the nest. (See 1508, General habits, for details and putative meaning of wing-snapping.)

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly June to October (monsoon). *Nest*, variable in shape and structure. Commonest type a deepish, oval or pear-shaped pouch of loosely interwoven thin grass strips (loofah-like) with a lateral entrance-hole at or near the top, the material sometimes forming a dome and partially concealing the orifice. At other times it is more or less open at the top and has cobweb and vegetable down woven into the texture, thus recalling the nest of *Cisticola juncidis* (1498); attached to several upright grass stems or lentil stalks up to a metre or so from the ground. A less common type of nest is of the Tailor Bird pattern, supported between two or more broad leaves stitched together along the edges with fine grass or fibres. Nests usually devoid of lining; sited in a *Lantana*, *Zizyphus* or suchlike bush or grass tussock, commonly growing on bunds separating cultivated fields, especially inundated paddyfields; in water hyacinth (*Echhornia crassipes*) [Gaunlett, JBNHS

82: 529]). *Eggs*, generally 4 or 5, sometimes 3 or 6, variable in colour: usually pale blue with bold, deep reddish, blackish brown or purple spots, blotches and an intricate pattern of fine hairlines especially at the large end. For further details see Baker, *Nidification* 2: 488. Average size of 200 eggs 15.6 × 11.5 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes; incubation period 11 or 12 days. One pair under observation reared three successive broods and built but deserted a fourth nest.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

As in the species *P. gracilis*, *P. socialis* and *P. sylvatica*, *P. subflava* also has a summer and winter plumage, both alike in the south but markedly different in colour and in length of tail in the north.

Winter: Upperparts strongly rufescent; lower parts warm buff; wings hair-brown, margined with dull ferruginous. Tail long, deeply graduated, rufescent brown with an imperfect subterminal dark bar and a pale tip. Bill brown, with the greater part of the lower mandible yellowish horny.

Summer: Upperparts dull earthy grey-brown; lower parts white with a faint yellowish tinge; wings earthy brown, margined albescent. Tail shorter and less graduated than in winter, the lateral rectrices growing paler towards the outermost pair which is almost white. Subterminal dark bar and pale tip usually absent from central rectrices. Bill black, yellowish at the extreme base of the lower mandible.

Summer and winter plumages are each preceded by a complete moult from March to May and July to November. Many individuals breed during the moult, contrary to the normal procedure in birds.

Young, somewhat between winter and summer dress of adult: upperparts more rufescent than summer but less rufescent than winter; tail length about as in summer. Postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		
				summer	winter	
♂♂	46-54	12-14	18-20	48-57	53-80	mm
♀♀	45-51	12-13	c. 19	49-57	69-74	mm
					(HW)	

Weight 9 ♂♀ 5-9 (av. 7) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris orange-yellow or brownish orange. Bill black (summer), brown (winter), yellowish at base of lower mandible; inside of mouth blackish brown (summer); pinkish, pale pink or pale yellowish flesh streaked with brown (winter). Legs and feet brownish yellow; claws brown.

1512. *Prinia subflava fusca* (Hodgson)

Drymoica fusca Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 29 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI Nos. 940 (part) and 942 (part), Vol. 2: 534, 536

LOCAL NAME. *Niongho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1511, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From the extreme western Nepal terai east through northern Bengal (Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts), Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal foothills, Assam, Nagaland (?), Manipur and Bangladesh to the Chittagong region; intergrades with *inornata* in lower Bengal and presumably along the northern Gangetic Plain. Ascends

the hills to *c.* 1200 m. Affects high grass in open fields, reeds along streams, secondary growth and mixed bamboo and scrub jungle.

Extralimital. The species extends east to Vietnam and south to Java.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1511.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to October, chiefly May to July. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1511. Average size of 200 eggs 15.5 × 11.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Darker and more saturated than *inornata* with a more pronounced fulvous wash below.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail	
♂♂	47-52	13-14	66-87 (winter)	mm
♀♀	48-52	13-14	71-83 (winter) (HW)	mm

Weight 2 ♂♂ 5, 9 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1511.

1513. *Prinia subflava franklinii* Blyth

Pr. (inia) franklinii Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 376.

Based on *Prinia macroura* 'Franklin' = Jerdon, 1840, *nec Prinia macroura*

Franklin, 1831, preoccupied by *Motacilla macroura* Gmelin, 1789.

[No locality, (S. India) = Nilgiris, *vide* Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, JBNHS 36: 565-6]

Baker, FBI No. 941 (part), Vol. 2: 535

Plate 85, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. *Chit-kūrūvi* (Telugu); *Vāyālkūrūvi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1511, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident but unevenly distributed. Southwestern India from southwestern Karnataka through Kerala and the adjacent hills of western Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris, Palnis, etc.); from the lowlands to *c.* 1800 m. Affects grasslands, paddyfields, bracken-covered slopes, and patches of *Berberis*, *Rubus* and St John's wort on high grassy plateaux.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1511.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to July. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1511.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *inornata* in being darker and browner at all seasons. Tail markings more distinct. Summer and winter plumages different (see 1511 for details).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail summer	winter	
♂♂	47-55	13-14	53-55 (4 msd)	58-71 (7 msd)	mm
♀♀	46-49	13-14	50, 51 (2 msd)	57-63 (3 msd) (HW)	mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris and eyelids brownish yellow, orange or orange straw-colour. Bill: (summer) black, yellowish at extreme base of lower mandible; (winter) upper mandible and tip of lower brown, rest of lower mandible pale flesh; mouth (summer) blackish brown; (winter) pale pink with brownish streaks and blotches. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws dusky.

1514. *Prinia subflava insularis* (Legge)

Drymoeca [sic] *insularis* Legge, 1879, Bds. Ceylon: 529
(Hurellé Tank, N.C.P.)

Prinia inornata leucura Deraniyagala, 1956, Spolia Zeylanica 28: 97
(Delft Island, North Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 941 (part), Vol. 2: 535

LOCAL NAMES. *Hambu-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Tinu-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1511, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Sri Lanka in all zones up to *c.* 1600 m. Affects tall grass and scrub, paddyfields and grassy swamps.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1511.

BREEDING. *Season*, almost throughout the year, varying to some extent in each climatic zone; in the hills, mostly March–April and September–November; in the Wet zone, January–March and July–September; in the Dry zone, April–May and November–December and possibly throughout the northeast monsoon when herbage is rank. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1511. Clutch size normally 3 or 4; as a series they are paler and brighter than those of *inornata*. Average size of 200 eggs (including some of *franklinii*) 15.8 × 11.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Colour as in *franklinii* (1513) but bill longer. Summer and winter plumages alike; tail short throughout the year.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
16 ♂♂	49–56	14–15	20–22	52–62 mm
4 ♀♀	47–52	14–15	20–22	46–55 mm
				(HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 8 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1513, but bill black at all seasons.

PRINIA SOCIALIS Sykes: ASHY WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Rump and upper tail-coverts rufous brown <i>P.s. stewarti</i>	56
B	Slate colour of back extending to upper tail-coverts	
1	Flanks deeper rufous <i>P. s. inglisi</i>	57
2	Flanks paler, ochraceous buff	
a	Tail longer, mostly over 55 mm <i>P. s. socialis</i>	58
b	Tail shorter, mostly under 55 mm <i>P.s. brevicauda</i>	59

1515. *Prinia socialis stewarti* Blyth

Prinia Stewarti Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 455 (near Agra)
 Baker, FBI No. 936 (part), Vol. 2: 531

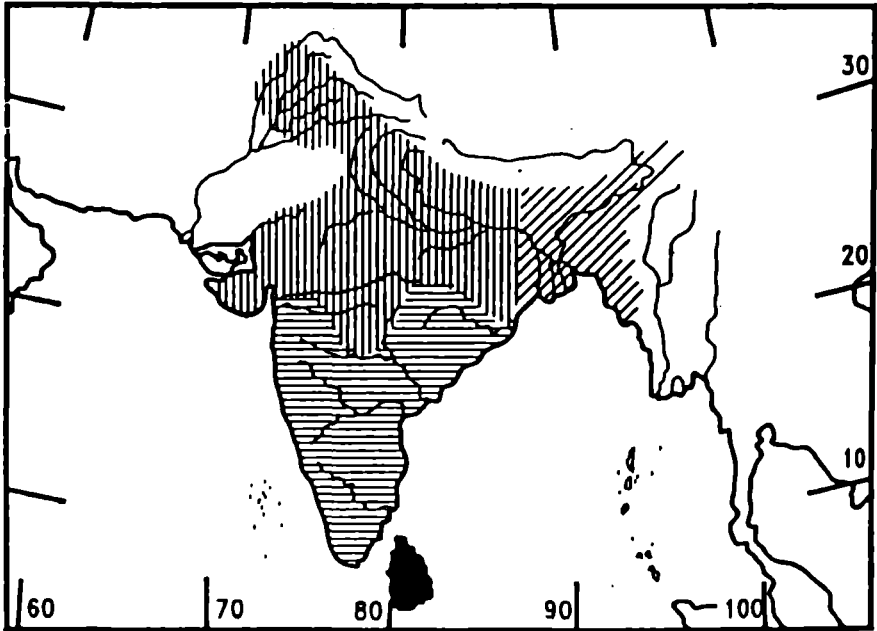
Plate 84, fig. 14

LOCAL NAME. *Phūtki* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1517, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Pakistan in the plains of the upper Indus river system, and northern India from the Himalayan foothills [Jammu, Kangra, Kumaon bhabar and Nepal terai (*vide* Biswas, JBNHS 59: 425)] south through the Gangetic Plain, northern Madhya Pradesh and eastern Rajasthan to the Kathiawar peninsula, the Narmada river, northern Andhra Pradesh (Adilabad dist.), southern Bihar and Orissa (Phulbari dist.) [N. Majumdar, JBNHS 76: 162], intergrading along this limit with the nominate race. Ascends the hills to *c.* 1200 m. Affects

Prinia socialis

Distributional ranges

*stewarti* (1515)*inglisi* (1516)*socialis* (1517)*brevicauda* (1518)

sarpat grass, reeds on the margins of streams and ponds, scrub and grass near cultivation, grain fields and bracken-covered slopes in the foothills. Generally prefers a better-watered facies than *P. subflava* and unlike the latter regularly frequents suburban gardens.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1517.

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly June to September (monsoon), but locally with

a first period in April–May. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1517. Average size of 100 eggs 15.6×11.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *socialis* (1517) in having the rump and upper tail-coverts rufous-brown.

There is a marked difference between summer and winter plumage. In summer the back is uniform slaty grey; rump and upper tail-coverts rufous-brown; tail shorter. In winter the entire upperparts are dark rufous-brown washed with slaty on crown and nape; tail longer.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		
				summer	winter	
♂♂	47–52	13–15	20–21	50–54	67–80	mm
♀♀	45–58	13–15	c. 20	c. 52	59–64	mm
				(2 msd)		
				(SA, HW, BB)		

Weight 1 ♂ 6.7, 2 ♀♀ 6.9, 7.5 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1517.

1516. *Prinia socialis inglisi* Whistler & Kinnear

Prinia socialis inglisi Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, Jour. Bombay nat.

Hist. Soc. 36: 574 (Bhutan duars)

Baker, FBI No. 936 (part), Vol. 2: 531

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow –; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1517, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Bengal (including Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts), Sikkim and Bhutan foothills, Brahmaputra valley, Meghalaya, Manipur and Bangladesh to the Chittagong region (Rashid); plains and hills up to c. 1200 m. Affects grassland, thin secondary jungle, cultivation and gardens.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1517.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1517.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *stewarti* (1515) in lacking the rufous winter plumage, being slaty above as in *socialis* (1517); from the latter it differs in being much darker, more saturated above, deeper rufous on flanks, and in having a finer and shorter bill.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		
				summer	winter	
♂♂	45–49	13–14	19–21	62 to	70	mm
1 ♀	46	14	19	46	—	mm
12 ♂♀	44–50	13–14	—	57–70	—	mm
				(HW)		

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1517.

1517. *Prinia socialis socialis* Sykes

Prinia socialis Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 89 (Dukhun)
Baker, FBI No. 935 (part), Vol. 2: 530

Plate 84, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. *Phūtki*, *Kāli phūtki* (Hindi); *Katirkūrūvi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, head, sides of neck and back dark ashy grey; lores white and frequently also a whitish supercilium; rest of upperparts warm rufous-brown. Tail graduated with fulvous tips and blackish subterminal spots. *Below*, throat whitish buff; rest of underparts strongly washed with ochraceous, especially on flanks and lower belly. Sexes alike.

The longish tail carried partially erect or cocked and loosely flicked up and down, together with slaty head and back and rufous underparts identifies this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, but unevenly distributed; locally common. The entire Indian peninsula south of the Narmada river and southern Bihar; plains and hills up to the highest summits. Affects grassland and scrub on the banks of streams in deciduous facies, open scrub jungle, outskirts of cultivation, shrubbery in gardens, reed-beds in waterlogged depressions, and grassy hillsides; mangroves in coastal areas.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in pairs, hopping restlessly among grass stems and bushes, tail erect and constantly flicked about. When suddenly flushed on disturbance, as from nest, will fly from one clump of grass to the next in a curious jerky fashion, emitting with the mandibles (presumably) a peculiar crackling noise *kit, kit, kit* as of electric sparks. Will sometimes descend to the ground to take insects, hopping about with cocked tail.

FOOD. Insects, larvae, spiders, etc.; also flower-nectar (*Bombax*, *Erythrina*, and other species).

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a sharp, rather nasal *tee-tee-tee* uttered from time to time while hopping among the bushes. Song rather wheezy and chipping: a loud, sprightly *jimmy-jimmy-jimmy* quickly repeated five or six times, usually delivered from the top of a grass stem or bush; sometimes also given while the bird flits about in erratic rising and falling courtship display, jerking its tail up and down and often fluttering its wings to the accompaniment of a peculiar clapping sound *frap, frap*.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to November but varying locally with incidence of rains: in central India mostly July–September; in Andhra chiefly during the latter part of the monsoon (September–November); in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, mainly April to July. *Nest*, more often of two types, both of which may be built by the same pair. One is a flimsily built cup placed in several broad leaves sewn together. A second type is an oblong purse of woven grass and fibres and vegetable felt with the supporting grass stems incorporated into the structure (Lowther). A third, but less frequent, type is a flimsy ball of grass, supported by grass and weeds (Bates). It is generally placed in bushes (*Lantana*, *Leea*, etc.) within two feet (60 cm) from the ground and frequently near a stream. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, not distinguishable from those of *P. flaviventris*: a glossy uniform reddish brown or mahogany-red with often a darker ring around the large end. Average size of 60 eggs 16.2 ×

12 mm (Baker). Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes. Incubation period about 12 days. Frequently brood-parasitized by Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*, 584). Nesting subject to inordinately heavy depredation by snakes, lizards, crow-pheasants, mongooses, and other marauders.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. There is little difference between summer and winter plumage, the latter only differing in the presence of a faint olive wash on the back, not always noticeable in worn plumage. Difference in tail length not so great as in northern birds. Summer plumage differs from that of the northern subspecies (1515) in the slate colour extending to the rump and upper tail-coverts. See also Key to the Subspecies.

The species undergoes a complete spring moult about April–May and a complete autumn moult about October–November.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	
				summer	winter
♂♂	45–53	13–15	19–21	55–56	60–65 mm
♀♀	45–47	13–14	19–20	—	c. 55 mm (HW)

Weight 8 ♂♀ 7–10 (av. 8) g—SA; 1 ♂ 6.8 g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris and eye-rim rich orange-brown. Bill black; inside of mouth black in summer, brown, blackish brown or slaty pink in winter; mouth of nestlings bright orange-yellow. Legs and feet brownish yellow or brownish flesh; claws dusky.

1518. *Prinia socialis brevicauda* Legge

Prinia brevicauda Legge, 1879, Bds. Ceylon: 521 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 935 (part), Vol. 2: 530

LOCAL NAMES. *Hambu-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Tinu-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1517, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Sri Lanka in all zones—lowland and hills up to c. 1600 m. Affects long grass and scrub, paddyfields, and occasionally tea-plantations.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1517.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a loud, unmusical chirruping which sounds like a ringing *thrrip, thrrip, thrrip*. . . Alarm-note, a nasal *cher, cher, cher* or *teu-teu-teu* rapidly uttered and suggestive of a sewing-machine; scolding-note, a peevish *mee . . . mee* (Henry).

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined; breeds throughout the year, with a peak period about March in the hills, and mainly December to March (northeast monsoon) in the Dry zone. A second peak occurs in August–October. *Nest*, as in 1517. *Eggs*, generally 3, sometimes 4 or 2, similar to those of 1517.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Summer and winter plumages alike. Differs from nominate *socialis* (1517) in having a shorter, more plumbeous tail, paler underparts and more earth-brown on wings.

Young (juvenile), greyish olive above with a buffy yellow loreal streak; underparts paler than in adult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
9 ♂♂	47-51	14-15	19-21	47-56 mm
2 ♀♀	45, 48	14, 15	19, 19	44, 48 mm (HW)
♂♀	43-51	—	—	42-54 mm (SDR)

Weight 1 ♂ *c.* 11 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black (all year). Legs and feet flesh-colour.

PRINIA SYLVATICA Jerdon: JUNGLE WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Summer and winter plumages different	
1 Paler and greyer <i>P. s. insignis</i>	62
2 Darker and browner <i>P. s. gangetica</i>	60
3 Darkest, more cinnamon <i>P. s. mahendrae</i>	63
B Summer and winter plumages alike	
4 Paler, bill smaller (13-15 mm) <i>P. s. sylvatica</i>	62
5 Darker, bill longer (15-17 mm) <i>P. s. valida</i>	64

1519. *Prinia sylvatica gangetica* (Blyth)

Suya gangetica Blyth, 1867, Ibis: 23 (Upper Ganges)

Baker, FBI No. 937 (part), Vol. 2: 532

LOCAL NAME. *Tot-rungi* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

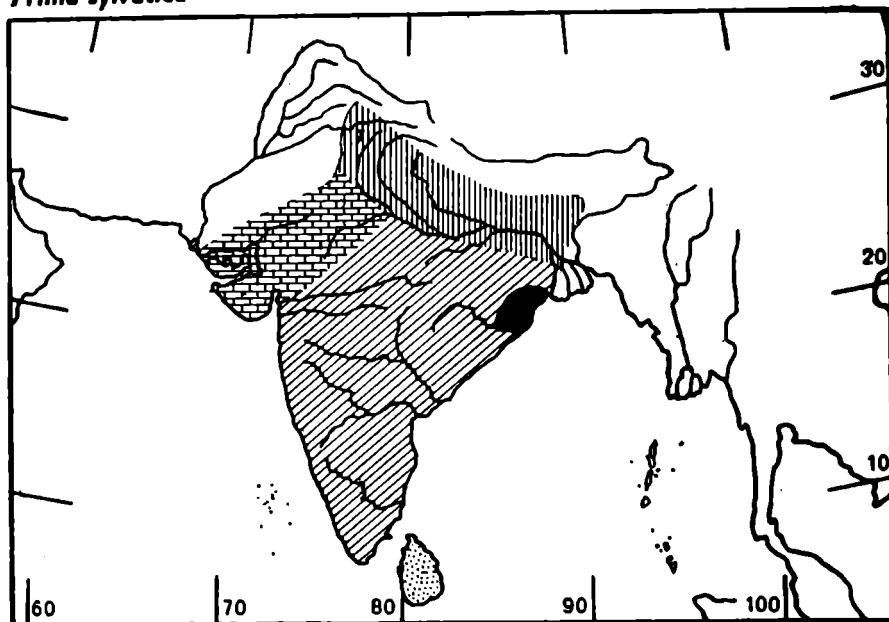
FIELD CHARACTERS. A large brown wren-warbler with the characteristic longish graduated 'loosely inserted' tail.

Above (summer), earthy brown. Lores and a narrow supercilium whitish. Tail (except central rectrices) tipped whitish, subtipped darker; outermost pair almost entirely white on inner web. *Below*, entirely cream-colour. In winter the upperparts are more ruddy and the tail lacks the white tips. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From Kangra district (Himachal Pradesh) and Punjab eastward through Uttar Pradesh and northern Madhya Pradesh, Nepal (only in far western terai—Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985) and Bihar to northern Bengal (Jalpaiguri district) and northwestern Bangladesh, in the foothills up to *c.* 1000 m. Affects low bush jungle mixed with coarse grass, especially in eroded ravines and broken stony country—drier facies than characteristic of *P. socialis*.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or small parties of three to five birds, according to the season, often in company with *Dumetia*, *Chrysomma* and *Prinia hodgsonii*. Hops and flits about jerkily in grass and thorn scrub in the characteristic manner of the genus, switching the tail loosely up and down, clambering to the top now and again and diving into the thicket on alarm.

Display. The male sings excitedly from a bush-top or boulder, or during

Prinia sylvatica

Distributional ranges

 *gangetica* (1519).

 *insignis* (1520).

 *sylvatica* (1521).

 *mahendrae* (1522).

 *valida* (1523).

the vehement aerial courtship display. This consists of a succession of quick-repeated nose-dives, the bird tumbling headlong downwards, then rising steeply again for the next dive, and so on, with occasional snapping of the wings as in *P. socialis* (1517), till it finally alights on a nearby bush. While the song is uttered, whether from a perch or in the air, the tail is spread to show off the white outer feathers and tips prominently. The black inside of mouth is conspicuous while singing.

FOOD. Insects—green grasshoppers, small beetles, caterpillars, ants, etc.; spiders. A small quantity of vegetable matter has also been found in stomachs.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a loud triple note rapidly reiterated for two or three minutes at a stretch, and repeated frequently: *pit-pretty, pit-pretty, pit-pretty* . . . , the *pit* subdued, rather ventriloquistic, and heard only at close range (see Display, above). When alarmed, the bird hops about agitatedly with a loud, quick-repeated *pit, pit, pit*, etc.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to October, mostly June to September (monsoon). *Nest*, a round or oval ball of grass rather loosely put together, strengthened on the outside by cobweb and vegetable down, and lined with fine grass; entrance on the side. Built in a low bush or in clumps of grass, the blades of which are drawn down and woven into the nest; placed within a metre or so above the ground, usually quite low down. *Eggs*, usually 4, often 3, sometimes 5, very variable: dull grey-green, sometimes buffy or pink, faintly speckled with light reddish to deep reddish brown, usually forming a

ring around the broad end. Eggs of abnormal clutches may be pale blue or white, completely unspotted. Average size of 100 eggs 17.5 × 12.8 mm (Baker). Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes. Incubation period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *insignis* (1520) in being browner above. Postnuptial moult takes place from October to December. Both postnuptial and prenuptial moults are complete.

Young, like summer adult but with a distinct yellow wash on underparts. Tail earth-brown with pale tips. First primary shorter and rounded, outer web broader. Postjuvenal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *insignis*.

1520 *Prinia sylvatica insignis* (Hume)

Drymoipus insignis Hume, 1872, Stray Feathers 1: 10 (Mount Aboo)
Baker, FBI No. 939, Vol. 2: 533 (= *P.s. rufescens*)

LOCAL NAME. *Tot-rungi* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1519, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Gujarat (including Kutch and Kathiawar) and western Rajasthan. Affects stony, semi-desert grass-and-euphorbia scrub country, cut up by erosion ravines.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1519.

BREEDING. As in 1519.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *gangetica* in being grey above and having more white in tail (summer plumage).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail (winter)
♂♂	59–67	15–17	23–25	73–95 mm
♀♀	53–61	<i>c.</i> 15	22–25	71–77 mm (SA)

Weight 11 ♂♀ 10–21 (av. 16) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower flesh-colour or yellowish; mouth of breeding males black. Legs and feet flesh to brownish flesh.

1521. *Prinia sylvatica sylvatica* Jerdon

Prinia sylvatica Jerdon, 1840, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 11: 4
(Seegore Ghat, Nilgiris)

Prinia sylvatica palniensis Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 52: 72
(Kodaikanal, Palni Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 937 (part), Vol. 2: 532

Plate 85, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. *Tot-rungi* (Hindi); *Kenda-lotakun-jitta* (Telugu); *Chettikūrūvi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1519, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Indian peninsula from Maharashtra and northern Madhya Pradesh (intergrading hereabouts with *gangetica*) south to Kanyakumari; plains and hills up to c. 1500 m. Affects sparsely scrubbed, stony, hummocky country—boulder-strewn hillsides with rank grass and scattered thorn bushes etc.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1519.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall April to September with apparently two peak periods: April–May, especially in the south, and June to September (monsoon) in the north. Once December (Mysore). *Nest and eggs*, as in 1519.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Intermediate in colour between the darker *valida* of Sri Lanka and the greyer *insignis* of Gujarat etc. Summer and winter plumages show little variation and agree with summer plumage of the northern subspecies. Only some summer birds develop white lateral rectrices.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail		
				summer	winter	
♂♂	52–65	14–16	21–24	65–72	67–79	mm
♀♀	50–54	13–14	20–21	—	57–65	mm

(HW, SA, Koelz)

Weight 6 ♂♀ (July–August) 14–18 (av. 16.3) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris orange (♂), orange-straw, straw or drab (♀), olive-brown (juv.). Bill: summer male black; in other stages horny brown, lower mandible fleshy; in juvenile lower mandible bright yellow, gape yellow; mouth: summer male black; in other stages brownish pink, or pink with brownish streaks. Legs and feet fleshy or pale fleshy brown; claws similar or darker.

1522. *Prinia sylvatica mahendrae* Koelz

Prinia sylvatica mahendrae Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 52: 72
(Mahendra Giri, Orissa)

Baker, FBI No. 937 (part), Vol. 2: 532

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1519, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Region of the type locality (Mahendra Giri, Orissa).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1519.

BREEDING. As in 1519.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from other races in the winter plumage being dark cinnamon rather than grey-brown or fulvous; underparts, especially sides, much greyer (Koelz).

MEASUREMENTS. Said to have a longer tail than *sylvatica*, but this is a clinal character from south to north: cf. measurements of *insignis*.

	Wing	Tail	
3 ♂♂	60–62	77–81	mm

(Koelz)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1521.

1523. *Prinia sylvatica valida* (Blyth)

Drymoica valida Blyth, 1851, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 180, new name

for *D. robusta* Blyth, 1849, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 18: 812

(Ceylon), nec *D. robusta* Rüppell, 1840

Baker, FBI No. 938, Vol. 2: 533

LOCAL NAMES. *Hambu-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Tinu-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1519, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Sri Lanka in all zones up to *c.* 1800 m. Affects scrub-and-grass jungle, low scrub, tea plantations, fernlands and undergrowth around ricefields.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1519.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud and monotonous song beginning 'with a slow *titrreer* . . . *titrreer* which soon becomes a loud, ringing *tilireep*, *tilireep* . . . and this again changes to *thirrlip*, *thirrlip*, *thirrlip* . . . Yet another note is very like the *tewik tewik tewik* . . . of the tailor bird, but less musical' (Henry).

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined: breeds the year round with a peak period from March to May and again from July to September. Several broods are reared. *Nest*, usually a rather untidy ball of grass, but sometimes purse-shaped or even deep cup-shaped. Other details as in 1519. *Eggs*, either 3 or 4, similar to those of 1519. Average size of 12 eggs 17.9 × 12.9 mm (Phillips).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sylvatica* in being darker above. Bill longer and stronger (12 ♂♂ *valida* 15.5–17 mm, 12 ♂♂ *sylvatica* 13–15 mm—HW). Lacks all trace of the pale supercilium sometimes present in peninsular races. Summer and winter plumages alike, of the summer type. Birds in complete moult have been collected in January and in July.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
12 ♂♂	60–65	15–17	22–25	59–70 mm
1 ♀	55	15	23	55 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. (Breeding). Iris pale brown. Bill: upper mandible dark blackish brown, lower greyish. Legs and feet fleshy brown.

PRINIA FLAVIVENTRIS (Delessert): YELLOWBELLED WREN-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Paler and duller *P. f. sindiana*
 Darker and brighter *P. f. flaviventris*

1524. *Prinia flaviventris sindiana* Ticehurst

Prinia flaviventris sindianus Ticehurst, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 40: 157
 (Sukkur, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 934, Vol. 2: 529

Plate 85, fig. 14

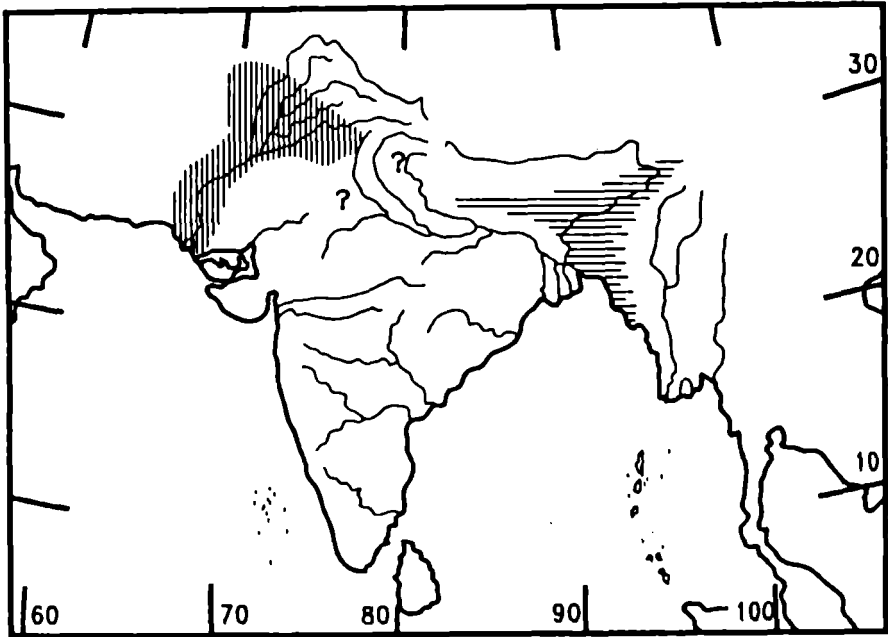
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1525, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, common but locally distributed. Pakistan in the plains of the Indus river system from Bannu south through Sind, and east through Punjab and Haryana to Ambala¹. Affects riverain tamarisk and *sarkhan* grass jungle, or reed-beds.

Prinia flaviventris



Distributional ranges

||||| *sindiana* (1524)

==== *flaviventris* (1525)

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1525.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, four or five silvery notes uttered in quick succession, rendered as 'a cheerful *tweedle-li-li*'. Alarm-note, a shrill, plaintive *twee*.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to September. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1525. Size of eggs about 14.5 × 11.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *flaviventris* (1525) by its smaller bill, and in being duller green above and paler yellow below.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tail
♂ ♀	43-45	c. 10	48-64 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1525.

¹ *P. flaviventris* ssp? has been found breeding at Delhi Ridge (Gaston, JBNHS 75: 123) and in Dudhwa National Park, Kheri dist., U.P. (Ravi Sankaran, *ibid.* 86: 451).

1525. *Prinia flaviventris flaviventris* (Delessert)

Orthotomus flaviventris Delessert, 1840, Rev. Zool.: 101 (N. Bengale)

Prinia flaviventris fulviventris Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 154
(Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 933, Vol. 2: 528

Plate 85, fig. 15

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A typical wren-warbler with longish, graduated, 'loosely inserted' tail and bright yellow underparts. *Above*, forecrown and sides of head dark grey; a short supercilium (not always present) and a pale eye-ring. Rest of upperparts and tail olive-green, the latter tipped whitish, and faintly subtipped brown. *Below*, throat and breast whitish cream. Belly bright lemon-yellow, a distinctive character. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Nepal, where resident in the duars (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985), Bengal in the Jalpaiguri district and near Calcutta, Bangladesh south to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. Range disjunct from that of *sindiana*. In the plains and foothills, generally up to *c.* 800 m, locally to 1200 m. Affects humid grasslands mixed with bushes, elephant grass and reeds near paddyfields, tanks, lakes and swamps, occasionally in thin secondary growth.

Extralimital. Burma. The species extends east to Vietnam and south to Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. A sprightly restless little bird, keeping singly, or 3 or 4 loosely together, hopping and climbing about in grasses where it finds its food, sometimes descending to the ground. As a rule difficult to see.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song consists of a sharp chirp followed by a little trill of about five notes, uttered from the top of a tall grass stem or bush. Call-note, an incessant, *chink, chink*. . . . Alarm-note, a plaintive *twee*. Also snaps wings.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to October, mostly June–September (monsoon). *Nest*, oval with the entrance near the top, made of fine grass, grass roots and vegetable down, strengthened by cobwebs and lined with finer grass; fixed to upright grass stems or placed in bushes often on pendent twigs, at heights varying from *c.* 50 to 150 cm above the ground. *Eggs*, usually 4, glossy mahogany-red, indistinguishable from those of *Prinia socialis* (1517). Average size of 60 eggs 15.2 × 11.7 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes; incubation period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Differs from *sindiana* (1524) in having a more saturated olive-green back and rump and a deeper yellow belly.

In summer the tail is shorter with obscure subterminal brown patches; in winter, tail longer without brown patches.

Young, upperparts and sides of neck yellowish olive-brown. Edges of wings rufous brown. Tail brown tinged with olive on outer webs, tips whitish. Underparts pale yellow. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	42-49	10-11	c. 21	50 (summer) to 70 (winter) mm (Baker)

Weight 1 ♂ 7 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow to brown. Bill black in summer, brown in winter; inside of mouth black in summer. Legs and feet orange-flesh.

PRINIA CRINIGER Hodgson: BROWN HILL WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Palest; less warm brown <i>P. c. striatula</i>	67
B	Intermediate between A and C <i>P. c. criniger</i>	68
C	Darkest; upperparts rich dark rufous <i>P. c. catharia</i>	69

1526. *Prinia criniger striatula* (Hume)

Blandfordius [sic] *striatulus* Hume, 1872, Stray Feathers 1: 44, *nomen nudum*

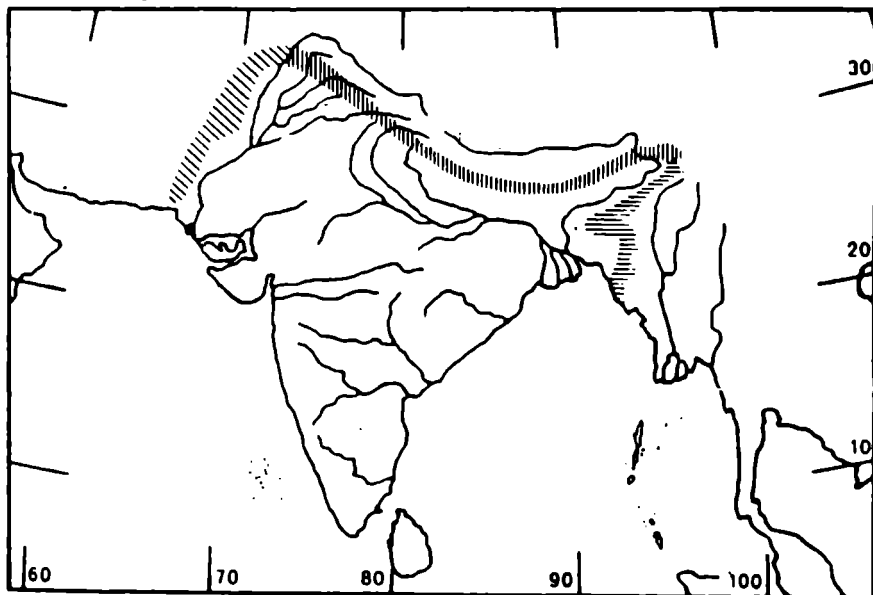
Blandfordius striatulus Hume, 1873, Stray Feathers 1: 300
(Karachi, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 924, Vol. 2: 520

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length, including long tail, c. 16 cm (6 in.).

Prinia criniger



Distributional ranges

 *striatula* (1526).
 *catharia* (1528).

 *criniger* (1527).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1527, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to vertical movements. The foothills of Pakistan from the Salt Range and Kohat south through the Sulciman and Sind ranges nearly to the coast and west to the Hingol Valley; from *c.* 900 to 2500 m (on Singhar range, Baluchistan), drifting down to the foothills in winter. Affects grass-and-scrub jungle and open pine forest on hillsides.

Extralimital. Recorded from Nuristan, NE. Afghanistan (Paludan).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1527.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1527.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *criniger* in the winter plumage being paler above, less warm brown; light streaks also paler; edges of wing less deep rufous; under tail-coverts and flanks paler. Summer plumage also paler.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1527.

Weight 1♂ (Dec.) 12.4; 1♀ (Dec.) 13 g—Paynter; 1♂ (March) 12 g—Paludan.

1527. *Prinia criniger criniger* Hodgson

Prinia? *Suya criniger* Hodgson, 1836, *Asiat. Res.* 19: 183 (Nepal)

Baker, *FBI No.* 923, Vol. 2: 518

Plate 85, fig. 19

LOCAL NAMES. *Phitta* (Kashmir); *Suya* (Nepal); *Dang-prim-pho* (Lepcha); *Shikshillik* (Bhutan).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 16 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A long-tailed, brown warbler dark-streaked above, strongly reminiscent of the wren-warblers of the plains. A passable miniature of the Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*).



x c. 1

Above, brown, distinctly streaked on head and back. Tail very long, strongly graduated, each rectrix tipped with buff and a subterminal dusky spot; tail narrowly cross-barred but this character only visible at very close range. *Below*, pale fulvous (summer), marked with dusky spots or mottling on sides of throat and breast (winter); flanks olive-brown. Sexes alike.

The similar *P. burnesii* (1531) is a bird of the plains only. It is distinguished by its prominent whitish underparts and eye-ring (*v.* warm fulvous).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to small vertical movements. The Himalayan foothills from Murree and Kashmir east to Arunachal Pradesh. Breeds from *c.* 1200 m (in the western Himalayas down to *c.* 600 m) up to 2100 m, locally up to 2800 m, exceptionally 3100 m (Simla, Nepal). Winters from *c.* 2100 m down to *c.* 300 m. Affects low bushes on grassy slopes and in stony ravines, terraced-cultivated hillsides, and open pine forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in pairs, skulking among low scrub and grass tussocks. Flight feeble and jerky. When disturbed, seldom flies far before tumbling headlong into another bush; or it shoots almost vertically down a steep hillside, tail doubled over the back and wings pulled in at the sides.

Display. In the breeding season males frequently mount to the top of a bush or tree to utter their reeling creaky song. For this, very partial to telegraph wires where available. From time to time one will jump up and

perform curious aerial evolutions consisting of a series of steep wave-crests and nose-dives accompanied by a low fluttering sound—antics recalling those of the Ashy Wren-Warbler (1517), q.v.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, an exuberant but wheezy, almost scraping double-note, like a knife being sharpened on a grindstone: *l'zeetu-t'zeetu-t'zeetu* (or *tsee-tswée-tsee-tswée . . .*) usually given in series of three or four (Lister), of same pattern as Jungle Wren-Warbler's (1519), q.v.; uttered from some vantage point or as the bird dive-bombs at the female or in the vicinity of the nest, this performance accompanied by a loud flutter. See also Display, above. Regular song period, beginning of March till end of October, but song may also be heard sporadically throughout the winter (Proud, Nepal).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to October, chiefly July and August. *Nest*, an oval structure with the entrance near the top, made of grass, thickly matted with vegetable down and lined with finer grass. Usually placed in grass within a half-metre of the ground, sometimes in bushes overgrown with grass, up to c. 120 cm above the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, sometimes 3, rarely 5; clutches of more than four may include an egg of the Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) closely resembling those of the host. Colour, white to pale pink marked with tiny reddish blotches and specks forming a ring near the extremity of the large end (not around the broadest part). Average size of 100 eggs 17.6 × 12.6 mm (Baker). Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes; incubation period ten or eleven days. Frequently brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus* and *Cacomantis merulinus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; for details of plumages Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail summer winter
♂♂	51-61	14-15	c. 23	90-114 mm
♀♀				74-84 — mm
				(BB, SDR)

Weight 2 ♂♂ (May) 15, (Nov.) 17 g—GD; 1 o? (Jan.) 13.2 g—Paynter.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower light brown. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws black (summer—SDR).

Iris yellow-white to orange. Bill black (summer), horny brown, flesh below (winter). Legs and feet fleshy pink or yellowish flesh (Baker).

1528. *Prinia criniger catharia* Reichenow

Prinia catharia Reichenow, 1908, Orn. Monatsb. 16: 13
(Ta-tsieng-lu-ting, Setschuan)

Suya criniger yunnanensis Harington, 1913, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 31: 110
(Yunnan = Momien)

Suya crinigera assamica Baker, 1924, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 44: 80 (Shillong)

Surya [sic] *crinigera nebulosa* Koeltz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 43
(Cherrapunji, Khasi Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 925, Vol. 2: 520

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha dédao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 16 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1527, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The hills of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh south to the Chittagong Hill Tracts; from *c.* 800 m to the highest summits, optimum zone 1200–1800 m. Affects coarse grass and scrub-and-grass jungle.

Extralimital. Extends to northern Burma, northwestern Yunnan and Sichuan. The species ranges east through the Indochinese countries and southern China to Taiwan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1527.

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly April, May and June, but eggs may be found in almost every month of the year. *Nest*, as in 1527. *Eggs*, 3 to 7, normally 4, pale blue to dull green, spotted as in 1527 but ring not so invariably well defined; occasional eggs may be unmarked. Average of 200 eggs 16.7 × 12.8 mm (Baker). Breeding biology as in 1527.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. *Summer*. Feathers of forehead, crown, nape and mantle blackish brown suffused with chestnut and margined brownish ashy to give a boldly streaked appearance. *Winter*. Equally boldly streaked, but feathers overlaid with a rich dark rufous wash which masks the light margins and gives the bird a generally darker appearance (Deignan). Differs from 1527 in being darker.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1527.

PRINIA ATROGULARIS (MOORE): BLACKTHROATED HILL WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Upperparts olive-brown *P.a. atrogularis*
 Upperparts ferruginous brown *P.a. khasiana*

1529. *Prinia atrogularis atrogularis* (Moore)

Suya atrogularis Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. E.I. Co. 1: xviii, 326 (Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 928, Vol. 2: 523

Plate 85, fig. 11

LOCAL NAMES. *Chiburchay* (Paharia); *Shikshillik* (Bhutan).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A long-tailed warbler. *Above*, unstreaked dark olive-brown, greyer on head and nape. Wings and tail rufous brown. Tail very long (*c.* 10 cm), strongly graduated, paler at tip. *Below*, throat black, bordered with white moustachial stripes. Breast spotted black and white; belly fulvous, more olive on flanks. In winter the throat is fulvous white streaked with black, and there is a more or less distinct white supercilium. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident but locally distributed. Eastern Nepal (Ilam District—Stevens, Fleming & Traylor), Bengal (Darjeeling district), Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (Bailey, JBNHS 24: 75). Breeds from *c.* 1000 to 2500 m; observed in winter as high as 2200 m. Affects open scrub-and-grass jungle on hillsides, bushes among terrace cultivation and long grass in pine forest—much the same type of country as *P. criniger*, but occasionally found in forested areas.

Extralimital. Adjacent southeastern Tibet. The species extends east to Fujian and Vietnam, and south to Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. Very similar to those of Brown Hill Warbler (1527). Keeps singly or in pairs, skulking in tall grass and scrub. A very active bird, ceaselessly turning this way and that, twitching its tail up and down—occasionally vibrating it up and down very rapidly for a moment. Repeatedly works its way in little spurts to the top of a bush and then flies down into cover (Lister).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a series of soft, scolding *chrrrr-churrr-churrr*. Call-notes, a soft *tp-tp-tp-tp* . . . while foraging; a soft, high-pitched *prri* . . . *prri* . . . *prri* and a *tyip* . . . *tyip* (Lister). For rendition of song see 1530.

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly May and June. *Nest*, globular with a lateral entrance, made of grass stems and flowering grass heads, usually with a small amount of moss incorporated; generally placed in clumps of grass, attached to two or more stems, the materials being loosely wrapped around these. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, variable: more commonly pale greenish, more or less covered with reddish freckles or small blotches, usually forming a ring around the broadest part; eggs with white or pink ground colour are also found. Different from those of *P. criniger* in the less bold definition of the ring and in the great preponderance of the green type. For further details see Baker, *Nidification* 2: 473. Average size of 100 eggs 16.9 × 12.7 mm (Baker). **Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes; incubation period** *c.* 10 days.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young, *above*, brownish with a faint yellowish tinge; *below*, white with faint yellow tinge on throat and belly; an indistinct yellowish and green-brown band across the breast. Markings less distinct than in adult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	45–56	13–15	20–25 (mostly 21–23)	75–117 mm (Oct.–April) (SA, Stresemann)

Weight 11 ♂♀ 8–16 (av. 11.8) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris greyish brown. Bill brown (winter). Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws horny brown.

1530. *Prinia atrogularis khasiana* (Godwin-Austen)

Suya khasiana Godwin-Austen, 1876, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 18: 412
(Khasia Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 929, Vol. 2: 524

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha dédao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1529, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya in the Khasi and Assam in the Cachar hills south to the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh; from *c.* 900 to 1800 m (1400 to 2600 m

on Mt Victoria). Affects tall grass or patches of low scrub mixed with grass on steep hillsides, on the edge of cultivation or fringe of forest.

Extralimital. Burma.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1529.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud song rather similar to that of *P. criniger* (1527) rendered as *tulip . . . tulip . . . tulip* (Heinrich). Other calls as in 1529.

BREEDING. As in 1529.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male and Female, *winter*, like *atrogularis* but upperparts, edges of wings and tail bright rufous; flanks more ochraceous. *Summer*, like *atrogularis* but upperparts, especially crown, bright rufous as are edges of wing and tail. Female like male but chin and throat with white markings making the black less conspicuous. Apparently only has a body moult in spring.

Young, like winter adult but not so rich or so rufous-brown. Underparts as adult; there is an indication of the black, white-tipped throat. First primary with broader outer web. Tail shorter and more flimsy. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1529.

Weight 1 ♀ 11; 1 juv. ♂ 9 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1529.

PRINIA BURNESII (Blyth): LONGTAILED GRASS WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Under tail-coverts dark ferruginous *P. b. burnesii*
 Under tail-coverts greyish white *P. b. cinerascens*

1531. *Prinia burnesii burnesii* (Blyth)

Ex. (rycerus) Burnesii Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 374
 (Indus territories = Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 832, Vol. 2: 430

Plate 85, fig. 17

LOCAL NAMES. *Hedela*; *Chiho* (Sind).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufescent grey and rufous-brown with darker streaks. A pale eye-ring. *Below*, greyish white. Tail olive-brown, very long and graduated, the lateral feathers tipped fulvous. Sexes alike.

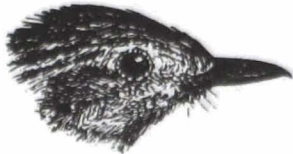
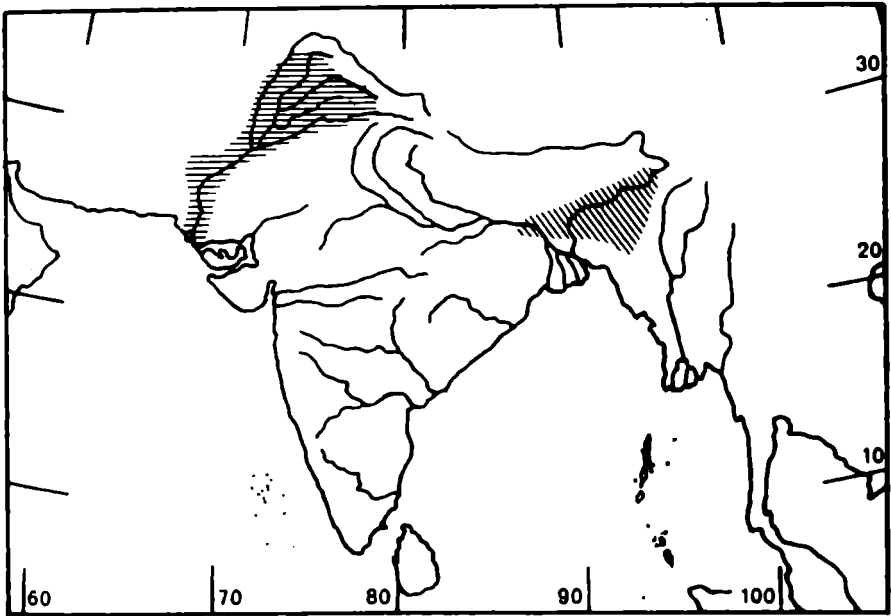


FIG. 1

Distinguished from *P. criniger* by the whitish underparts. *P. lepida*, the other streaked *Prinia*, differs by its smaller size and paler plumage.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Pakistan in the plains of the Indus. Affects tall *sarkhan* grass (*Saccharum*) in pure stands or where mixed with acacias and tamarisks, mainly in the vicinity of large rivers and their tributaries. Has spread to seepage zones of larger canals and to lakeshores fringed with reeds (TJR).

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or small parties to rootstocks of dense grass clumps, hopping and threading its way through the stems and in and out of cover with the agility of a mouse. Is an inveterate skulker, slipping

Prinia burnesii

Distributional ranges

▨ *burnesii* (1531).

▩ *cinerascens* (1532).

away silently through the thickest scrub, and flushed only with difficulty. Then flies hurriedly for a few short metres and tumbles headlong into cover again, being almost impossible to flush a second time. General effect of the bird and its behaviour strangely reminiscent by turns of both Jungle Wren-Warbler (1521) and Streaked Laughing Thrush (1314)—a similarity that seems curiously apparent also in their reeling songs. Occasionally feeds on the ground, turning over dead leaves and searching nooks and crannies for insects. During daytime little or nothing is usually seen of the bird; towards evening however it comes out of its retreat, creeps about the outside of a bush, singing cheerily at intervals, only to dive into thick cover again if disturbed. Unlike the majority of *Prinias*, this species apparently never indulges in wing-snapping and vertical display flights (TJR).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a wheezy *feez*. Song loud and pleasant recalling that of *Saxicola caprata*, 'a clear sweet liquid warble of about two seconds' and in a way reminiscent also of the reeling songs of Jungle Wren-Warbler and Streaked Laughing Thrush. A chattering alarm-note described as 'a quiet nasal rattle, and when excited a very rapidly repeated *chit* or *szit*' (Holmes & Wright).

BREEDING. *Season*, February to September. *Nest*, cup-shaped, made of coarse grass lined with vegetable down, fine grass and sometimes a feather or two. Well hidden in a grass clump, almost on the ground, often on the edge of a small clearing. The female sits close, skulking off into cover on being disturbed and easily abandons the nest. *Eggs* 4, white with a very faint tinge of greenish blue, profusely speckled all over with dark brown, slightly more so at the large end. Average size of 20 eggs 17.9 × 14.2 mm (Baker). Share of

sexes in domestic duties unknown except that the female alone appears to build the nest.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from disjunct *cinerascens* (1532) in being more rufescent above and in having the under tail-coverts deep rufous (*v.* greyish white).

Young, like adult but upperparts more uniform, the dark streaks hardly discernible.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	53-57	10-11	20-21	85-108 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown above, straw below. Legs and feet flesh-coloured.

1532. *Prinia burnesii cinerascens* (Walden)

Eurycercus cinerascens Walden, 1874, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 14: 156
(Dhubri, Lower Bengal)

Baker, FBI No. 833, Vol. 2: 431

Plate 85, fig. 16

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a long tail; length *c.* 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1531, *q.v.* See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Assam in the plains of the Brahmaputra and Cachar, Bangladesh in the north and in Sylhet; western Bihar (Monghyr, one record). Affects the vast expanses of *ékra* or elephant-grass in the vicinity of large rivers and in swamps.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1531.

BREEDING. *Season*, at least April and May. *Nest*, as in 1531. *Eggs*, as in 1531 but ground colour slaty green and speckling almost black. Average size of 7 eggs 16.9 × 13.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *burnesii* in being more olive-grey, less rufous above, and in having the under tail-coverts greyish white like the abdomen.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	51-52	<i>c.</i> 21	68-79 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull *c.* 15 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris sienna-brown. Bill horny black, dark above, bluish below. Legs and feet brownish, plumbeous or slaty brown.

Genus SCOTOCERCA Sundevall

Scotocerca Sundevall, 1872, Meth. Av. Disp. Tent.: 7

Type, by original designation, *Malurus inquietus* Cretzschmar

Much resembles *Prinia* but tarsus longer. Tail slightly graduated, slightly longer than wing. Long hairs overhanging nostrils.

1533. **Streaked Scrub Warbler.** *Scotocerca inquieta striata* (Brooks)*Melizophilus striatus* Brooks, 1872, Ibis: 180 (Naoshera, Punjab)

Baker, FBI No. 905, Vol. 2: 501

Plate 85, fig. 18

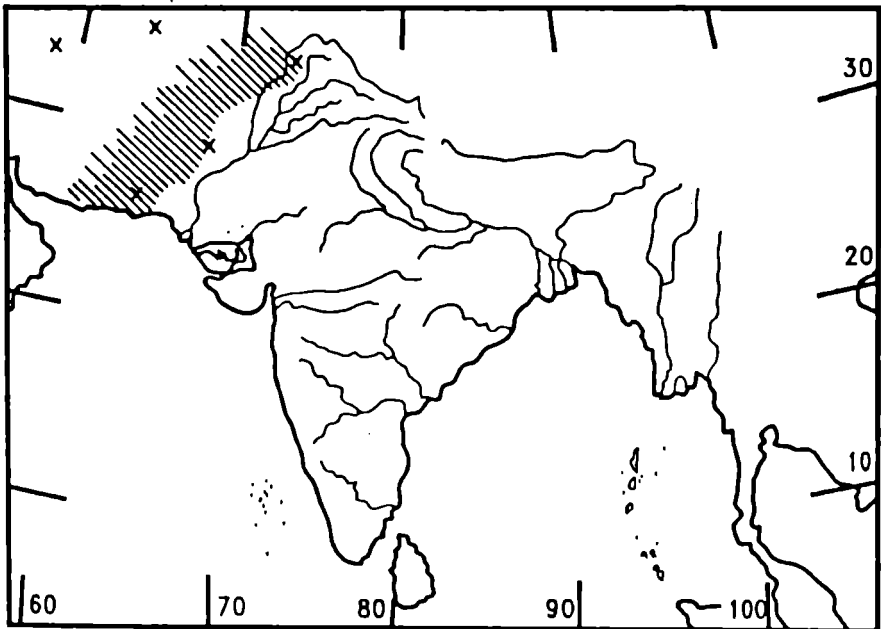

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small sand-coloured warbler with a dark, erect tail. *Above*, pale sandy brown, conspicuously streaked on crown with dark brown. A dark line from lores through eye and a broken, pale eye-ring. Supercilium, cheeks and sides of breast pinkish fulvous. Tail dark brown, outer rectrices with pale tips. *Below*, buffish white, lightly striated with brown on throat; flanks pale pinkish buff. Sexes alike.

The dark line through eye, terrestrial habits, and barren stony habitat at once distinguish this species from any streaked *Prinia*.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident. The hills of Pakistan from Peshawar and Kohat east to the Jhelum river, south through Baluchistan to the Makran coast and east into the hilly tracts of Sind (Ticehurst, *Ibis* 1922 and 1929, JBNHS 1927 and Christison, *Ibis* 1941: 536).

Scotocerca Inquieta striata
 Distributional range

 Isolated records

Affects arid, rocky hillsides, ravines and valley floors where scrub or a few clumps of grass afford it hunting ground. In summer locally up to *c.* 3000 m (at least until October) and down to the foothills, but does not enter the plains.

Extralimital. The species extends through the Middle East countries and North Africa to Morocco.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or in small parties. 'A most attractive bird racing about like a mouse, its tail never quiet, and working itself into an ecstasy of excitement, flicking its little wings, bouncing this way and that, under one stone, over another, round another, reappearing in most unexpected places' (Meinertzhagen). It is a typical wren-warbler, aside from its more terrestrial habit. Feeds a great deal on the ground under the shelter of bushes and coarse grass, or hops about restlessly among the rootstocks and low branches of stunted thorn scrub, constantly jerking its cocked tail over its head and from side to side.

FOOD. Insects, minute snails and seeds.

VOICE and CALLS. 'Has a variety of notes of three main types: A cheerful and sweet song. A melodious, rather loud trill of about five notes descending in tone, uttered when the bird is at ease. A dull but rather loud *pit, pit* of alarm, much like a dull version of the familiar call of the Tailor Bird' (Whistler MS.). 'Like the squeaking of mice' (Williams). Has an advertising or territorial call, a loud two-noted *Pi-tch eeeer*, which can be heard the year round (TJR).

BREEDING. *Season*, end of February to August. *Nest*, globular, made of dry grass stems, rather untidy but well lined with silky fibres, some felt-like vegetable matter and a few feathers. Placed in low bushes from a few centimetres above the ground up to *c.* 1.5 m, usually rather low down. *Eggs*, 5 or 6, white marked with minute specks of reddish pink to reddish brown, numerous at the large end where they form an ill-defined cap or zone. Average size of 40 eggs 15.8 × 11.9 mm (Baker). Apparently frequently brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young, like adult but wing and tail browner and dark markings on upperparts not so sharply defined.

The species has two moults, the spring moult only partial.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	49-52	<i>c.</i> 18	43-50 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull 12 mm

Weight 1 ♂ 8, 1 ♀ 8 g (subsp.?, Afghanistan) — Paludan.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel. Bill brown, lower mandible yellowish. Legs and feet yellowish brown.

Genus *GRAMINICOLA* Jerdon

Graminicola Jerdon, 1863, Bds. India 2: 177.

Type, by monotypy, *Graminicola Bengalensis* Jerdon

Bill rather stout, about half the length of the head. Four stiff rictal bristles. Crest feathers distinctly spinous.

1534. **Large Grass Warbler.** *Graminicola bengalensis bengalensis* Jerdon*Graminicola Bengalensis* Jerdon, 1863, Bds. India 2: 177

(Cachar — see Baker, Nidif. 2: 393; also Biswas, JBNHS 65: 224)

Baker, FBI No. 834, Vol. 2: 433

Plate 85, fig. 21

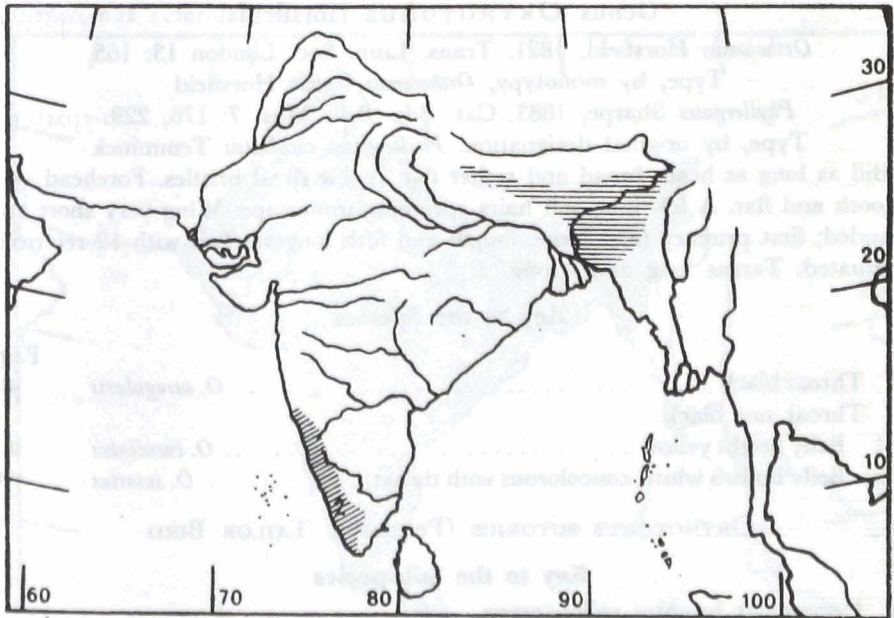
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A rufous-brown grass warbler with a broad, graduated, white-tipped tail. *Above*, head and back streaked with black and rufous; sides of neck and lower nape streaked black and white. A white supercilium. Wings and rump rufous. Tail dark brown, strongly graduated, conspicuously tipped with white. *Below*, throat, breast and belly white, flanks rufous. Sexes alike.

× *c.* 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. From the western Nepal terai (Rand & Fleming 1957, Fleming & Traylor 1968) east through northern Bengal (Jalpaiguri duars) and the flood-plains of the Brahmaputra, south through the plains of Assam, Manipur and Bangladesh to the Ganges. Affects tall grass and reeds.

Graminicola bengalensis* and *Schoenicola platyura

Distributional ranges

 *G. b. bengalensis* (1534).

 *S. platyura* (1546).

Extralimital. The species ranges through the Indochinese countries to Hainan.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known except that it is difficult to observe in the dense grass in which it skulks. With close beating and walking up the bird flushes readily but it dives into cover almost instantaneously; and if fired at

and missed it vanishes for ever! (Hume).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Said to be very noisy in the breeding season, soaring into the air and singing a harsh and loud song, also from the tops of reeds. Call-note similar to that of the American Catbird — 'a mewling call' (Fleming).

BREEDING. *Season*, at least July and August (monsoon). *Nest*, a deep cup of sedges and vegetable fibres, lined with fine grass roots and fixed between a few reeds in the manner of reed warblers. It is placed in dense *ekra* grass or reeds standing in deep water during the rains, thus extremely difficult to find. *Eggs*, apparently 4, white, thickly covered with purple-red and deep brown specks and spots, especially at the large end. Two eggs measured 17.2 × 14.5 and 17.2 × 14.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	58–63	13–15	c. 24	73–90 mm (Baker)

Weight 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ 0.46–0.58 oz. (c. 13–16.5 g)—Hume.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill brown, fleshy at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet pale fleshy brown.

Genus ORTHOTOMUS Horsfield

Orthotomus Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 165.

Type, by monotypy, *Orthotomus sepium* Horsfield

Phyllergates Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 176, 229.

Type, by original designation, *Phyllergates cucullatus* Temminck

Bill as long as head, broad and rather flat. A few rictal bristles. Forehead very smooth and flat. A few long soft hairs springing from nape. Wing very short and rounded; first primary (as.) large, fourth and fifth longest. Tail with 12 rectrices, graduated. Tarsus long and strong.

Key to the Species

A	Throat black	<i>O. atrogularis</i>	Page 84
B	Throat not black		
1	Belly bright yellow	<i>O. cucullatus</i>	85
2	Belly buffish white, concolorous with throat	<i>O. sutorius</i>	78

ORTHOTOMUS SUTORIUS (Pennant): TAILOR BIRD

Key to the Subspecies

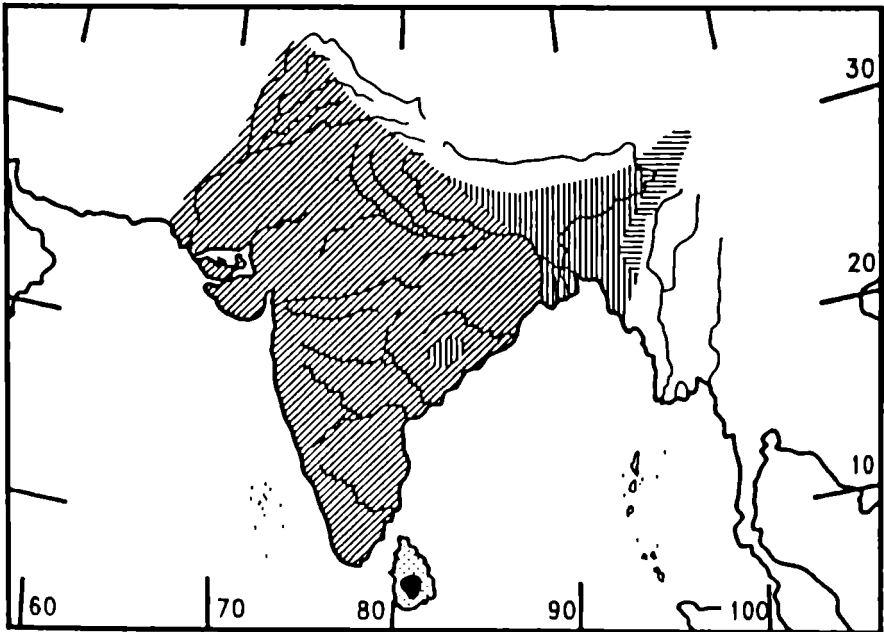
A	Upperparts brighter yellow-green		
1	More richly coloured; bill averaging shorter		
a	Below whitish buff	<i>O. s. patia</i>	82
b	Below more rufous	<i>O. s. luteus</i>	82
2	Duller; bill averaging longer	<i>O. s. guzuratus</i>	79
B	Upperparts darker and greener		
3	Plumage more saturated	<i>O. s. fernandonis</i>	84
4	Plumage duller	<i>O. s. sutorius</i>	83

1535. *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus* (Latham)*Sylvia guzurata* Latham, 1790, Index Orn.: 554 (Guzerat)*Sylvia ruficapilla* Hutton, 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 2: 504
(Simla, *vide* Koelz, 1939)*Orthotomus sutorius londae* Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 52: 70
(Londa, Bombay Presidency)*Orthotomus sutorius sindiana* Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 52: 71
(Hyderabad, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 813 (part), Vol. 2: 410

LOCAL NAMES. *Dārzee*, *Phūtki*, *Piddi* (Hindi, Marathi); *Tashko*, *Dārjido* (Gujarati); *Likka jitta* (Telugu); *Pānakkūrūvi* (Malayalam); *Thaiyal chittu*, *Pon chittu* (Tamil).SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small restless yellowish green warbler with whitish buff underparts and rust-coloured crown. Tail pointed, usually carried erect, the central rectrices narrow and elongated. Sexes alike but tail usually longer in male.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A common and widespread species. Pakistan and India from the Himalayan foothills [except range of *patia* (1536, q.v.)] south to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin). In the hills up to *c.* 1400 m, rarely 2000 m. Affects herbaceous gardens (even in the midst of noisy cities),*Orthotomus sutorius*

Distributional ranges

	<i>guzuratus</i> (1535)		<i>patia</i> (1536)
	<i>luteus</i> (1537)		<i>sutorius</i> (1538)
	<i>fermandonis</i> (1539)		

scrub country especially in the vicinity of cultivation; deciduous jungle and village environs; in arid regions it is found in wooded compounds even where separated maybe by several kilometres of uncongenial semi-desert. One of the few small Passerines adapted to live in mangroves (TJR).

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in pairs. Normally quiet and skulking, but tame and confiding near human dwellings. Usually keeps low down in herbage and undergrowth, hopping about energetically, tail erect and constantly flicked from side to side, uttering its loud, familiar call. Seldom flies more than a metre or two from cover to cover, the long tail jerked over the back in a very characteristic manner. Commonly seen hunting for insects attracted to mango blossoms, and will also feed on flower nectar; occasionally hops about to feed on the ground.

FOOD. Mainly small insects and their larvae: identified among stomach contents are tenebrionid and curculionid beetles, hemipterous bugs, ants, and jassid flies. Has been observed to take butterflies and moths. Also feeds on the flower nectar of *Salmalia*, *Bombax*, *Erythrina*, *Butea*, and many other species (pollen transported on frontal and throat feathers).

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note (as when nest approached) a loud, quick-repeated *pit-pit-pit-pit* . . . while hopping agitatedly in the bushes around the intruder. While foraging often utters a quick *cheep-cheep* . . . in runs of 5 or 6 *cheeps* each. Song surprisingly loud for such a small bird. Rendered as *pitchik-pichik-pitchik* . . . or *chubit, chubit, chubit* uttered intermittently all day long during the breeding season in series of 3 or 4 *pitchiks* with hardly any pause between the runs. When excited, the male 'climbs to an outstanding twig and pours out his song, his whole body vibrating with the effort, his tail cocked till it nearly touches his back, and the feathers of the throat parting to show their dark bases which give him the appearance of having a black gorget' (Betts).¹

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to December, but mainly during the monsoon when herbaceous growth required for nesting is at its maximum, i.e. June to August, often continuing into the winter months. Broad-leaved seedlings and grafts of mango and fig, young teak in nurseries, and cannas, crotons and suchlike ornamental plants in gardens afford favourite sites. The nest may be built into one large drooping leaf or several smaller ones sewn along the edges to form a cone or bag with threads of vegetable down. One thread may serve for several stitches. The ends do not always appear to be knotted, but flock out naturally and hold themselves in place. The upper portion of the leaf nearest the stem arches over and protects the aperture which faces into the interior of the plant. Sometimes the tension of the leaf is too great for the strand to hold the edges in place, and the bird returning with more material finds that the leaf has sprung back to its original position with numerous strands floating. At other times the knots, not being large enough, pull through, thereby ruining the labour of perhaps a whole day; but the bird's patience is inexhaustible and as often as a strand snaps, so often is it renewed and strengthened.

The nest itself, built when the sewing is completed, is placed within the leaf cone and consists of a soft cup of fibres (coir etc.), spiders' egg bags and

¹ The dark [crescent-shaped] spots on each side of the Tailor Bird's throat are found in both sexes and are partly due to the absence of feathers on an area of darkly pigmented skin, and partly due to the colour of the feather bases. Its nature and purpose require investigation.

vegetable floss. The rim is strongly reinforced with bark fibre. When built near houses or in pot plants in a veranda, as is often the case, all sorts of unusual materials such as bits of string, wool or cotton may be used. In semi-desert country where large-leaved plants are absent, the nest is of the *Cisticola* type. A number of small narrow leaves, e.g. of *Salvadora oleoides* or maybe a garden rosebush, are loosely sewn together with vegetable floss and the nest-cup within stitched to them for support.

The site chosen is usually under a metre from the ground on account of the bird's partiality for broad-leaved plants—occasionally in a leaf almost trailing the ground—but sometimes up to 4 to 5 metres. Nests usually well concealed. For further nesting details, see *Nidification* 2: 370. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, usually 3, very variable in ground colour but of two main types: 1) white to cream or pale pink, 2) white with a faint tinge of green or blue to a bright blue or pale sea-green. In both types the markings are fairly large blotches, spots and specks of pinkish red to red-brown about the large end where they may form an ill-defined ring, and smaller marks scattered about scantily elsewhere. Average size of 100 eggs 16.4×11.6 mm (Baker). Both sexes help in construction though share of male appears mostly to be bringing the material. Stitching of leaf apparently by female alone. In one case the building took four days; an egg was laid on each of the following days. Incubation by both sexes; period 12 days. Often brood-parasitized by the Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus*. When disturbed, the incubating bird slips off quietly until it is at a safe distance, when it demonstrates noisily. Male feeds his mate when she is incubating at intervals of *c.* 10 minutes. Feeding of young by both parents. Nestlings may be heard calling inside the nest but alarm-notes from the parents produce instant silence. The birds remain paired after breeding and may often be seen roosting cuddled together on a twig, sometimes in a potted plant in a veranda and hardly 50 cm from the ground.

Nesting subject to heavy mortality at all stages from rodents, cats, mongooses, crow-pheasants, lizards, snakes, etc. A pair which lost a *c/3* nest in August, the previous year, adopted three deserted nest chicks of another pair the following February and reared two of them to maturity (Ulhas Rane, *JBNHS* 80: 641–2).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Rufous cap confined to forehead and anterior crown; a broad grey area separating the cap from the yellowish green mantle. Central pair of rectrices much longer in winter than in summer. Prenuptial moult of body, tertials and tail.

Young, similar to adult female. Postjuvinal moult of body, lesser and median coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47–55	15–17	17–21	37 (summer) to 110 (winter) mm
♀♀	43–49	14–17	18–21	34–39 mm (HW, SA)

Weight 10 ♂ ♀ 6–10 (av. 7.5) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris ochre to orange. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower dark flesh; mouth pale flesh. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws dusky.

1536. *Orthotomus sutorius patia* Hodgson

Orthotomus patia Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 29
(Nepal, restricted to Katmandu by Ripley, 1950, JBNHS 49: 402)
Baker, FBI No. 814, Vol. 2: 412

Plate 87, fig. 11

LOCAL NAMES. *Pātia* (Nepal); *Tüntüni* (Bengali); *Teeteē sorāi* (Assam); *Noni dao teeteē* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1535, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Nepal terai, northeastern Uttar Pradesh, northern Bihar, Visakhapatnam Hills (Wangasara), Andhra Pradesh (Ripley *et al.*, JBNHS 85: 99), and Bengal east through Bangladesh, Bhutan foothills, Meghalaya and Assam (except for the range of *luteus*). Affects gardens, hedgerows, orchards, edges of forest and thin scrub; plains and hills up to *c.* 1800 m.

Extralimital. Burma. The species extends east through the Indochinese countries, southern China and south to Java.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1535.

VOICE and CALLS. Generally as in 1535. Song also rendered as *titaweeet* or *towee* repeated several times while foraging. A loud, clear *tyeeā* given in quick succession with barely any pause between.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to October, chiefly May to July. *Nest* as in 1535. *Eggs*, 3 to 6, generally 4, similar to those of 1535. Average size of 200 eggs 15.9 × 11.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More richly coloured than *guzuratus*. Upperparts more saturated olive-green; buff wash of lower parts more pronounced; rufous cap still more reduced; bill somewhat shorter.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	45–50	15–16	43 (summer) to 69 (winter) mm
♀♀	44–50	15–16	37–41 mm (BB, HW)

Weight 10 ♂♂ (April–Aug.) 7.7–8.9 g; 3 ♂♂ (Nov.–Jan.) 8.1–9.9 g; 2 ♀♀ (April–Aug.) 7.3, 8.2 g; 3 ♀♀ (Jan.) 7.8–8 g (Paynter). 1 ♂ 8.25, oo? 7–9.5 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to yellowish brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horny, lower fleshy. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws horny brown; soles fleshy white.

1537. *Orthotomus sutorius luteus* Ripley

Orthotomus sutorius luteus Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 105
(Tezu, Mishmi Hills, NE. Assam)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1535, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From the Mishmi Hills in Arunachal Pradesh south through Margherita in Assam and Nagaland to northern Manipur. Habitat as in 1536.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1535.

VOICE and CALLS. Noted as of same pattern but strikingly different from *guzuratus* of the Bombay area—a distinct 'regional dialect' (SA).

BREEDING. As in 1535.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More rufous-buff below than *patia*; crown and nape darker, forehead richer rufous.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1536.

Weight 2 ♀♀ 7.5 (Nov.), 8.5 (Oct.) g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale brown. Bill dark brown. Legs and feet flesh-coloured.

1538. *Orthotomus sutorius sutorius* (Pennant)

Motacilla sutoria Pennant, 1769, Ind. Zool. pl. 7 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 813 (part), Vol. 2: 410

LOCAL NAMES. *Battichā*, *Tawikā* (Sinhala); *Thaiyarkāran-kūrūvi*, *Koddia-pākkān* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1535, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread resident. Sri Lanka, in all zones from sea level to c. 1500 m. Affects gardens, jungle, scrub.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1535.

VOICE and CALLS. Generally as in 1535; described as a loud, rather monotonous call with many variants, something like *tiwer tiwer tiwer* . . . sometimes speeded up to *twik twik twik* . . . When a pair has become separated, it becomes a loud *twike, twike, twike* (Henry). Alarm-note, a rapid chatter.

BREEDING. Season, ill-defined: nearly all year but with a peak in March to May and again in August-September. Nest and eggs, as in 1535. Clutch size usually 2, sometimes 3.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *guzuratus* in being darker green above, more uniformly washed with buff below. Rufous cap more extensive, practically absorbing all the grey of the nape. Bill longer and heavier. Not yet clear whether length of tail a sexual or a seasonal characteristic (see Whistler, JBNHS 41: 96).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47-50	16-17	18-20	40-64 mm
♀♀	42-46	16-17	18-20	29-38 mm

(HW)

Weight 1 ♀ 9 g (SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1535.

1539. *Orthotomus sutorius fernandonis* Whistler

Orthotomus sutorius fernandonis Whistler, 1939, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 60: 15
(Ohiya)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1538.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (15 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1535, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The hills of Sri Lanka from *c.* 1500 m to the highest summits. Habitat as in 1538.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1538.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to October with a peak in April-May and August-September. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1535.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sutorius* (1538) in being darker more saturated green on upperparts. Grey of throat-feather bases more extensive; flanks dark slaty grey.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	49–50	16–17	19–21	52–64 mm
1 ♀	47	16	20	33 mm
				(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1535.

1540. Blacknecked Tailor Bird. *Orthotomus atrigularis nitidus* Hume

Orthotomus nitidus Hume, 1874, Stray Feathers 2: 478, 507
(Pahpoon, Tenasserim)

Orthotomus atrigularis [*sic*] *latebricola* Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration,
No. 1: 16 (Dimapur, Naga Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 818, Vol. 2: 415
Plate 87, fig. 14

LOCAL NAMES. *Tunglā teeteē sorāi* (Assam); *Hagra dao teeteē* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Male*. *Above*, olive-green with a rufous or chestnut crown. *Below*, cheeks and chin whitish grey; throat black; sides of breast grey; belly whitish; lower flanks greenish yellow; under tail-coverts yellow.



× *c.* 1

Female, like male but lacks the black on throat. Distinguished from Indian Tailor Bird (1535) by its bright yellow bend of wing and under tail-coverts (both whitish buff in the species *sutorius*). The rufous of crown is more extensive and reaches the green of back, lacking the grey area of *sutorius*. Best distinguished by voice, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Sikkim, northern Bengal (Jalpaiguri dist.), the hills of Bangladesh and Assam south of the Brahmaputra, and south to the Chittagong region, Nagaland and (?)

Manipur, from the base of the hills and adjoining plains up to 1400 m, rarely 1800 m. Affects heavy scrub and edges of evergreen forest.

Extralimital. The species extends east through the Indochinese countries and south to Sumatra and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. A retiring species frequenting low undergrowth in dense jungle. It is more often heard than seen and, unlike the Indian Tailor Bird, confines itself to forest, not being found in opener surroundings. Works its way through the bushes, tail cocked often well over the head.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud trill 'kri-kri-kri . . . repeated a varying number of times' (Smythies); quite distinctive and easily recognized when once heard.

BREEDING. *Season,* March to August, chiefly May and June. *Nest,* very similar to that of Indian Tailor Bird, usually built within a single broad leaf and quite close to the ground (within one metre). *Eggs,* 3 to 5, generally 4, indistinguishable from those of *sutorius*. Average size of 100 eggs 15.4 × 11.4 mm (Baker). Both sexes share incubation.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. 'Black bases of throat feathers of female can always be seen if turned back with the finger' (Baker).

Young, similar to adult female but lacks rufous cap.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	42-48	14-15	c. 19-20	31-36 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull 16 mm

Weight 2 ♂♂ 6.8 (Feb.), 7.5 (May) g—Paynter.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris orange-brown. Bill brown, lower mandible pale fleshy brown. Legs and feet flesh-colour.

1541. **Goldenheaded Tailor Bird.** *Orthotomus cucullatus coronatus* Blyth

Orthotomus coronatus Blyth, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 200 (Sikkim)

Baker, FBI No. 922, Vol. 2: 516

Plate 87, fig. 12

LOCAL NAME. *Inhanrui* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above,* forehead and crown rufous; a short yellow supercilium. Lores, sides of head and a nuchal collar dark grey. Back and wings olive-green; lower rump yellow. *Below,* throat and breast greyish white. Rest of underparts bright yellow. Tail brown; inner web of outer rectrices white. Sexes alike.

Easily distinguished from other tailor birds by its bright yellow belly.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Eastern Nepal (not recorded since Hodgson; an undated specimen in Brit. Mus. (N.H.), with collector's name—T.P.&C. Inskipp, JBNHS 81: 705), Sikkim, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts (duars), Bhutan and Arunachal foothills to the Mishmis, Nagaland, Manipur and the hills of



× c. 1

Assam and Bangladesh to the Chittagong region, up to c. 1800 m (2200 m on Mt Victoria). Affects evergreen biotope—scrub, grass and bamboo jungle, climax forest and secondary growth.

Extralimital. The species extends east through southern China, the Indochinese countries, and south to Borneo and Bali.

GENERAL HABITS. Very similar to the Indian Tailor Bird (1595) but is exclusively forest-dwelling. Usually found in pairs or small parties, hunting in low thickets, elusive and difficult to observe. Occasionally climbs up to six or nine metres in a tall bamboo when foraging, or makes short excursions into the air after insects.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a low buzz sounding like *kiz-kiz-kiz* (Davison). Song, a loud four-noted whistle, the first two on the same pitch, the third a trill (three or four notes uttered very rapidly) and the fourth either higher or lower than the first two. It is repeated in a remarkable number of keys, high and low, rendered as *pee-pi-pi-pee* (Smythies). Also described as a very thin and high phrase of three notes, *lü-ta-li*, the second note only a short introduction to the last higher and emphasized note. This song is usually repeated three times at intervals of a few seconds, each time higher than the preceding (Heinrich).

BREEDING. *Season,* May to July. *Nest,* made of fine grass stems, dry moss, lined with vegetable down and built within sewn-up leaves in the characteristic manner of *O. sutorius*. It is placed within a metre from the ground. *Eggs,* 3 or 4, pale blue marked with fine reddish specks. Average size of 12 eggs 15.5 × 11.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See *Field Characters*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
7 ♂♂	46–48	16–18	c. 20	34–41 mm
5 ♀♀	45–46	16–18	19–20	c. 42 mm

(Stresemann, Baker, SA)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 0.20–0.25 oz. (5.6–7.1 g)—**Humr,** 1 ♀ 5.9 g (SA); 1 ♂ 6 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill upper mandible black, lower basally orange, distally horn. Legs and feet brownish flesh.

Genus: LOCUSTELLA Kaup

Locustella Kaup, 1829, Skizz. Entw. Nat. Syst. 115.

Type, by tautonymy, *Sylvia Locustella* Latham

Cf. Williamson, K., 1963. The Genera *Cettia*, *Locustella*, *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais*. British Trust for Ornithology, Identification Guide No. 1.

Dementiev, G. P., et al., 1954. *Birds of the Soviet Union* (English translation) 499. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Bill slender, about half as long as the head. **Rictal** bristles very weak and hardly noticeable. **Plumage** soft. **First** primary (as.) very short; 2nd reaching nearly to tip of wing. **Tail** graduated, very much rounded at tip, the rectrices slightly pointed; **under tail-coverts** very long.

Key to the Species

A	Flanks boldly streaked	<i>L. lanceolata</i>	88
B	Flanks hardly or not streaked		
1	Rectrices tipped with whitish	<i>L. certhiola</i>	87
2	Rectrices not tipped with whitish	<i>L. naevia</i>	89



LOCUSTELLA CERTHIOLA (Pallas): PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

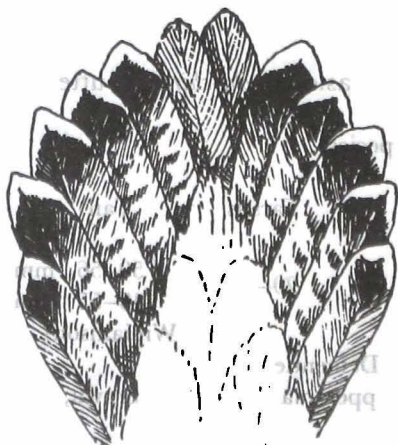
Darker and browner	<i>L. c. rubescens</i>
Paler and brighter rufous	<i>L. c. centralasiae</i>

1542. *Locustella certhiola centralasiae* Sushkin

Locustella certhiola centralasiae Sushkin, 1925, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 38 (1): 46
 (Khara Usu River, Khangai, northwestern Mongolia)
 Baker, FBI No. 805, Vol. 2: 399

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).



Tail from below, x c. 1

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1543, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT.

Apparently scarce winter visitor. Andaman Islands and Nicobars [Camorta—Abbott & Kloss (ssp.?)]. Habitat as in 1543.

Extralimital. Breeds in central Asia from the Tien Shan to Mongolia. Recorded in winter from Burma.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1543.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Keys to the Species and Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1543.

1543. *Locustella certhiola rubescens* Blyth

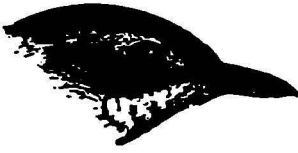
Locustella rubescens Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 582
 (Near Calcutta)
 Baker, FBI No. 805, Vol. 2: 399

Plate 85, fig. 1

LOCAL NAME. *Sun-batta-sorāi* (Assam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown streaked grey and dark brown. A pale



× c. 1

but conspicuous supercilium from lores to nape. Rest of upperparts olive-brown, the back streaked with dark brown. Tail rounded, tipped with whitish. *Below*, whitish suffused with pale brown on breast and flanks. Under tail-coverts buff. Under surface of tail blackish broadly tipped with whitish. Sexes alike.

Young bird similar to adult but underparts strongly suffused with yellow.

The white-tipped tail and more rufous rump distinguish it from *L. naevia*. STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, locally common. Lower Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Bangladesh, 'Central India' (Blyth, 1851), Calcutta, eastern Nepal (Biswas, 1968, JBNHS 65: 783), Andaman Islands, Sri Lanka (not recorded since 1877—Legge). A specimen netted in May 1963 in Kerala (P. V. George, JBNHS 62: 304). Affects swamps, *Phragmites* reed-beds and standing paddy-fields.

Extralimital. Breeds in Siberia between the Yenisey and the Sea of Okhotsk, south to the Lake Baikal region. Winters in Burma, the Indochinese countries, Malaysia and Indonesia.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in October, remains till April or early May. Arrives on its breeding grounds in late May and early June.

GENERAL HABITS. Very quiet and secretive in winter when it skulks in reeds and grass; rises almost from under an advancing observer's feet and hurriedly tumbles into cover again.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. In winter only an occasional *chi-chirrr* is uttered.

BREEDING. *Extralimital*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	61-71	15-17	20-24	{ 50-56 mm { 48-55 mm (Williamson)
♀♀	58-68			

Weight 1 ♂ 12 g (BB); ♂♂ 16.4-19.5 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower fleshy yellow. Legs and feet pale flesh.

1544. Streaked Grasshopper Warbler. *Locustella lanceolata* (Temminck)

Sylvia lanceolata Temminck, 1840, Man. d'Orn. 4: 614

('Mayence' *errore* = Russia, see Ticehurst, JBNHS 31: 497 and

Dementiev *et al.*, Bds. Sov. Union 6: 293)

Baker, FBI No. 806, Vol. 2: 401

Plate 85, fig. 9

LOCAL NAME. *Sun-batta-sorāi* (Assam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown streaked with black. A pale

yellowish supercilium. *Below*, very pale yellow, conspicuously streaked on breast and flanks with dark brown, this character distinguishing it from the other two species which occur in India (viz. *certhiola* and *naevia*). Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. Bangladesh (all parts *vide* Rashid), probably Assam, eastern Nepal (Biswas, 1968, JBNHS 65: 783), and northern India (where very scarce): Etawah (U.P.), Delhi and Kutch (in both places one record—Donahue, JBNHS 64: 425). Also the Andaman and Nicobar Islands—specimens from Camorta, Nankowry, Trinkut and Central Nicobar in BNHS collection (Abdulali, JBNHS 64: 185; 83: 141). Affects dense bush-and-grass; in the Nicobars open grassland and sugarcane; in Burma also low herbage in paddy stubbles.

Extralimital. Breeds mainly in southern Siberia from the Ob river to Sakhalin island. Winters in the Indochinese countries and south to Sumatra and Borneo.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in October. Migration takes place mostly in September (Dementiev); the Delhi record, August 17, is exceptionally early. Leaves in April. One taken at sea in the Gulf of Martaban on April 29 (on passage from Andamans?)—SF 6: 340.

GENERAL HABITS. Those of the genus; one of the greatest skulkers, hard to flush and usually seen only by chance. Makes its way rapidly through tangled weeds and grass stems and runs along the ground among the root-stocks of the herbage in a truly astonishing manner. When flushed, flies low and jerkily for a few short metres and dives into cover, running on immediately upon alighting.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, *chirr-chirr* louder than that of *L. certhiola*.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	
6 ♂♂	53-59	44-47	mm
4 ♀♀	52-58	—	mm
		(Dementiev)	
1 ♂, 2 oo?	50-55	32-42	mm
		(HA)	

Bill from skull *c.* 14 mm. Tarsus *c.* 19 mm

Weight (on summer grounds) ♂♂ 14-15; ♀♀ 13-14 g (Dementiev)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, yellowish at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet pale flesh.

1545. **Eastern Grasshopper Warbler.** *Locustella naevia straminea*
Seebohm

Locustella straminea Seebohm, 1881, Cat. Bds. Brit.

Mus. 5: 117, *ex* Severtzov, 1872, *nom. nud.* (Turkestan)

Baker, FBI No. 807, Vol. 2: 402

Plate 85, fig. 3

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale olive-brown with broad, dark brown streaks. A pale, narrow supercilium. *Below*, whitish or pale yellowish washed with buff on breast and flanks, lower throat often speckled. Under tail-coverts very long, whitish with broad brown shaft-streaks. Sexes alike.

The plain brown tail without white tips, and lack of streaking on flanks and breast, distinguish this species from our other two *Locustellas*.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Widespread winter visitor. The Indian subcontinent from northern Punjab (Mallalieu, Rawal Lake) through Sind (Munchar Lake), Himachal Pradesh, Nepal (Kosi Barrage) [T.P. & C. Inskipp, JBNHS 81: 705], Kutch and the Gangetic Plain, south to Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh (E. Ghats, Trevor Price, JBNHS 76: 416), Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, and east through the Bengal duars (Jalpaiguri dist.), Bangladesh (all parts *sic* Rashid), and NE. India. In the southern hills up to c. 1800 m. Affects flattened-down sedges (Cyperaceae) and low matted herbage on moist edges of drying-up tanks and in swampy depressions, grass and tamarisk jungle, ricefields, rushes and reeds; *Andropogon* grass intermixed with sparse date scrub on hillsides, especially on the fringe of sholas, in the south.

Extralimital. The species breeds in temperate Eurasia from Turkestan to western Europe; winters in the Mediterranean countries, southern Iran and Afghanistan, east to Burma.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in September, remains till April and early May. Spring passage takes place from the last week of March till the middle of May (Simla 2100 m, Dharmsala, Kohat). A specimen from Sikkim taken in June (Brit. Mus.). On autumn migration recorded in Gilgit (September) and Simla (August).

GENERAL HABITS. Very similar to 1544, q.v., almost invariably met singly. A great skulker usually flushed when almost trodden on, diving headlong into cover again after a short jerky flight low over the herbage and threading its way swiftly through the rootstocks. Almost impossible to flush a second time.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very silent in winter. Normal call when foraging and well-hidden a subdued *chek-chek* or *churr-churr* reminiscent of Blyth's Reed Warbler. Alarm-note (as when mobbing a snake) an agitated *cht-cht-cht* recalling *Dumetia hyperythra*, 1222.

♂ Has an almost incessant, unmusical cicada-like 'song' in breeding season, whence the name Grasshopper Warbler.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young (immature). Underparts washed with bright yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53-62	18-19	{ 48-61 mm { 48-55 mm
♀♀	50-57		

(Dementiev)

Bill from skull 13-14 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, lower mandible pale yellowish brown. Legs and feet pink.

Genus *SCHOENICOLA* Blyth*Schoenicola* Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 374.Type, by monotypy, *Thimalia platyura* Jerdon

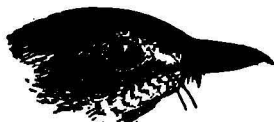
Bill about half as long as head. Two strong rectal bristles. Wing rather long, third primary (as.) longest. Tail long, broad and graduated. Feet powerful.

1546. **Broadtailed Grass Warbler.** *Schoenicola platyura* (Jerdon)*Thimalia platyura* Jerdon, 1844, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 13: 170

(Goodaloor, foot of the Neilgherries)

Baker, FBI No. 837, Vol. 2: 437

Plate 85, fig. 2

LOCAL NAME. *Potakkili* (Malayalam).SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 18 cm (6½ in.).FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark chocolate. An indistinct pale supercilium. Tail broad, rounded blackish brown, faintly cross-rayed. *Below*, whitish, washed with ochraceous on breast and flanks. Under surface of tail nearly black, the rectrices tipped with whitish. Sexes alike.× *c.* 1

The plain, unstreaked appearance and broad, rounded tail distinguish this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; on the whole rather scarce, common in southern Kerala. The hills of the southern Western Ghats complex from Belgaum south to the Ashambu Hills and east to the Madurai district; from *c.* 900 m to 2000 m (see map, p. 77). Occurrence in Sri Lanka known only from a single very old and insufficiently documented specimen and by two unconfirmed sight records by W. W. A. Phillips in 1939 (Gammaduwa, East Matala Hills, and Waitalawa, Nugatenne in the Rangala Hills, altitude 750 m). Affects steep grass- and bracken-covered hillsides, matted reeds and grass in marshy depressions among the hilltops, and stretches of *Andropogon* grass and stunted date clothing the opener slopes of the Nilgiris and associated hills.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in widely scattered pairs. Habits very similar to *Chaetornis* (1547). An inveterate skulker like grasshopper warblers. Seldom seen except in the early mornings and late afternoons (around sunset) when single birds will clamber up to the tops of grass stems, drawing attention by their feeble *pink, pink* calls, rather reminiscent of the Red Munia (*Estrilda amandava*, 1964) but louder. Flight indirect and top-heavy like that of *Prinia*, the broad graduated tail conspicuous on the wing. Like *Locustella*, flushes with difficulty only when almost trodden on and dives into cover again after a short jerky flight, threading its way swiftly through the rootstocks and vanishing mysteriously!

Display. In the breeding season rises constantly into the air, soaring 4 or 5 metres up with tail fanned out, chirruping like *Chaetornis* and descending afterwards in the same way on to some low bush or grass tussock, sometimes even on to telegraph wires.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. See General Habits and Display. Song delivered on wing as well as from a perch, 'A shrill and sweet trill, ending with a few warbling notes and *chacks*. It is the best song of any of our warblers" (Nichols, Kodaikanal, JBNHS 39: 819).

BREEDING. *Season*, (from the state of the gonads) March to May. Nests with eggs or young have actually been found only between the first week of July and September, so perhaps double-brooded. *Nest*, a good-size ball of coarse blades of dry grass with an entrance on the side, built in tussocks of long grass up to a metre or so from the ground. *Eggs*, of the same type as those of *Megalurus* and *Chaetornis*, qq.v.—white or pale pinkish profusely speckled and spotted with brownish red, here and there a few larger spots or small irregular blotches; clouds, streaks and tiny spots of grey or lavender grey form an ill-defined cap at the broad end. Clutch-size not ascertained but apparently 2 or 3. Average size of 10 eggs 19.4 × 14.7 mm (Baker). Presumably only one bird (female?) builds while her mate sings from a vantage point nearby (M.C.A. Jackson).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. There appears to be but one moult, February to April (HW). Young unknown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	64–72	13–16	21–23	65–73 mm
♀♀	63–67	13–15	21–22	61–66 mm
				(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brownish grey, greyish olive or olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower horny grey or flesh-colour; mouth yellowish pink, stippled with brown in some individuals; gape yellowish cream, yellow or black (it is not known whether these variations are seasonal). Legs, feet and claws greyish brown; soles fleshy.

Genus CHAETORNIS Gray

Chaetornis Gray, 1848, Gen. Bds. 1, pl. 48, fig. 9: 161.

Type, by original designation, *Megalurus? striatus* Jerdon

Characterized by having unfeathered lores with five very strong rictal bristles arranged in a vertical row in front of the eye.¹ Feathers of breast stiff-shafted.

1547. **Bristled Grass Warbler.** *Chaetornis striatus* (Jerdon)

Megalurus? striatus Jerdon, 1841, Suppl. Cat. Bds.: 88

(Nilgiris)

Baker, FBI No. 838, Vol. 2: 438

Plate 85, fig. 6

LOCAL NAMES. *Grenta pitta* (Telugu); *Kāntāvāli khād-fūdki* (Gujarati).

SIZE. Sparrow +; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

¹ These five bristles are set in a loose moveable flap of skin so that they move backwards and forwards as on a hinge. When pressed back they cover the eyes completely with a grating and afford adequate protection to them while the bird is moving through heavy rough-edged grass (Whistler, JBNHS 33: 783).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large brown warbler of wet grasslands. *Above*, fulvous brown boldly streaked with dark brown on back. Visible part of wing fulvous brown. A pale supercilium. Tail graduated, tipped with whitish, sub-tipped black; edges of rectrices pale brown with a broad dark brown stripe along the shaft having a saw-like design on each side giving the tail a barred appearance. *Below*, cream-buff, sometimes with a necklace formed by the dark shafts of breast-feathers. Sexes alike.



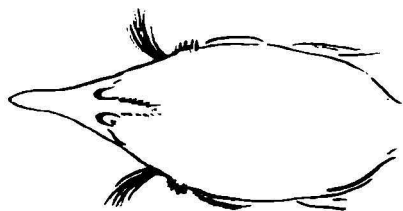
× c. ½

On a fleeting glimpse could be confused with Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*, 1254), rather similar to it in appearance and behaviour.

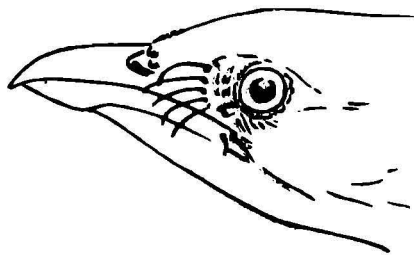
Graminicola has a nearly black crown (v. pale brown) and some white on sides of neck. *Megalurus* is much larger and has streaked breast and flanks.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to local movements. Distributed over most of the Indian subcontinent but very local; noted as fairly common in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and lower Bengal. Range: Recorded breeding near Lahore (Currie, 1910) but no subsequent records; also in Larkana dist., NW. Sind (A. J. Gaston, 1976), east and south through the Indian peninsula to Tamil Nadu, the Bengal duars (Jalpaiguri dist.) and the plains of Bangladesh and Assam. Does not occur outside our limits. Affects coarse grassland intermixed with low thorny bushes of *Zizyphus* etc., *Imperata* and other tall grasses especially in swampy areas, and also standing rice fields.

GENERAL HABITS. Similar to those of *Schoenicola* and *Megalurus*. Keeps singly or in pairs skulking swiftly through the grass, occasionally exposing itself at the top, tumbling headlong into cover on disturbance and difficult to flush again.



from above
× c. 1+



from side
× c. 1+

Rictal bristles

Display. Male soars in the air a metre or two above the grass every now and again, flying about aimlessly—up and down and in zigzags—for a short distance while singing loudly, and then parachuting back or diving into cover. These antics may be observed the year round though the bird is more noisy and demonstrative during the breeding season.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A pleasant, musical *chwee-chew* (rising-falling) uttered from an exposed position on tall marsh grass or bush (Donahue) and during display flight.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to September. *Nest*, a ball of dry grass with an

entrance near the top, placed in grass or scrub on or near the ground. Eggs, 4 or 5, similar to those of *Schoenicola* (1546). Average size of 22 eggs 20.4 × 15.2 mm (Baker). Incubation apparently by female only; period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Some individuals have dark shafts on breast-feathers forming a 'necklace' (Donahue, JBNHS 64: 425); this character has not been mentioned in published descriptions.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	80-92	c. 12	c. 28	75-95 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull c. 16; tarsus c. 30 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light brown. Bill: upper mandible greenish black, lower bluish grey darker at base and on edges. Legs flesh-pink; toes light brown; claws dark brown; soles flesh-white (Donahue).

Genus MEGALURUS Horsfield.

Megalurus Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 158.

Type, by monotypy, Gray, 1849, *Megalurus palustris* Horsfield

Bill strong; rictal bristles strong. Wing less rounded than in most sedentary warblers. Tail much longer than wing, greatly graduated. Foot deeply cleft between middle and inner toe, the latter partially reversible. Legs and feet powerful.

1548. Striated Marsh Warbler. *Megalurus palustris toklao* (Blyth)

Turdus toklao Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 179

(Calcutta), ex 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 603, and 1843, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 12: 99; ibid. Blyth, 1844, J.A.S.B. 13: 372

Megalurus palustris andrewsi Bangs, 1921, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 44: 592 (Malipa, Burma = Mengting, Yunnan)

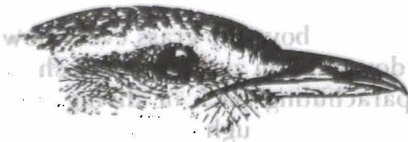
Baker, FBI No. 836, Vol. 2: 435

Plate 85, fig. 5

LOCAL NAME. *Takko*, *Jāl-āggīn* (Hindi); *Nul chaypee* (Assam).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A very large striated warbler with a long pointed and graduated tail. *Above*, fulvous brown with fine streaks on head and broad black stripes on back and wings. A pale supercilium. Tail fulvous brown. *Below*, whitish, tinged with fulvous and finely brown-streaked on breast, flanks and under tail-coverts. In fresh plumage, underparts dull primrose-yellow, quite bright in patches. Sexes alike.



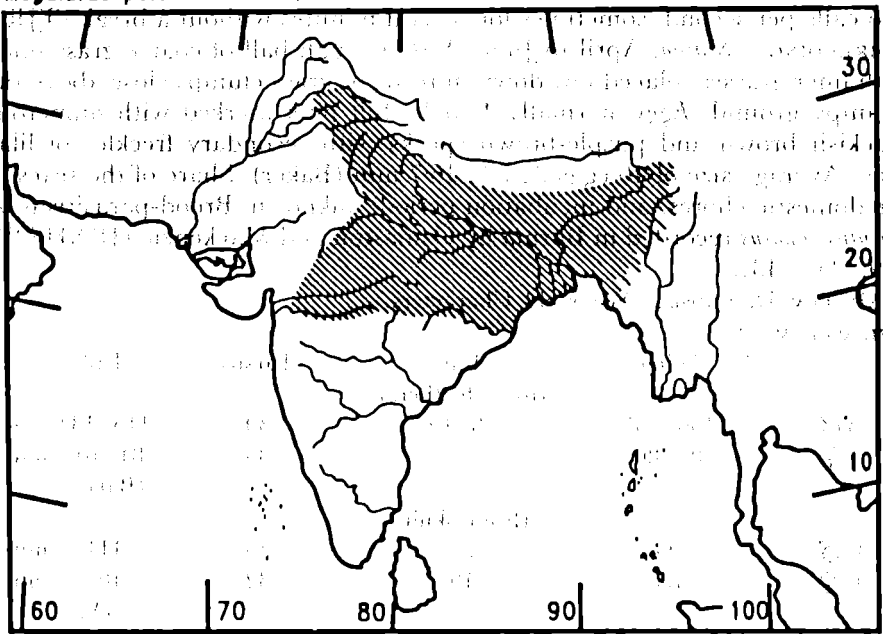
x c. 1

May be confused with two very similar grass-haunting babblers: *Turdoides earlei* which has a rufous throat and *Turdoides caudatus* which lacks any streaking on breast. Both also have a narrowly barred tail and lack any pale supercilium. *Megalurus* is also much more boldly striped with black on back

and wings. The warblers *Chalormis* and *Graminicola* are smaller and have white-tipped rectrices.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. From Pakistan [rare and irregular—once 29. iii, along the Ravi (Roberts, JBNHS 81: 403)], in the extreme northeast of Punjab east through the plains of northern India, Nepal terai, Bengal duars (Jalpaiguri dist.), Bhutan and Arunachal foothills, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh to the Chittagong region. South in the Peninsula to western Khandesh, the Tapti and Mahanadi rivers. Affects grass and reeds in swamps and around ponds, tall grass and scrub on overgrown cultivation clearings, and tamarisk-covered islands in large rivers; in Assam frequents grasslands near cultivation and villages, and in Manipur even enters gardens of the suburbs.

Megalurus palustris tokioe



Distributional range

Extralimital. The species ranges east through Burma, Thailand, southern China and the Indochinese countries to the Philippines, and south to Java and Bali.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually found singly or in pairs according to the season. Behaves very much like *Turdoides caudatus* and *T. earlei* with which it may easily be confused, but unlike them is seldom seen in flocks. Not such a skulker as other grass warblers, and may commonly be seen perched on bush-tops and reeds, especially in the early morning, when reminiscent in the distance of Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*). While perched flicks tail loosely up and down from time to time like bush chat (*Saxicola*). On alighting on a reed often observed to flick wings nervously like a *Phylloscopus*, fluttering one half-open wing for 2 or 3 seconds followed by the other, and so on alternately—an action comically suggestive of a person scratching his

armpits! (Presumably agonistic or threat behaviour.) Searches for food in dense cover, climbing about rapidly among reeds and grass, and threading its way through the stems and brushwood. Occasionally descends to the ground, walking about and feeding like a pipit (not hopping).

Display. Male soars in the air up to thirty metres or so while giving his song, hovering over the vegetation and parachuting down after a short flight with outspread wings.

FOOD. Insects and freshwater molluscs.

VOICE and CALLS. Song recalls nuptial song of *Melanocorypha maxima* lark (893—SA); rather loud and harsh but pleasant, rendered as *oh, where are you going* with variations (Roseveare), uttered from a prominent perch or during the display flight. One call is a clear, drawn-out, rather subdued whistle ending in a short explosive *whееechoo*, of a pattern resembling Bush Warbler's (*Cettia*, 1478—SA). Call-note a loud, harsh *chat*, repeated at the rate of about two calls per second, sometimes for several minutes without a break (TJR).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, a rough ball of coarse grass lined with finer grasses; placed low down in reeds or grass clumps close above the swampy ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, pale dull pink marked with numerous blackish brown and purple-brown specks with secondary freckles of lilac grey. Average size of 40 eggs 22.7 × 16.7 mm (Baker). Share of the sexes in the domestic chores, and incubation period, unknown. Brood-parasitism by *Cuculus canorus* recorded in Burma by Osmaston and Mackenzie (JBNHS 24: 359; 25: 743).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	100–137	18–19	39	115–134 mm
♀♀	82–86	17	35	84–102 mm (Baker)
		(from skull)		
1 ♂	95	21	35	111 mm
1 ♀	85	19	32	107 mm (SA)

Weight 14 ♂♀ 30–38 (av. 34) g—BB.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow-tan to pale brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horny brown, lower fleshy or yellowish. Legs and feet pale yellowish or pinkish flesh.

Genus ACROCEPHALUS Naumann

Acrocephalus J. A. & F. Naumann, 1811, Naturg. Land-u. Was-serv. Deutschl. 4: 199.

Type, by subsequent designation, Gray, 1840, *Turdus arundinaceus* Linné.

Luscinola Gray, 1841, List. Gen. Bds., 2nd ed.: 28.

Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia melanopogon* Temminck.

Phragmaticola (*sic*) Jerdon, 1845, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 13: 129.

Type, by monotypy, '*Phragmaticola*' *olivacea* Jerdon = *Muscicapa Aedon* Pallas.

Cf. Bond, G.M., 1975, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 95: 50–1. (Proper spelling of *Phragmaticola*).

Bill variable, from narrow to broad, in some taxa nearly as long as head. Three strong rectal bristles. Tail rounded or slightly graduated.

Key to the Species

	Page
A Size large; wing over 75 mm	
1 1st primary longer than primary coverts	A. <i>aedon</i> 97
2 2nd primary shorter than 5th	A. <i>stentoreus</i> 99
3 2nd primary longer than 5th	
a Notch on inner web of 2nd primary between 6th and 8th	A. <i>arundinaceus</i> 103
b Notch on inner web of 2nd primary between 8th and secondaries' tips	A. <i>orientalis</i> 104
B Small size; wing under 70 mm	
4 A conspicuous brown stripe above supercilium	
c Wing shorter than 60 mm	A. <i>bistrigiceps</i> 105
d Wing longer than 65 mm	A. <i>schoenobaenus</i> 117
5 No dark stripe above supercilium	
e No supercilium, outer web of 3rd primary only emarginate	A. <i>scirpaceus</i> 106
f Conspicuous white supercilium, 1st primary less than half of 2nd	A. <i>melanopogon</i> 114
g A pale supercilium; outer web of 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th primaries emarginate	
o Notch on inner web of 3rd primary between 8th and 10th; supercilium light	A. <i>dumetorum</i> 108
oo Notch on inner web of 3rd primary equal to tip of secondaries; supercilium prominent	
i 2nd primary between 5th and 8th	A. <i>agricola</i> 110
ii 2nd primary between 8th and 10th	A. <i>concinens</i> 112

1549. **Thickbilled Warbler.** *Acrocephalus aedon aedon* (Pallas)¹

Muscicapa Aedon Pallas, 1776, Reise Russ. Reichs 3: 695 (Dauria)

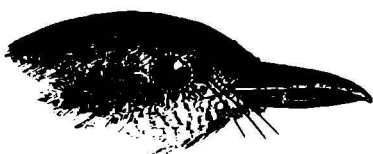
Baker, FBI No. 839, Vol. 2: 440

Plate 83, fig. 14

LOCAL NAME. *Chundanbheri* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, plain fulvous olive-brown. *Below*, whitish buff more or less tinged with ochraceous, especially on breast, flanks and under tail-coverts. Sexes alike.



The relatively shorter bill and absence of supercilium distinguishes this species from the superficially similar Great Reed warblers with which easily confusable on a fleeting glimpse, as also with Brown

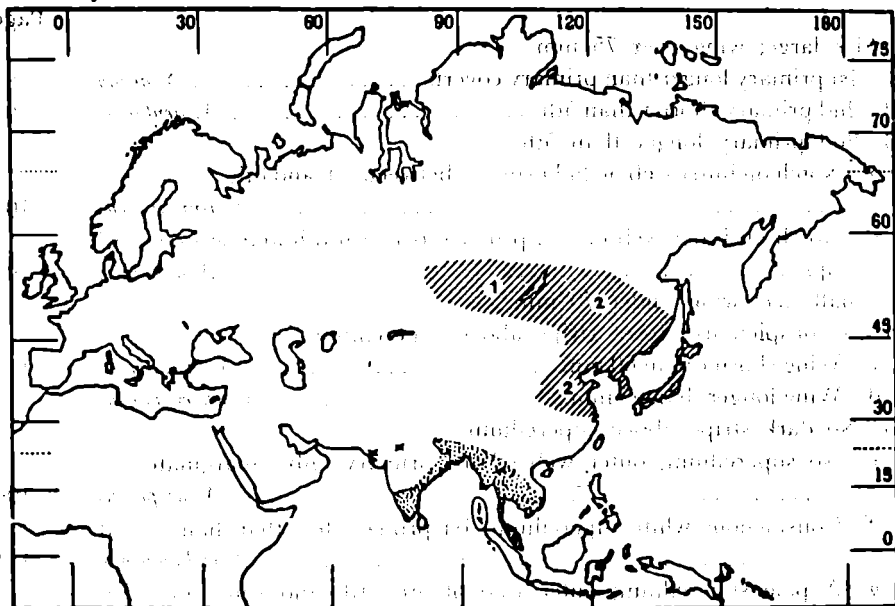
Shrike. Best identified by its distinctive calls (qq.v.).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor locally common; apparently more widespread than hitherto believed as disclosed by recent

¹ In winter quarters and in differentially worn plumage, individual examples of nominate *aedon* difficult to distinguish from the darker (more rufous, less olive) Amurland race *rufescens* Stegmann, 1929, to which some of our visitors may belong.

Acrocephalus aedon

Key to the species



▨ Breeding

▤ Winter

⊗ Isolated records 1 *A. a. aedon* (1549). 2 *A. a. rufescens* (RE?).

(After Dementiev)

mist-netting. Assam, northern Bengal and Bangladesh (fairly common), west to central Nepal (Kathmandu Valley, 1500 m—Fleming & Traylor, Diesselhorst and Pokhara—Inskipp & Inskipp), lower Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, southwestern Maharashtra, Goa (?), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala (uncommon except in the latter state); specimens netted in Kutch (Gujarat) and at Bharatpur (Rajasthan) between September and March (SA). Also winters in Andaman and Nicobar islands. Affects marshy places covered with reeds and bushes, patches of tall grass and weeds overrunning abandoned forest clearings, grass tussocks and bracken bushes on waterlogged ground, undergrowth in light forest, even tea and coffee plantations.

Extralimital. The species breeds in southern Siberia from the Ob river to northeastern China and Japan. Winters in the Indochinese countries south through the Malay Peninsula.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in September, leaves by end of April.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary. Rather secretive; hops about in the undergrowth and reeds close to the ground; seldom showing itself but occasionally makes short sallies after flying insects.

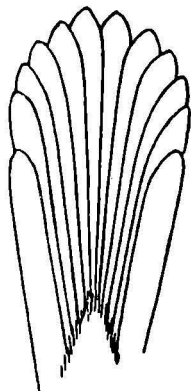
FOOD. Insects.

VOICE AND CALLS. A loud harsh, quick-repeated *tchuk, tchuk*, and *chr-r* while hopping among the thickets (SA). A sharp *click, click* (BBO). A distinctive harsh alarm-call *chok-chok* (by which name the bird is known in Transbaikalia), sometimes running into a rattle *chok-chok, cherre-rrek-chok*

(Dementiev). A secondary song given in winter quarters described as weak and monotonous but pleasing.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, *A. stentoreus* and *A. orientalis* by its first primary being longer than the primary coverts. Feathers of forehead rough and disintegrated; rectrices narrow and steeply graduated.



Tail, $\times c. \frac{1}{2}$
(After Hartert)

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	79-87	18-21	26-29	85-91 mm
9 ♀♀	78-85	18-21	26-29	83-89 mm

(HW, SA)

Weight 9 ♂♀ 22-28 (av. 25.9) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel-brown to olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower yellowish flesh; gape and mouth bright orange-yellow. Legs and feet plumbeous.

ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS (Hemprich & Ehrenberg): INDIAN GREAT REED WARBLER

Cf. Stresemann, E. & Arnold, J., 1949, JBNHS 48: 428-43; Zahavi, A., 1957, *Ibis* 99: 606-7.

Key to the Subspecies

- A Darker, less rufous *A. s. amyae* 102
- B Paler, more rufous *A. s. brunnescens* 99
- C Darker and smaller than B *A. s. meridionalis* 102

1550. *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens* (Jerdon)

A. (grobates) brunnescens Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 10: 269
(Carnatic, near Trichinopoly)

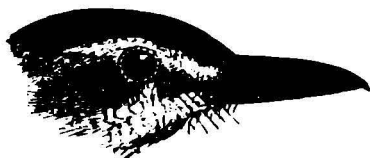
Baker, FBI No. 795 (part), Vol. 2: 389

Plate 83, fig. 19

LOCAL NAMES. *Kārkāt*, *Korkuch* (Kashmir); *Pān tiktiki* (Gujarati); *Bora-jitti* (Telugu); *Kaitakkallan* (Malayalam); *Kosu kattai*, *Nunni chirai* (Tamil).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large plain olive-brown warbler with a conspicuous whitish supercilium. *Below*, throat whitish; rest of underparts buff. Sexes alike.



$\times c. 1$

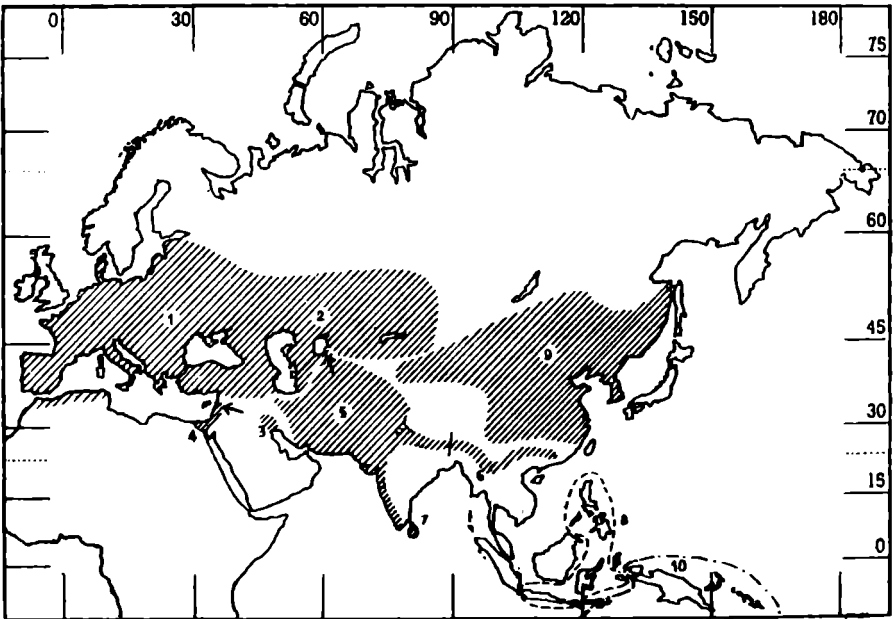
In appropriate facies may be mistaken for Brown or Isabelline Shrike when darting from bush to bush.


The superficially similar Thickbilled Warbler (1549) has no supercilium; *A.*

orientalis (1554) has a faintly streaked throat, though not readily noticeable in the field.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, passage migrant and breeder. Breeds mostly in northwestern India and Pakistan—Kashmir (very common in Srinagar valley), Punjab, Uttar Pradesh (Oudh, Bahraich), N.W.F.P. (Kurram valley), Baluchistan (Quetta, Chagai, Malezai, Makran coast), Sind (Karachi, Narra), Rajasthan (Sambhar Lake), West Khandesh (Tapti river), and the Bombay area (nest not actually found in the last three localities). Breeds regularly also in Kerala (Vembanad Lake—P.V. George, JBNHS 58: 797), Bengal (Salt Lakes, Calcutta—Biswas, *ibid.* 68: 456) and sporadically elsewhere in the Peninsula. Winters over most of the subcontinent from Sind, Madhya Pradesh and Bengal south to Tamil Nadu; in the

Acrocephalus stentoreus*, *A. arundinaceus*, *A. orientalis



 Breeding ranges

Arrows indicate areas of overlap between *A. stentoreus* and *A. arundinaceus*.

Breeding ranges

1. *A. arundinaceus arundinaceus* (RE)
2. " " *zarudnyi* (1553)
3. " " *griseldis* (RE)
4. " *stentoreus stentoreus* (RE)
5. " " *brunnescens* (1550)
6. " " *amyae* (1552)
7. " " *meridionalis* (1551)
8. " " *siebersi*, *celebensis*, *lentecaptus* and *toxopei* (RE)
9. " *orientalis* (1554)
10. " *australis cervinus* (SE)

(modified from Meinertzhagen, Stresemann and Dementiev)

N.B. Distribution within delineated range in central Asia and other arid regions sporadic. Distribution in China very imperfectly known.

southern hills up to 1600 m; also in Sri Lanka. Affects reed-beds and tall bushes around lakes, ponds, jheels and irrigation canals; on the Arabian Sea coast mangrove swamps, and in Kerala reeds (*Phragmites*) and *Pandanus* brakes along the backwaters. On passage may be seen in dry situations (acacia jungle, cultivation, etc.).

Extralimital. Extends northwest to the Aral Sea where it overlaps the range of *A. arundinaceus*, and west to western Iran. The nominate race is found as an isolated population from the Nile delta and the Huleh swamp at the head of the Jordan valley where it is sympatric with *A. arundinaceus*, the latter being restricted to reeds, and *stentoreus* to papyrus swamps (Zahavi, A., 1957, *Ibis* 99: 606–7).

MIGRATION. Widespread during migration in northern India and Pakistan, on passage to and from Transcaspia in March–May and September–November. In southern India (Madurai) it is found as a winter visitor from September to May. Kerala breeding population is probably sedentary. On its breeding grounds in Kashmir and Baluchistan from April to September. A bird ringed near Calcutta (22°34'N., 88°22'E.) in April 1965 was recovered 3 years and 5 months later (Sept. 1968) in Uzbek S.S.R. near Samarkand, 39°41'N., 66°58'E.—c. 2800 km NW. (JBNHS 66: 174).

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in pairs according to the season. Moves about in reeds close to water. Is a great skulker and might easily be overlooked but for its loud harsh single *ke* (reminiscent of Jungle Babbler's) or *chur-r*, *chur-r* uttered every few seconds, and occasional snatches of its very distinctive rasping song, q.v. When warbling, throat swells out revealing a patch of dark feather-bases.

FOOD. Grasshoppers and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song spirited, very loud and harsh but quite pleasant; a typical refrain of it well rendered as *karra-karra-kareet-kareet-kareet* or *prii-prii-prii* with many variations, suddenly bursting out of a reed-bed; often of peculiar ventriloquial quality. Described as louder and harsher than that of *arundinaceus* (Witherby). It is a good mimic, and according to Meinertzhagen, in certain cases it might be possible to tell with accuracy from the imitations interlarded in the song where a bird had spent the winter. In Afghanistan in spring he was able to recognize the calls of the Peacock and the Bulbul. The song may be heard sporadically all through the winter.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall May to August; in Kashmir chiefly June and July. *Nest*, a neat, deep and massive cup of dry reed leaves and strips of reed bark, lined with softer shreds of the same material. It is firmly slung between several reed or rush stems (*Phragmites*, *Typha*) standing partially submerged, from 30 to 100 cm above water level, more often under c. 50 cm and vulnerable to swamping by flash floods. *Eggs* 3 to 6, normally 4 (3 in Kerala, 5 or 6 in Baluchistan). Ground colour varies from greyish white to pale sea-green or pale brown, with numerous blackish brown specks and spots and secondary markings of lavender-grey. Average size of 60 eggs 22.7 × 15.9 (Baker), of 29 eggs 22.6 × 15.8 mm (Osmaston). Share of the sexes in nest-building and incubation unrecorded; both parents feed the young and attend to nest sanitation; incubation period undetermined. Nests frequently brood-parasitized by Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. *A. s. amyae* is darker, less rufous.

A complete postnuptial moult takes place from September to November;

apparently no spring moult. In fresh autumn plumage distinctly washed with grey on upperparts, particularly on crown and hindneck. With wear, the colour becomes much duller and browner in summer.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	84-97	23-26	28-30	76-85 mm
♀♀	85-90	25-26	28-29	72-79 mm
				(SA, HW)

Weight 10 ♂♀ 23-34 (av. 28.8) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale hazel-brown to olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish brown, edges and lower mandible flesh; gape and mouth bright orange. Legs and feet pale greyish brown.

1551. *Acrocephalus stentoreus meridionalis* (Legge)

C. (alamodyta) meridionalis Legge, 1875, Stray Feathers 3: 369
(Jaffna, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 795 (part), Vol. 2: 389

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1550, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, plentiful in suitable biotope. Sri Lanka in the low-country Dry and Wet zones. Affects reed-beds or rushes around lagoons, ponds and in swamps.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1550.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to August, 'chiefly June' (Phillips). *Nest and eggs* as in 1550; clutch size 2 or 3. Average size of 8 eggs 20.6 × 15.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the Indian race (1550) in being darker and smaller (Phillips, 1953, p. 95).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
7 ♂♂	80-85	18-21	27-30	65-75 mm
1 ♀	75	21	30	67 mm
				(Karunaratne, Colombo Museum)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1550.

1552 *Acrocephalus stentoreus amyae* Baker

Acrocephalus stentoreus amyae Baker, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 43: 17
(Hessamara, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 796, Vol. 2: 390

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1550, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident or short-range migrant; Assam in North Lakhimpur and probably other parts of the Brahmaputra plains. Recorded in winter from the Andamans (Abdulali, JBNHS 61: 562). Affects reed-beds and elephant grass.

Extralimal. Extends east to southern China.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1550.

BREEDING. As in 1550. Eggs, 3 or 4, duller, browner and smaller than those of *brunnescens*. Average size of 30 eggs 20.6 × 15 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *brunnescens* (1550) but darker on upperparts; fulvous of underparts somewhat richer and darker.¹

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
2 ♂♂	88–91	25–26	79–84 mm
4 ♀♀	86–89	25–26	79–80 mm (HW)

Tarsus *c.* 28 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris olive-brown. Bill horny black above, paler on edges; lower mandible pinkish, darker at tip. Legs and feet bluish horn.

1553. Eurasian Great Reed Warbler. *Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi* Hartert

Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi Hartert, 1907, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 21: 26
(Djarkent, Turkestan)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Indistinguishable in the field from *A. stentoreus*, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Accidental or rare passage migrant. One record in Kalat, northern Baluchistan, in October (Laubmann, 1913. 'Birds collected by Zugmayer in Makran in 1911', *Abh. I. Kon. Bayer. Ak. der Wissensch, Math.-Physik.* Klasse XXVI, Band 9). Affects reed-beds.

Extralimal. Western Palaearctic (see map on p. 100).

MIGRATION. An individual ringed at Kazakhstan, SSR, Chimkent O, Kizilkumsky region (42°59'N., 68°25'E.), Ring No. Moskwa 224242 on 25. v. 1989 was recovered on 9. xii. 1990 at Senpukur, Baj Bay (*c.* 22°15'N., 88°12'E.) 16 km WSW. of Calcutta, and released with BNHS ring AB-66176.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1550.

VOICE and CALLS. Apparently identical with those of *stentoreus*.

BREEDING. Extralimal.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from *A. stentoreus* in having the first primary shorter than primary coverts. Wing more pointed: second primary longer than fourth (*v.* shorter in *stentoreus*). General colour much paler. Throat often streaked with brown. An entirely misleading wing-formula could arise in August–November when

¹ Not always borne out by specimens. Tenability of the subspecies dubious.

many birds are completing the moult; shortness of first primary however is diagnostic. For distinction from *A. orientalis* see 1554.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	91-102	20-24	24.4-32	{ 72-84 mm { 71-85 mm (Williamson)
♀♀	90-100			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded. 'Iris yellowish sepia. Bill: upper mandible and tip of lower dark brown, rest of lower pinkish flesh. Legs and feet pale brownish grey' (Witherby, for the extralimital nominate race).

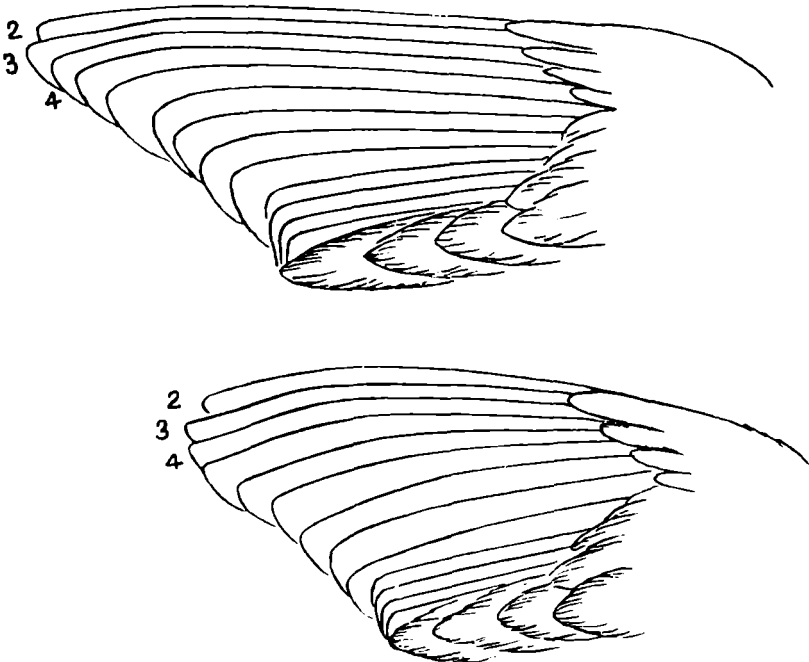
1554. **Eastern Great Reed Warbler. *Acrocephalus orientalis***
(Temminck & Schlegel)

Salicaria turdina orientalis Temminck & Schlegel, 1847, in Siebold,
Fauna Japon., Aves: 50-51, pl. 21 B [=20B] (Japan)
Baker, FBI No. 797, Vol. 2: 391

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Probably not distinguishable in the field from *A. stentoreus* although throat distinctly streaked. See Museum Diagnosis.



Comparative wing structure
Above, *A. arundinaceus* (1553)
Below, *A. orientalis* (1554)
× *c.* 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, possibly less uncommon than records suggest. Bengal (specimens mist-netted near Calcutta by Biswas); Assam in Cachar and the Dibrugarh area, and Manipur. Andaman Islands (Abdulali, JBNHS 61: 562; also a specimen in Brit. Mus. collected by Wimberly) and the Great Nicobar Island (Abdulali, JBNHS 75: 764) (See map p. 100.) Affects reed-beds.

Extralimital. The species breeds in China and southeastern Siberia and winters in the Indochinese countries, Malaysia and Indonesia.

MIGRATION. Found in its winter quarters from October to April.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1550.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *A. arundinaceus zarudnyi* (1553) but darker above; throat more streaked, wing shorter and rounder. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	75-88	20-24	27-31	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 67-77 \text{ mm} \\ 67-71 \text{ mm} \end{array} \right.$
♀♀	75-83			
				(Williamson)

Weight 13 ♂♀ 22-29 (av. 25.5) g—BB.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible and tip of lower nearly black, rest of lower pinkish to yellowish flesh; mouth orange. Legs and feet lead-grey.

1555. **Blackbrowed Reed Warbler. *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*** Swinhoe

Acrocephalus bistrigiceps Swinhoe, 1860, Ibis: 51 (Amoy)

Baker, FBI No. 798, Vol. 2: 392

Plate 83, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A russet olive-brown reed warbler with a conspicuous pale supercilium and a blackish brown stripe above it. Underparts pale fulvous buff, whitish on throat. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. Nepal (Kosi Tappu, *c.* 75 m—Inskipp & Inskipp, JBNHS 81: 705). Recorded in Bengal (24-Parganas dist., 'regular in small numbers'—Biswas), eastern Assam and Manipur. Possibly also occurs in Bangladesh. Affects dense cover near *bheels*, high grass and paddyfields.

Extralimital. Breeds in the Ussuri region; winters in Burma, Thailand, the Indochinese countries and southern China.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in November, leaves in April.

GENERAL HABITS. Typical of reed warblers; very skulking and difficult to see.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A *chrrr* of alarm.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	50-58	12-15	19-23	44-52 mm
♀♀	50-56			42-51 mm
				(Williamson)

Weight 16 ♂♂ 8-11 (av. 9.4) g; 8 ♀♀ 7-10 (av. 8) g (Williamson); 1 ♂? (winter) 8 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible and tip of lower dusky brown; rest of lower mandible and gape fleshy yellow. Legs yellowish brown with a fleshy tinge, yellower on toes and soles, browner on claws (Hume).

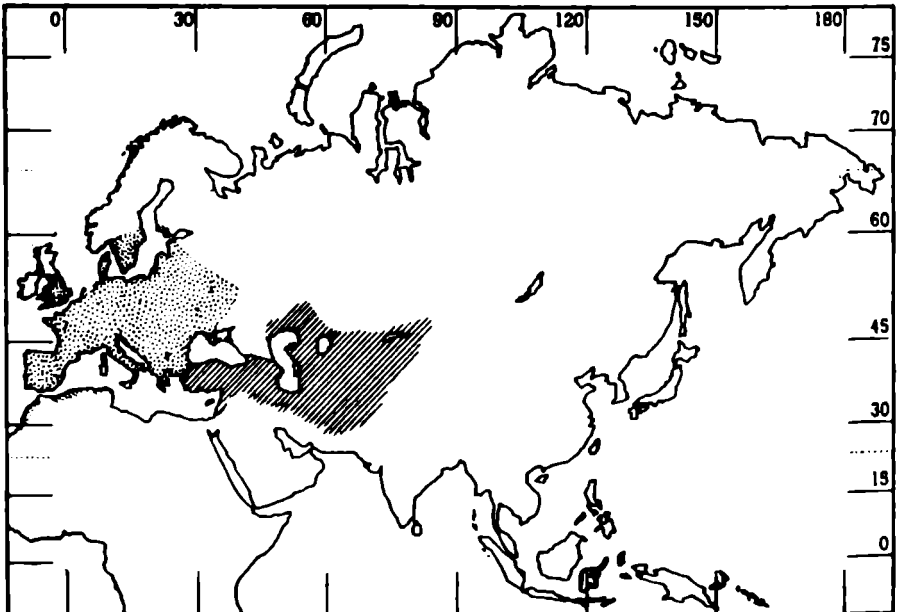
1555a. **Asian Reed Warbler. *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus***
(Hemprich & Ehrenberg)

Curruca fusca Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833, Symb. Phys. Avium, fol. cc
(northern Arabia)
Not in Baker, FBI
Plate 83, fig. 18

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A plain olive-brown reed warbler with buff underparts. Sexes alike. See Key to the Species.

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

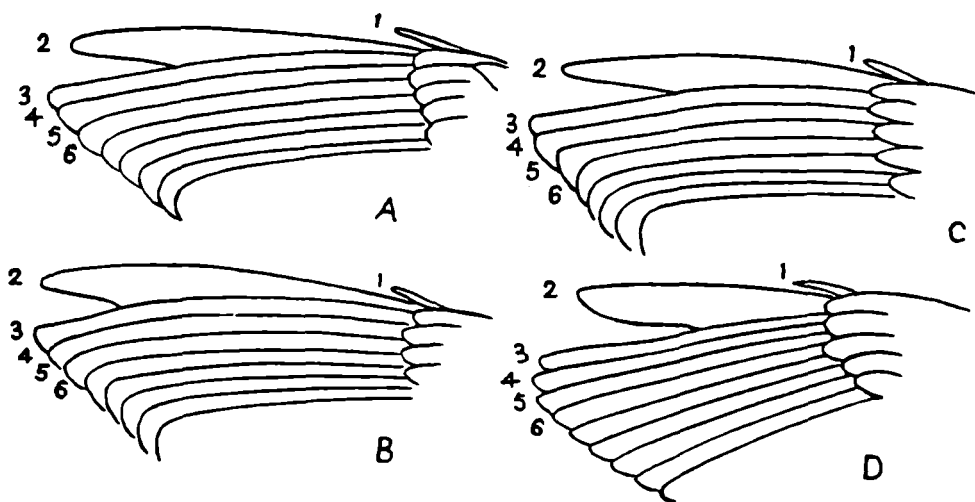
Distributional ranges



A. s. scirpaceus (RE).



A. s. fuscus (1555a).



× c. 1

A. Asian Reed Warbler (*A. scirpaceus*, 1555a)

B. Marsh Warbler (*A. palustris*, SE)

C. Blyth's Reed Warbler (*A. dumetorum*, 1556)

D. Paddyfield Warbler (*A. agricola*, 1557)

Showing differences in relative lengths of second primary and position of notch on inner web of this primary

Very like *A. agricola* (1557) but without the reddish (russet) tinge.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Probably breeds in the Malezai Lora, northern Baluchistan (see JBNHS 43: 480). May also winter on the Makran coast as the species is said to be a resident in Persian Baluchistan (Dementiev). Affects reed-beds around lakes and ponds.

Extralimital. Ranges from Turkestan and Afghanistan to Turkey. The species extends to England and Morocco.

GENERAL HABITS. Those of the genus.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Usual call-note a low *churr*. Song of the same type as *A. stentoreus* but not so loud and harsh, delivered in a more subdued and continuous manner.

BREEDING. *Season*, about June. *Nest*, a small version of that of *A. stentoreus* (1550).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	59-71	15-18	22-25	50-58 mm
♀♀				59-68
				(Williamson)

Weight 1♂ 9 g (Paludan, Afghanistan).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower flesh. Legs greenish horn; feet greenish.

1556. **Blyth's Reed Warbler.** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* Blyth¹*Acrocephalus dumetorum* Blyth, 1849, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 18: 815

(No locality = Calcutta, see Biswas, 1962, JBNHS 59: 410)

Baker, FBI No. 799, Vol. 2: 393

Plate 83, fig. 16

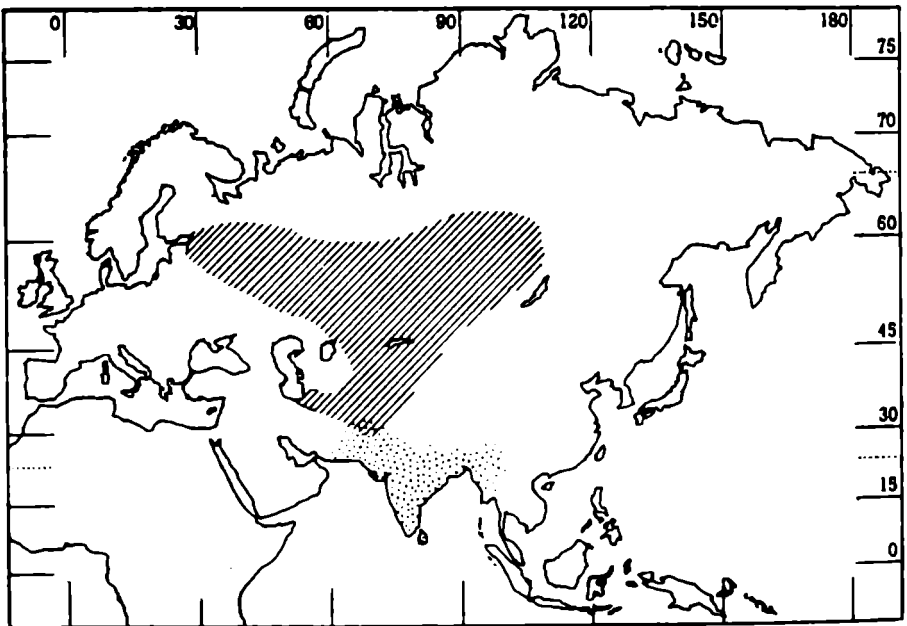
LOCAL NAMES. *Pōdnā*, *Tiktiki* (Hindi); *Pān tiktiki* (Gujarati); *Tikra* (Bengali); *Kumpa jitta* (Telugu); *Eetapolappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A smaller replica of Great Reed Warbler (1550). *Above*, olive-brown; a pale supercilium only prominent in front of eye. *Below*, throat white, rest of underparts buffish. Sexes alike.

Confusable with Tree Warbler (1562–3), but somewhat larger size, longer and heavier bill, brighter olive-brown plumage and prominent buff supercilium will usually distinguish it.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and abundant winter visitor. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, the Nepal Valley (Diesselhorst) and the eastern Nepal terai south through the Peninsula to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) and Sri Lanka; east through the Jalpaiguri duars, Bhutan foothills, lower Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh to Burma; plains and hills up to 2100 m. Very common on passage in Pakistan (Sind, Punjab), northwestern India (including eastern Rajasthan, Kutch and Kathiawar),

Acrocephalus dumetorum

 Breeding

 Winter

¹ Becomes *Acrocephalus dumetorum dumetorum* if *hopsoni* of the southern Sahara is accepted as a subspecies. Cf. Chancey, P.A., 1975, *Arnoldia* 7: 1–14.

the western Himalayas and Nepal, up to over 3300 m. Breeds in the Malezai Lora, 60 km north of Quetta, according to Christison (*Ibis* 1941: 535). Affects bushes, hedges, orchards, gardens, bamboo clumps and grain fields both near and away from water; in winter, mostly found in deciduous biotope.

Extralimital. Winters also in lower Burma. Breeds in central Eurasia from Lake Baikal west to southern Finland and south to Iran.

MIGRATION. Spring migration takes place from March to May when the species is very common in northwestern India; a few individuals may still be seen in the Peninsula till mid-May and in the western Himalayas till early June. Autumn passage already begins in August and lasts till October. Large numbers pass through Pt Calimere (Tamil Nadu) to and from Sri Lanka in autumn and spring. Main wintering season: September to April.

GENERAL HABITS. Although a reed warbler by name, this species is more commonly seen in bushes, sometimes quite far from water. Habits very similar to those of *Hippolais*. Keeps singly, hopping about and creeping through bushes and undergrowth, seldom affording a glimpse of itself, its presence within the shrubbery betrayed only by the distinctive loud *chuck* notes.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A harsh, single *chuck* given every few seconds while foraging—'reproduced exactly by placing the tongue against the teeth and drawing it back rapidly' (Davison). Alarm-note *churr-r-r*. Song, a chattering warble with 'a good deal of the spitting, sputtering noise so peculiar to the genus' (Magrath). A subdued melodious warbling, recalling the breeding song of Rufousbacked Shrike (*Lanius schach*) thus: *chek-chek-chek-che-chwee-chek-chek* rapidly repeated, punctuated by the usual *chur-rs* and *chucks* (SA). May occasionally be heard in winter quarters, particularly from mid-March on, when migrating.

BREEDING. Possible breeding in Baluchistan only, whence once recorded (Christison, *Ibis*, 1941). Elsewhere *season*, June and July. *Nest*, a compact cup of long leaves and grass-stems interwoven with cobweb and vegetable down, lined with fine grass stalks and sometimes horse hair. Hangs from stems and twigs, from a few centimetres to about one metre above the ground, in dense shrubs and thickets. *Eggs* 4 to 6, of very variable colour, generally falling into three types: (1) pale pink with reddish brown spots and secondary violet-grey blotches, (2) milk-white with olive-brown spots and secondary violet-grey blotches, (3) dingy white, covered to a large extent with cinnamon-brown spots. Average size of 24 eggs 17.5 × 13.8 mm (Pleske *in* Dementiev).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Distinguished from *Hippolais caligata* (1562, 1563) by its minute, pointed 1st primary (as.) equal to or shorter than primary-coverts; tail slightly graduated (rounded) with narrow rather pointed central rectrices; absence of white edging on inner tip of outer rectrices.

Arrives in India in worn breeding plumage. A usually complete moult takes place from August to November (HW). However, moulting appears to vary according to latitude, and may take place on the breeding grounds as birds from the southern Urals moult from mid-July through August while more northern individuals have not begun moulting by the end of July (Dementiev). Spring moult, apparently confined to chin, throat and breast, takes place in April-May. The upper plumage becomes much browner and duller by wear. Postjuvénal moult usually completed on summer

grounds but sometimes after arrival in winter quarters. Young birds recognized by being more rusty brown above. For details see Gaston, 1976, *Ibis* 118: 247-51.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60-66	15-18	21-23	50-55 mm
♀♀	59-66	15-18	21-23	48-55 mm

(BB, HW, SA)

Weight 4 ♂♂ (April) 10.8-13.5; 2 ♀♀ (April) 10.2, 10.7 g—Paynter. 20 ♂♂ (Sept.-Nov.) 8-13 (av. 10.6); 5 ♂♂ (May) 12-16 (av. 13.8) g—SA. 2 ♂♂ (Feb.-Mar.) 9, 10.5 g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible grey-black, lower light brown, pale flesh at base; mouth orange-yellow or pale pinkish yellow. Legs, feet and claws greyish flesh.

ACROCEPHALUS AGRICOLA (Jerdon): PADDYFIELD WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- More rufous above *A. a. agricola*
 Less rufous, more olivaceous above *A. a. capistrata*

1557. *Acrocephalus agricola agricola* (Jerdon)

Sylvia (acrocephalus) agricola Jerdon, 1845, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 13: 131
 (neighbourhood of Nellore)

Baker, FBI No. 800 (part), Vol. 2: 394

Plate 83, fig. 17

LOCAL NAMES. *Yerra-kumpa-jitta* (Telugu); *Pātākkūrūvi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

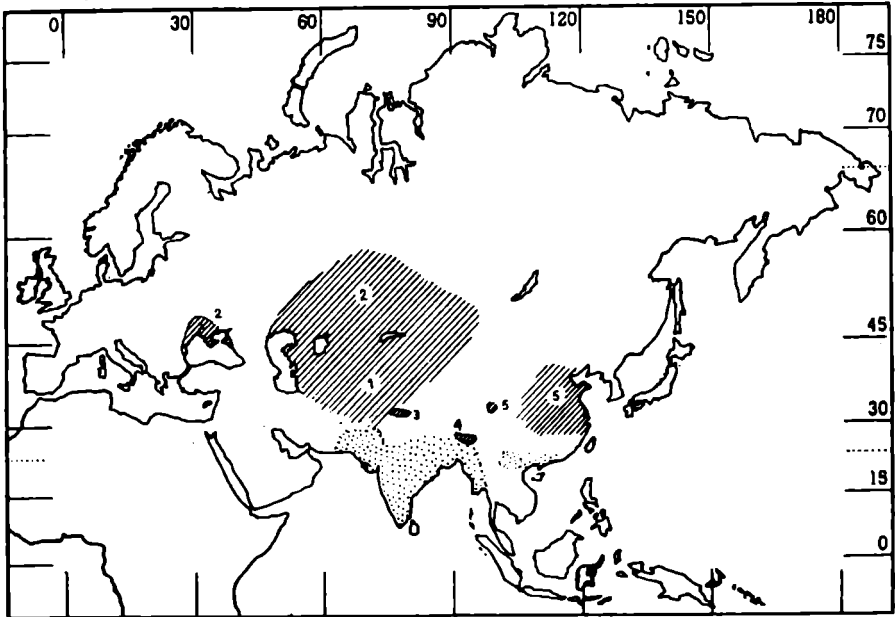
FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufous brown, rump a little paler and brighter; an indistinct pale supercilium. *Below*, throat whitish, rest of underparts ochraceous buff. Sexes alike.

Not distinguishable from *A. concinens* (1559). *A. dumetorum* is olive-brown above and less warm olive-buff below. *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (1495) has streaked upperparts and a brighter, white supercilium. *Cettia cetti* has darker under tail-coverts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Widespread winter visitor. The whole Indian Peninsula, Pakistan mostly in Sind, and as a passage migrant in the Punjab, Bangladesh and Assam. Breeds in the Malezai Lora, northern Baluchistan (Christison, JBNHS 43: 480). In winter affects standing rice, reed-beds, sugarcane and elephant grass, almost always above water or on wet ground; breeds in reeds, cat's-tail and neighbouring bushes.

Extralimital. Probably breeds in parts of Afghanistan and Turkestan (cf. Ludlow, *Ibis* 1933: 468). The species ranges north to Mongolia and west to the Danube delta. Winters west to southern Iran and east to Burma.

MIGRATION. Spring migration takes place from March to May (latest date: 27 May); autumn passage from August to October. Common on passage through Pakistan (N.W.F. Province, Baluchistan, Sind), north-western India and the western Himalayas.

Acrocephalus agricola* and *A. concinens

Distributional ranges

 Breeding

 Winter

- 1 *A. a. agricola* (1557). 2 *A. a. capistrata* (1558). 3 *A. c. haringtoni* (1559).
4 *A. c. stevensi* (1560). 5 *A. c. concinens* (RE).

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly within thick cover, hopping from stem to stem close to the ground or to water, clinging sideways and often lunging to snap up tiny insects from the surface. When flushed, the bird skims over the vegetation in a jerky, hurried flight, spreading the tail as it dives into the reeds a few metres further, the rufous rump then showing up prominently.

FOOD. Insects (small beetles, ants, etc.).

VOICE AND CALLS. A characteristic harsh *chr . . . chuck* constantly uttered. Song said to be very imitative and to resemble that of *Hippolais caligata*. Also sings in flight.

BREEDING. So far authenticated only in Baluchistan. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a deep cup woven around three or four reed stalks or other stems, 30 to 90 cm above water. Made of rough grass, lined with fine grass or reed fibres, wool, goat's hair, feathers and downy inflorescence of reeds. Of 25 nests found in Baluchistan, 18 had 5 eggs and 7 had 4. Colour varies from whitish to greenish stone, blotched, streaked and spotted with dark olive, brown, dark grey and black, the markings denser at the large end where they tend to form a zone, sometimes a cap. Average size 16.8 × 12.9 mm (largest 17.2 × 13.1, smallest 16.4 × 12.8 mm) [Christison].

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. More richly coloured and darker than *capistrata* (1558) in corresponding plumage, more rufous above, less dull and olivaceous, more rusty, less whitish below (Vaurie).

A complete moult takes place immediately after arrival in winter quarters. A body moult begins in early March.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	56-61	14-15	20-23	53-59 mm
♀♀	56-60	14-15	21-23	53-57 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 1 ♂ (April) 10.5 g—GD. 10 ♂♀ 8-11 (av. 9.5) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris olive-brown (once pale straw). Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower pale flesh; mouth pale greyish yellow. Legs, feet and claws pale greyish brown.

1558. *Acrocephalus agricola capistrata* (Severtzov)

Salicaria capistrata Severtzov, 1872, Vertik. Turkest. Zhivotn.: 127 (Turkestan), *nec Salicaria brevipennis* Severtzov, 1872, loc. cit., preoccupied (vide G. E. Watson & B. J. Gray, 1969, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 89: 8) Baker, FBI No. 800 (part), Vol. 2: 394

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1557.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1557, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. Recorded in Baluchistan, Sind, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and the Nepal terai. Noted in Kathmandu Valley on spring passage. Habitat as in 1557.

Extralimital. Breeds in northern Transcaspia and in the northwestern Black Sea region.

MIGRATION. As in 1557.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1557.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For subspecific distinction see 1557 under Museum Diagnosis.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1557.

ACROCEPHALUS CONCINENS (Swinhoe): BLUNTWINGED PADDYFIELD WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Paler	<i>A. c. haringtoni</i>
Darker	<i>A. c. stevensi</i>

1559. *Acrocephalus concinens haringtoni* Witherby

Acrocephalus agricola haringtoni Witherby, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 41: 26 (Buttakundi, Khagan)

Acrocephalus concinens hokrae Whistler, 1930, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 50: 71 (Hokra jheel, Kashmir)

Baker, FBI No. 802, Vol. 2: 396

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *A. a. agricola* (1557); not distinguishable from it in the field, though it is said to be less rufous and a darker olive-brown on its upperparts than *agricola*, with a slightly shorter supercilium and a longer tail (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A summer (breeding) visitor to the northwestern Himalayas in the Kagan Valley, Gagai Pass, Wardwan Valley, upper Kishtwar, and the Vale of Kashmir. An example mist-netted in Nepal (northern Jhapa dist.), February (Fleming, JBNHS 65: 332—subspecies?). Breeds in reeds, rushes and long grass around lakes and swamps, and in rank vegetation, either on flat ground or at the base of hillsides; in the higher rainy valleys up to *c.* 3000 m, frequently away from water. Winter quarters unknown.

Extralimital. Adjacent parts of northern Afghanistan.

MIGRATION. Noted on its breeding grounds from May to August.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. Not different from those of *agricola*.

VOICE and CALLS. Song described as pleasant, vigorous and varied. Probably not different from that of *agricola*.

BREEDING. *Season*, June and August. *Nest*, a neat cup of grass, reed fibre, rush leaves, occasionally some moss, lined with wool, vegetable down, and sometimes a few feathers. Attached to or suspended between several upright plant stems within 90 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, very pale green, almost white, stippled and blotched with yellowish brown, purplish grey and black, more or less all over but chiefly at the large end. Average size of 47 eggs 17.1 × 12.7 mm (Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from *stevensi* in being paler and slightly greyer above, especially on head.

MEASUREMENTS (all subspecies)

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53–58	14–15	21–22	{ 52–60 mm { 51–58 mm (Williamson)
♀♀	52–58			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel or olive-brown. Bill: black above, yellowish or flesh below. Legs and feet light brown or brownish flesh.

1560. *Acrocephalus concinens stevensi* Baker

Acrocephalus concinens stevensi Baker, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 43: 16
 (Hessamara, N. Lakhimpur, Assam)
 Baker, FBI No. 803, Vol. 2: 397

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1557, q.v. See Key to the Species and Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to some winter movements. Assam in the plains of the Brahmaputra. Recorded in winter in the Bengal duars (Jalpaiguri dist.), Bangladesh and lower Burma. Affects high grass on wet ground close to rivers or swamps.

Extralimital. Probably breeds also in Burma (Pegu); nominate *concinens* breeds in eastern China and has been recorded in winter in Guangdong and northern Thailand.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1557.

VOICE and CALLS. As in 1559.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to June. *Nest*, as in 1559. *Eggs*, apparently 3, pale buffy brown to sepia brown with dark brown to black blotches, bolder and larger than in *haringtoni*. Average size of 13 eggs 15.9 × 12.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *haringtoni* but darker.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	49–53	11–12	c. 20	46–50 mm (Stevens)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible horny black, paler on edge of commissure; lower mandible horny, darker at tip. Legs and feet fleshy brown.

1495. **Moustached Sedge Warbler.** *Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus*
(Madarász)

Luscinola mimica Madarász, 1903, Vorläuf. neuen Rohrsänger [a leaflet]
(Transcaspia and Persia = Tedjen in Transcaspia, and Khorasan
and Seistan in Iran)

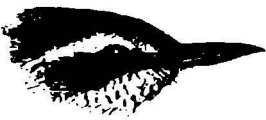
Baker, FBI No. 821, Vol. 2: 418

Plate 85, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufous-brown streaked with dark brown. Crown and nape black, the feathers edged with rufous-brown. A conspicuous white supercilium. *Below*, throat and upper breast white; rest of underparts cream-buff. Sexes alike.

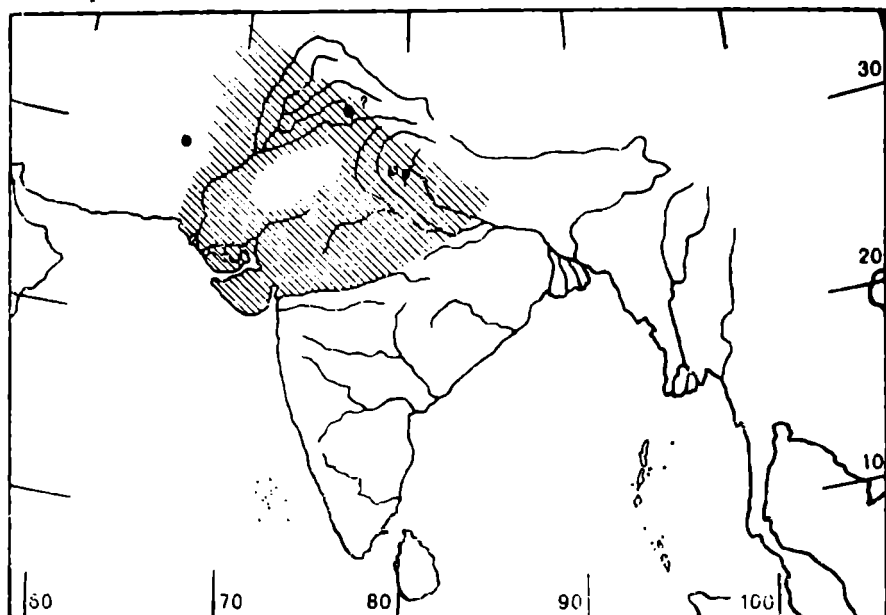


c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common winter visitor; partly resident and breeding very locally but often overlooked; thus distribution imperfectly known. Baluchistan, north-

ern Sind, the flood plains of the Indus R. system in Punjab, and western Gangetic Plain south through eastern Rajasthan (Bharatpur) to Madhya Pradesh (Schore), Bihar (Saran dist.) and Gujarat (Kathiawar, Kutch). Breeds sporadically in Baluchistan (around c. 30°N.—Meinertzhagen *apud* Ticehurst, JBNHS 31: 697)¹; circumstantially also in Punjab (Gurdaspur dist., Currie, *ibid.* 24: 603) and Kumaon terai (Lalkua, Smythies, *ibid.* 44: 295). Affects reed-beds and partially submerged rush and tamarisk thickets around jheels (or *dhands*) and rivers.

¹ No breeding records since 1914 (T.J.R., *pers. comm.*)

Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus

▨ Winter range

■ Breeding records

Extralimital. Breeds from the Caspian Sea to Russian Turkestan and south to Iraq, southern Iran and Afghanistan. The species extends west through the Mediterranean countries to Spain and Tunisia.

MIGRATION. Arrives on its winter grounds in August-September, leaves in March, some individuals being still seen in April. Movements take place mostly in March and September. Noted on passage in Chagai (Baluchistan) and Kohat (NW. Frontier Province) up to 1400 m.

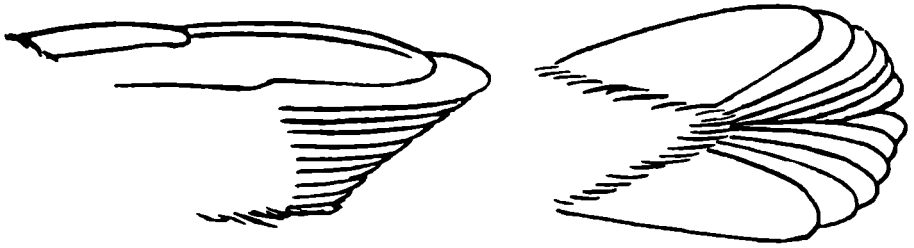
GENERAL HABITS. Creeps about among partially submerged reeds and bushes in search of food, frequently exposing itself on reed tops on misty early mornings. Picks insects from the surface of water or mud, clinging sideways to the reed-stems, stretching down and lunging to seize the morsel. Or it hops among the rootstocks in the quest with tail cocked like a robin or bluethroat. Is a great skulker, but at times will remain strangely unconcerned by the close proximity of an immobile observer.

VOICE and CALLS. A pleasing song that may be heard from early February on; call-note, a sharp *chuck* 'similar to the noise made in cocking a gun' (Whistler).

BREEDING. Little known within our limits. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a deep, cup-shaped structure of dead reed stalks placed in dense tangled sedges growing in water. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, evenly speckled with olive-brown and ashy, almost obscuring the ground.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young, crown blackish, the feathers edged with brown. Upperparts paler fulvous brown than adult with a few bold black marks on mantle and scapulars. Wings as



Wing and Tail from below, $\times c. 1$
(After Hartert)

adult but edges of coverts and tertials more fulvous. Broad first primary and narrower rectrices. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	60–65	<i>c.</i> 16	54–57 mm
♀♀	60–63	<i>c.</i> 16	49–55 mm (CBT, HW)

Tarsus *c.* 20 mm (Baker).

Weight 12 ♂♀ (winter) 8.5–13 (av. 11) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown, fleshy at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet olive-brown.

1561. **Largebilled Reed Warbler.** *Acrocephalus (stentoreus) orinus*
Oberholser

Acrocephalus orinus Oberholser, 1905, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 28: 899, new name for *Acrocephalus macrorhynchus* Hume, 1871, Ibis: 31 (not far from Rampoor), *ex Phyllopneste macrorhyncha* Hume, 1869, Ibis: 357, *nom. nud.*, *nec Calamoherpe macrorhyncha* Müller, 1853

Baker, FBI No. 804, Vol. 2: 398

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Known only from the type obtained near Rampur (*c.* 31°26'N., 77°37'E.), Sutlej Valley, Himachal Pradesh. Habitat unknown.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. This species is known from a unique specimen in the collection of the British Museum which Hume had collected near Rampur on 13 November 1867. C. Vaurie (*Amer. Mus. Novitates*, No. 1753, p. 9, 1955) discusses the specimen describing the wing formula in detail—5th primary [as.] longest, 2nd 10 mm shorter and 3rd–4th intermediate—but this is unhelpful since it is in moult. Primaries 3rd–5th are emarginated, and there is a notch on inner web of 2nd, 16 mm from tip.

The bill is long and strongly made, and akin to that of a small *A. stentoreus* (such as *toxopei* of the Moluccas). It measures 19 mm from skull, instead of about 15 mm in *A. concinens* and *A. agricola*. The plumage is almost identical with *A. concinens* (or with

A. stentoreus toxopei), being slightly darker olive-brown above, and buffish white below, heavily washed with fulvous on sides of breast and flanks. Its status as a full species whose breeding range is still unknown may be doubted. Perhaps the best guess is that it represents a rare and isolated form of the widely but very patchily distributed *A. stentoreus* (Williamson, 1963).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	
1 ♂?	61	19	23	54	mm
		(from nostrils)			
		15			mm

Width of bill at gape 6 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unknown.

1561a. **Sedge Warbler.** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Linnaeus)

Motacilla Schoenobaenus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10: 184)

(Europe; restricted to southern Sweden by Hartert, 1909, Vogel Pal. Fauna, 556).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A single unconfirmed sight record from Delhi by H. G. Alexander (*Seventy Years of Bird-Watching*, 1974, pp. 236-7) as noted in Abdulali (JBNHS 83: 145).

Genus HIPPOLAIS Baldenstein

Hippolais Baldenstein, 1827, Neue Alpina 2: 77.

Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia polyglotta* Vieillot

Close to *Acrocephalus* but tail square or nearly so. Bill flattened and wide. Three weak rictal bristles.

Key to the Species

	Page
Wing over 70 mm <i>H. languida</i>	120
Wing under 70 mm <i>H. caligata</i>	117

HIPPOLAIS CALIGATA (Lichtenstein): BOOTED TREE WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Tail usually under 50 mm <i>H.c. caligata</i>
Tail usually over 50 mm <i>H. c. rama</i>

1562. *Hippolais caligata caligata* (Lichtenstein)

Sylvia caligata Lichtenstein, 1823, in Eversmann's Reise Orenburg Buchara: 128 (Ilek River, near Orenburg)

Sylvia scita Eversmann, 1843, Add. Pallas Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat., fasc. 3: 12 (Ural Mts)

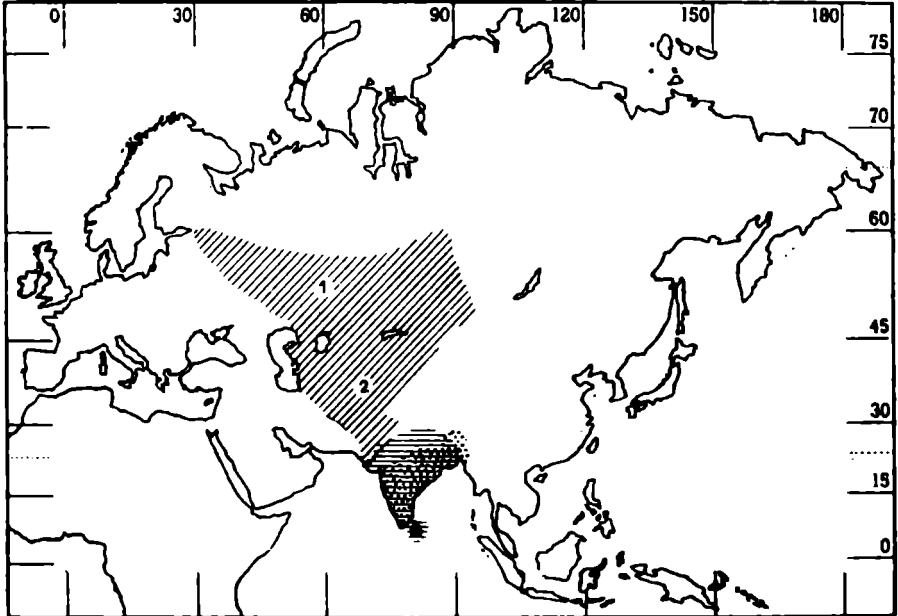
Baker, FBI No. 842, Vol. 2: 444




Plate 86, fig. 3

LOCAL NAMES. *Chinnanbhēri* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow -; 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1563, q.v.

Hippolais caligata

 Breeding range 1, 2
  Winter, 1
  Winter, 2
 1 *caligata* (1562). 2 *rama* (1563).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Widespread and fairly common winter visitor. The Indian Peninsula from Madhya Pradesh and the Ganges south to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin); east through the Bengal duars, Assam and Bangladesh (*vide* Rashid). Also Sri Lanka (one record—Phillips). On passage throughout the western Himalayas and Pakistan (including northern Baluchistan), northern and northwestern India, Nepal (not recorded since Hodgson) and Sikkim. Affects deciduous scrub jungle, isolated shrubs in dry cultivated land, clumps of grass, and occasionally reeds.

Extralimital. Breeds in southern Siberia from the Yenisey to the Leningrad region.

MIGRATION. Spring passage from April to May; autumn passage August to September. On its winter grounds from August to April.



Wing

Tail

(After Hartert), $\times c. 1$

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1563.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *rama* but upperparts darker, more fulvous brown. Tail shorter.

Young (immature) paler, more sandy grey above, whiter below. Often migrates in this plumage.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	59-65	13-15	19-22	{ 47-51 mm { 46-52 mm
♀♀	58-65			
				(HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1563.

1563. *Hippolais caligata rama* (Sykes)

Sylvia Rama Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 89 (Dukhun)
 Baker, FBI No. 840, Vol. 2: 442

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale olive-brown; a short, whitish supercilium. *Below*, buffish white. Sexes alike.

May be easily confused with the very similar Paddyfield and Blyth's warblers which are darker brown. The latter is slightly larger, has a sensibly longer bill and a more rounded (*v.* square-ended) tail. May also be confused with some *Phylloscopi* but calls different.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread winter visitor. From Sind, Delhi and Calcutta south to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) and Sri Lanka. Breeds sporadically in the wetter parts of Sind and throughout Baluchistan and along the Indus in the N.W.F.P. and northern Punjab (Mianwali dist.). In winter affects almost any country where acacias, bushes or scrub abound. More a bird of semi-desert country whereas *caligata* prefers less arid parts. In the breeding season frequents tamarisks and bushes along river beds and canals; also gardens and hedges.

Extralimital. Breeds also in Afghanistan, northern Iran, southern Turkestan and Transcaspia.

MIGRATION. As a winter visitor may be found from September (August in the north) to April. On its summer grounds from April to August. Common on passage through northern India, Pakistan, the Makran coast and the western Himalayas.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually seen singly, sometimes loose 'flocks' of up to 10 birds or so, restlessly hunting insects among leaves and blossoms such as *Acacia* and *Prosopis*; often flies out from the extremity of a twig to take insects on the wing. Closely resembles leaf warblers in behaviour and movements.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A harsh *chuck . . . chuck* or *churr-r . . . churr-r* recalling the notes of the Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*). Song, a soft, sweet and spirited creaky jingle from well inside a bush on breeding grounds during

pauses in foraging (T. J. Roberts, JBNHS 77: 18), reminiscent of song of Lesser Whitethroat as well as of Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) uttered more or less incessantly throughout the day from shortly before spring departure. A quieter warbling in the nature of sub-song given now and again in winter while foraging.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a cup of twigs, grass roots and stems, lined with fine grass, wool, vegetable down and hair. Well hidden in dense undergrowth especially tamarisk and rose bushes, sometimes in grass clumps, within a couple of metres from the ground. *Eggs*, normally 3 or 4, occasionally 5, very variable: pinkish white to pale grey with grey, purple or black spots and specks, sometimes lines, scrawls or blotches (for further details see Baker, *Nidification* 2: 402). Average size of 200 eggs 15.8 × 12.3 mm (Baker). Appears to breed in loose colonies; many nests may be found in a small area and sometimes a couple of nests even in the same bush. Share of the sexes in nest-building and incubation, and incubation period, unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. In fresh winter plumage differs from *caligata* (1562) by its uniform mouse-grey upperparts with slight olive tinge, as against darker, more fulvous brown. Tail longer, usually over 50 mm.

Best differentiated from *Acrocephalus dumetorum* by the rudimentary first primary being longer than primary coverts by 4–10 mm. In *A. dumetorum* the first primary is narrow and pin-like, shorter than or equal to primary coverts, never exceeding them by more than *c.* 3 mm.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60–65	14–16	19–22	50–57 mm
♀♀	58–62	15–16	20–21	49–57 mm

(HW, SA, CBT)

Weight 14 ♂♀ 8–11 (av. 9.3) g—SA (possibly both subspecies); 1 ♀ 8 g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel-brown or olive-brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower pale flesh; mouth pale lemon-yellow or bright yellow; gape yellowish buff. Legs and feet greyish brown; claws dusky; soles pale lemon-yellow.

1564. **Upcher's Tree Warbler. *Hippolais languida***
(Hemprich & Ehrenberg)

Curruca languida Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833, Symb. Phys. Avium, fol. cc
(Syria)

Baker, FBI No. 844, Vol. 2: 445

Plate 86, fig. 1

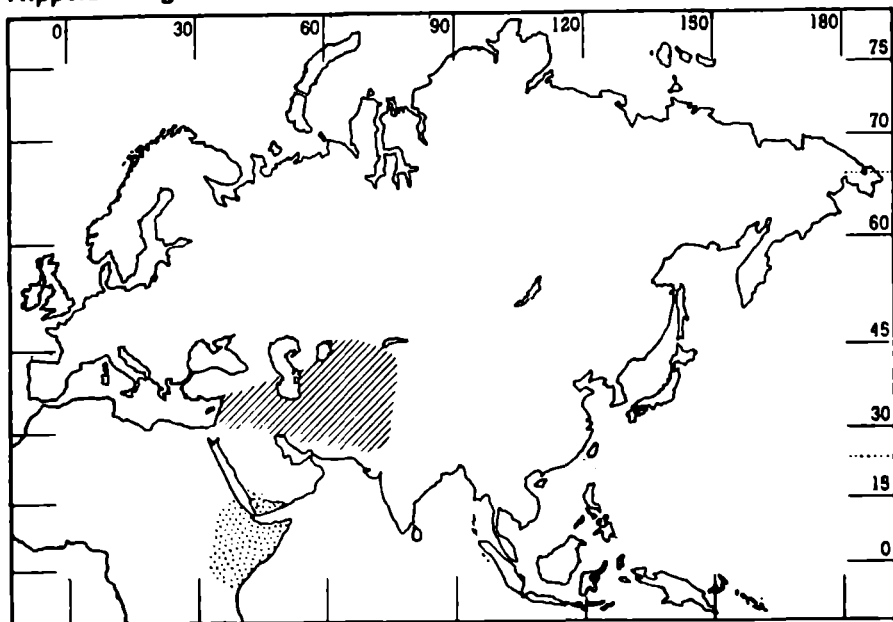
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 14 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale grey-brown. Lores whitish. *Below*, buffish white, flanks washed with pale brown. Outer rectrices tipped white. Sexes alike.

The conspicuous white-tipped rectrices identify this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer visitor. Breeds in small numbers in the hills of Quetta at *c.* 2300–2400 m. Affects stunted

Hippolais languida

 Breeding

 Winter

bush-covered, stony hillsides. Recorded on migration in southern Baluchistan. Bharatpur (winter).

Extralimital. Extends to the Aral Sea and eastern Mediterranean. Winters in southwestern Arabia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya.

MIGRATION. Arrives on its summer grounds in April. Autumn passage noted in September and spring passage in April (Baluchistan).

GENERAL HABITS. Undescribed. Said to be rather silent and thus easily overlooked.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song a continuous chittering and babbling, interspersed with some quite melodic phrases (TJR). Call-note a sharp *chick chick*.

BREEDING. *Season,* May and June. *Nest,* a neat cup of grass well plastered with cobweb on the outside and lined with fine grass-stems. Generally placed in stunted, thorny bushes some 30 to 50 cm from the ground. *Eggs,* clutch size not recorded with certainty (c/4-5 in more northern latitudes); colour, pale pinkish purple, sparsely marked with fairly bold black blotches and dots. Average size of 28 eggs 18.9 × 13.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. The white-tipped rectrices distinguish this species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	71-77	18-21	21-22	{ 59-62 mm { 60-72 mm (Dementiev)
4 ♀♀				

Weight 4 ♂♂ 9.8-10.5; 3 ♀♀ 9.6-10 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower flesh. Legs and feet light brown or flesh.

Genus SYLVIA SCOPOLI

Sylvia Scopoli, 1769, Annus I, Hist. Nat.: 154.

Type, by subsequent designation, *Motacilla Atricapilla* Linnaeus

Bill not compressed, culmen more or less curved. Rictal bristles less developed than in *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais*.

Cf. Williamson, K., 1964, The Genus *Sylvia*. British Trust for Ornithology, Field Guide No. 9.

Key to the Species

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------|
| I | First primary (as.) shorter than primary-coverts | |
| A | Underparts conspicuously barred | <i>S. nisoria</i> 122 |
| B | Underparts not barred | <i>S. communis</i> 125 |
| II | First primary longer than primary-coverts | |
| C | Wing over 74 mm | <i>S. hortensis</i> 123 |
| D | Wing under 73 mm | |
| 1 | Upper plumage a striking fawn colour | <i>S. nana</i> 131 |
| 2 | Upper plumage grey or grey-brown | |
| a | Legs pinkish or flesh | <i>S. mystacea</i> 133 |
| b | Legs dark grey | <i>S. curruca</i> 127 |

1564a. **Barred Warbler.** *Sylvia nisoria* (Bechstein)

Motacilla nisoria Bechstein, Orn. Monatsb. 15: 3

(Kachka Su, central Tien Shan)

Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 84, fig. 1

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large warbler resembling whitethroats in shape and actions.

Male (adult). *Above*, grey, flecked with white on sides of crown; wing-coverts, tertials and upper tail-coverts tipped with white. Outer rectrices partly white. *Below*, white scalloped with grey (except on centre of belly).

Female similar but scalloping much less prominent.

Young birds have plain whitish buff underparts.

The finely barred appearance of underparts is diagnostic. The yellow eye is also a distinctive character in both sexes (juveniles have a brown iris).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Scarce passage migrant. Only a few records: Gilgit, 1500 m (Biddulph, *vide* N. B. Kinnear, *Ibis* 1931: 575); Ladakh in the Shyok Valley, 4150 m (J. A. Sillem, 1934, *Orgaan der Cl. Nederland. Vogelk.* 7: 29) and a solo each in the autumns of 1981 and 1982 at Tikse near Leh (University of Southampton Ladakh Expedition, 1977–82) and Kashmir in the Suru Valley, 2. ix. 1983 (Oxford University Expedition to Kashmir). Affects bushes.

Extralimital. Breeds in the western Palaearctic from Turkestan to Germany. Winters in eastern Africa from Egypt to South Africa.

MIGRATION. The specimen from Ladakh (a juvenile) was taken on 2 July, that from Gilgit on 6 September.

GENERAL HABITS. Those of the genus. Very skulking.

FOOD. Insects in summer and also berries in autumn.

VOICE and CALLS. A *chak, chak* and a churring note as common to most members of the genus. Alarm, a harsh chatter *err-err-err*. Said to be a magnificent songster.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Unbarred juvenile distinguished from young or female *S. hortensis* by having first primary shorter than primary-coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	83-90	16-18	24-26	64-79 mm (Williamson)

Weight 50 ♂♀ (first-winter) 18.8-31 (av. 22.8) g—Williamson.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale to bright yellow in adults, dark brown in juveniles becoming grey-brown in first winter. Bill dark brown, base of lower mandible yellow or yellowish brown. Legs and feet dull yellowish flesh to brownish grey.

1565. **Orphean Warbler.** *Sylvia hortensis jerdoni* (Blyth)

C.(urruca) Jerdoni Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 439
(Southern India)

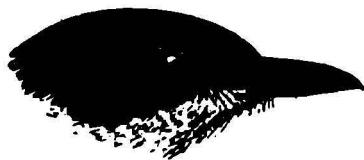
Baker, FBI No. 846, Vol. 2: 448

Plate 84, fig. 3

LOCAL NAMES. *Gaz burruck* (Brahui); *Moto shvēta kāntha* (Gujarati); *Pedda nalla kampa jitta* (Telugu).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large grey warbler with a white throat, dark crown and cheeks, and pale eyes.



× *c.* 1

Male (adult). *Above*, head black; rest of upperparts grey. Tail blackish, outer rectrices white. *Below*, throat white, rest buffish white.

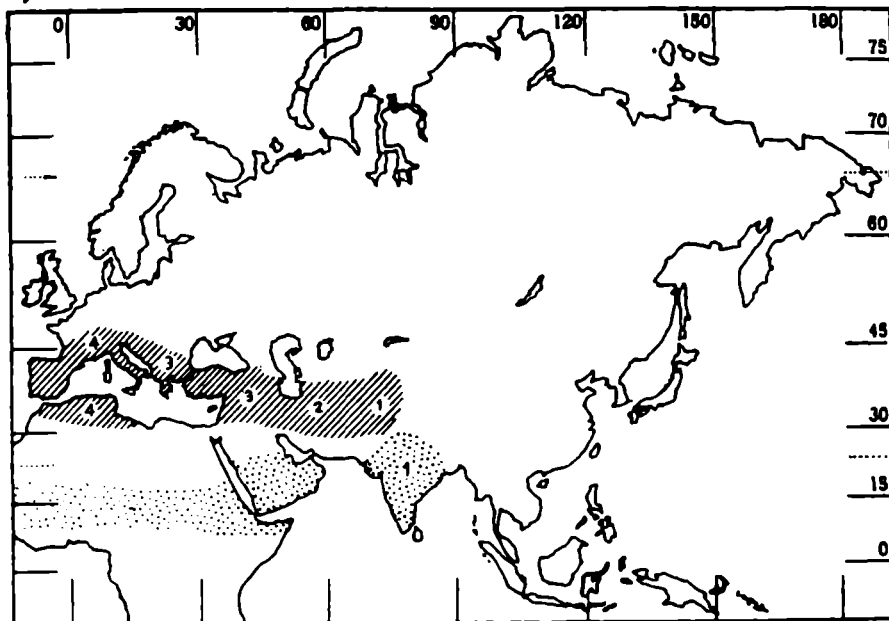
Female. *Above*, head grey, darker on cheeks and contrasting with white throat.

Back and wings pale brownish grey. Tail grey, outer rectrices white. Below, as in male.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. As a summer (breeding) visitor, locally common. Baluchistan (from Chagai in the west to Fort Monro in the east) and N.W.F.P., between 2100 and 3000 m, in Kohat apparently as low as 750 m. Several specimens collected in Gilgit during spring and autumn passage. As a winter visitor, widely distributed and locally common from Sind, the Indus Valley, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh (Oudh), and southern Bihar (Manbhum), south through the Deccan to Karnataka (Satnur—Sálím Ali, JBNHS 43: 575) and Tamil Nadu, *c.* 10°N. Winters irregularly in the more

northern parts (Sind, Punjab); appears to be scarcer in dry years when trees are not in good leaf. A common passage migrant in northwestern India, Pakistan and the western Himalayas. Affects semi-desert, stony country and ravines with a sparse vegetation of *Capparis*, *Prosopis* and leafy babool trees and scrub. In summer, appears to be confined to localities where there is a fair amount of shrubbery, not too far from water, though it is sometimes met with also in arid regions.

Sylvia hortensis



Breeding



Winter

1 *jerdoni* (1565). 2 *balchanica* (RE). 3 *crassirostris* (RE).

4 *hortensis* (RE).

Extralimital. Turkestan, Afghanistan and eastern Iran. The species extends west to Spain and Morocco. Winters in Arabia and in Africa from Ethiopia to Guinea.

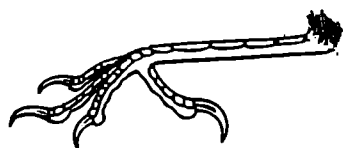
MIGRATION. Found on its summer grounds from April to August and in its winter quarters from August to March, in the north till the end of April. A bird ringed in Kathiawar on 27.ix.1960 was recaptured and released at the same place on 21.ix.1961; it was captured again in the identical spot a year later, on 18.ix.1962. A second bird ringed here on 19.ix.1960 was also recaptured in the same locality two years later, on 24.ix.1962 (Shivraj Kumar, JBNHS 59: 963).

GENERAL HABITS. Very skulking. Hunts in bushes and lower branches of trees; sometimes descends to the ground to pick up a morsel. Extremely discreet in its breeding territory and easily overlooked even when searched for.

FOOD. Mainly insects; flower nectar (e.g. of *Capparis aphylla*) and berries are taken in autumn and winter; also determined are seeds and a snail (SA).

VOICE and CALLS. Song, short vehement phrases of almost blackbird-like quality. Except for early morning and dusk, it sings very sporadically, even during courtship season when one may be within its territory without hearing a sound for several hours. Call-note *chuck . . . chuck* like that of a whitethroat but louder and deeper. Alarm, a hard, rattling *trrr*. Other notes, a *chichirichich* given while hopping among bushes.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to June. *Nest*, a cup of grass stems, twigs and dead leaves lined with fine grass and some hair. Placed near the top of a small, often isolated bush some 60 to 150 cm above the ground, often ill-



Foot, $\times c. 1$

concealed. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, very pale greenish white, marked with blackish brown specks or small blotches and secondary ones of pale grey, fairly numerous at the large end, scanty elsewhere. Average size of 31 eggs 20.6×15.5 mm (Baker). The male shares in nest building and incubation (TJR).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Postjuvénal moult of body, lesser and median coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	79–86	19–21	23–25	66–72 mm
♀♀	77–83	19–21	23–25	67–71 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 9 ♂♀ 22–24 (av. 22.2) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris grey-white to pale straw. Bill dark brown, base of lower mandible pale lead. Legs and feet olive-brown to slate-grey.

1566. **Whitethroat.** *Sylvia communis icterops* Ménétrières

Sylvia icterops Ménétrières, 1832, Cat. Rais. Caucase: 34
(Talych, eastern Transcaucasia)

Sylvia communis rubicola Stresemann, 1928, Jour. f. Orn. 76: 378
(Kuldja, Chinese Turkestan)

Baker, FBI No. 845, Vol. 2: 447

Plate 84, fig. 2

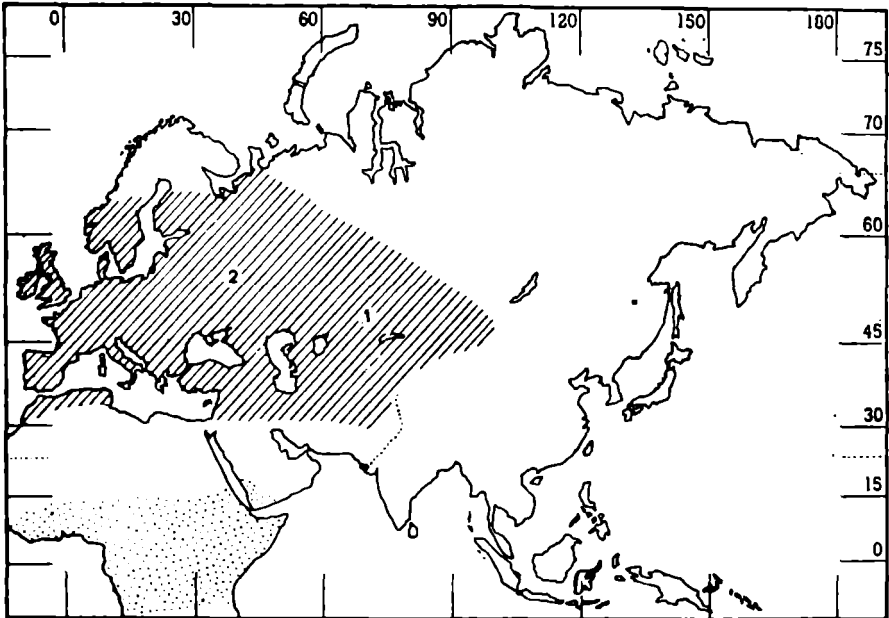
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, brownish grey; edges of secondaries rufous-brown. Outer rectrices white. *Below*, throat white, rest of underparts with a pinkish flush. Sexes practically alike.

The Lesser Whitethroat is smaller, lacks the rufous wing-patch and has distinctive dark cheeks which contrast sharply with the glistening white throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. As an occasional summer (breeding) visitor recorded only from central Baluchistan at 2100–2300 m (Meinertzhagen, JBNHS 31: 698). Obtained in Ladakh (Chang Chenmo, 4500 m) on 1 June (Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 421) and at Tikse near Leh (University of Southampton Expedition, 1985). An abundant autumn migrant west of a line Spiti–Mt Abu–Kutch and western Kathiawar (Amreli), only occasional-

Sylvia communis

▨ Breeding

▤ Winter

1 *icterops* (1566). 2 *communis* (RE).

Dotted line : eastern limit of migrants.

ly straying farther east (New Delhi and Kanpur, U. P.). Said to be a spring and autumn migrant on the Makran coast (Ticehurst, JBNHS 31: 968). Affects *Capparis* and other scrub in stony and sandy semi-desert, and bushes and hedges amidst cultivation, often by roadsides. Breeds in low thorn bushes on hillsides.

Extralimital. The western Palaearctic from Turkestan to the Urals and Turkey (*icterops*) and westward to Scandinavia and Morocco (nominate). Winters in Yemen and tropical Africa.

MIGRATION. One of the species (cf. Ind. Hb. 1: xxxv) that pass through NW. India on autumn migration to take the Arabian route to their winter quarters in Africa. Earliest autumn migrants reach India in the second half of August, the bulk arriving in early September often literally swarming. Passage lasts till about the middle of October. Return (spring) passage apparently largely extralimital. On breeding grounds from May to September.

GENERAL HABITS. Less secretive than most warblers. Moves about in low scrub, frequently showing itself outside. Unlike the Lesser Whitethroat, seldom ascends trees.

FOOD. Chiefly insects, occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Very silent during migration. A hoarse *churr-r* and a sharp *tak, tak*. Also a *chewee chwit-whit-whit-whit*. Song (not recorded in India), a short, rapid warble of poor quality, emphasized on the first few notes, often delivered in short song-flight or from an exposed spray, the white throat-feathers characteristically ruffled; well rendered as *vi-chi-rechi-richi-chuchi* (Dementiev).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a cup of grass stems lined with finer material, rootlets, hair and vegetable down; generally placed in a low bush within 50 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, white to greenish white spotted with light grey and dark brown, especially at large end where forming a cap. Clutch size not ascertained in our territory. Average size of 20 eggs 19.1 × 14.7 mm (Dementiev).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
8 ♂♂	73-77	11-13	20-22	60-65 mm
3 ♀♀	73-76	11-13	21-22	58-66 mm (SA)

Weight 24 ♂♀ (Sept.) 15-25 (av. 17.3) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellowish brown. Bill brown, flesh at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet yellowish brown.

SYLVIA CURRUCA (Linnaeus): LESSER WHITETHROAT

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Upperparts dark grey, head darker..... <i>S. c. althaea</i>	130
B Back greyish brown	
a Head grey contrasting with back..... <i>S. c. blythi</i>	127
b Paler, more sandy brown..... <i>S. c. halimodendri</i>	129
C Back sandy brown, crown ashy grey not contrasting with back..... <i>S. c. minuta</i>	129

1567. *Sylvia curruca blythi* Ticehurst & Whistler

Sylvia curruca blythi Ticehurst & Whistler, 1933, Ibis: 556
(Cawnpore)

Baker, FBI No. 849, Vol. 2: 45 (See footnote 2, p. 129, under *S. c. althaea*)

Plate 84, fig. 6

LOCAL NAME. *Chinna nalla kampa jitta* (Telugu).

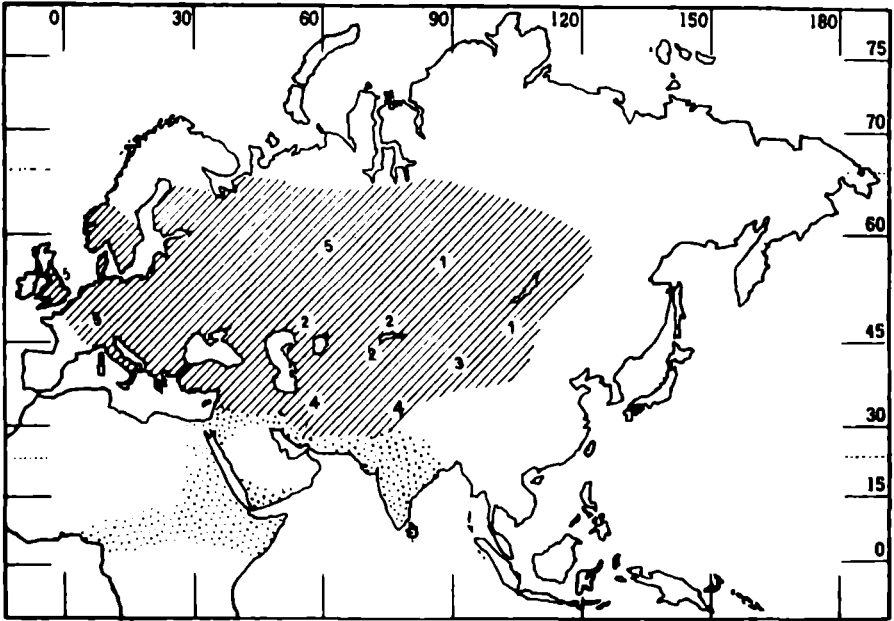
SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1570, *q.v.*, but back browner.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread winter visitor. Pakistan and India from the western Himalayan foothills, Uttar Pradesh and lower Bengal south through the Peninsula to Tamil Nadu. One record from Sri Lanka (Phillips, 1953, p. 97). In the hills up to at least 900 m. Noted on passage in Spiti at over 3300 m and in northern Baluchistan. One record from Nepal (Ripley, JBNHS 59: 290). Affects scrub jungle and undergrowth; in semi-desert especially partial to *kerād* bushes (*Capparis aphylla*), babool (*Acacia nilotica*) and *kāndi* (*Prosopis spicigera*) trees.

Extralimital. Breeds in central Siberia from Lake Baikal to the Ob river. The species ranges west to the British Isles. Winters in India and west through southern Iran to Syria, Egypt, Sudan, southern Arabia and in Africa from Ethiopia to Nigeria.

MIGRATION. Found in its winter quarters from September to April (August to May in the north). An individual ringed in Kathiawar on

Sylvia curruca

▨ Breeding ranges

▤ Winter range of the species

- 1 *blythi* (1567). 2 *halimodendri* (1568). 3 *minula* (1569).
 4 *althaea* (1570). 5 *curruca* (RE).

24.ix.1961 was recaptured in the same place almost exactly a year later, on 20.ix.1962 (Shivraj Kumar, JBNHS 59: 963).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1570.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Second primary usually falls between 6th and 7th. Moults as in 1570.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	61–68	12–13	18–23	54–62 mm
♀♀	61–67	—	19–21	53–61 mm

(CBT, SA, HW)

Weight 1♂ (Oct., Nepal) 12.1 g (Paynter); 19♂ ♀ (Oct., S. India) 11–18 (av. 13) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale yellowish brown. Bill bluish grey with black tip; mouth whitish flesh. Legs and feet dark brown to plumbeous slate.

1568. *Sylvia curruca halimodendri* Sushkin

Sylvia curruca halimodendri Sushkin, 1904, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 14: 42
 (lower Irgiz and lower Turgai rivers, southern Kirghiz Steppes)
 Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAME. Chia (Sind).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1569, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to the plains of the Indus in Punjab (Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur) and Sind; also Salt Range and Baluchistan (Chaharbar, specimen in Brit. Mus.). Affects bushes and scrub.

Extralimal. Breeds between the Caspian Sea and the Lake Balkhash region.

MIGRATION. As in 1567.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1570.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Paler than *blythi* but not as sandy as *minula*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	57–64 } 57–64 }	11–13	18–20	55–60 mm 52–62 mm (Dementiev)
♀♀				

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1567.

1569. *Sylvia curruca minula* Hume

Sylvia minula Hume, 1873, Stray Feathers 1: 198
(Bhawulpore)

Baker, FBI No. 850, Vol. 2: 451

Plate 84, fig. 4

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale sandy brown, more ashy on crown. Dark cheeks contrasting with white throat distinctive. Tail dark brown, outer rectrices white. *Below*, throat white, rest pale buff. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common winter visitor. North-western India in Haryana and Pakistan from Peshawar and Punjab south through the Indus Valley to the Makran coast in the west and Kutch (JBNHS 61: 184)¹ in the east. On passage through the western Himalayas and northern Baluchistan. Affects thorn scrub in semi-desert country, frequently far out in sand-dune desert among sparse *Capparis* bushes. As a breeder, also frequents semi-desert.

Extralimal. Breeds from Transcaspiya to the Gobi desert.

MIGRATION. Spring passage in March-April; autumn passage September to mid-November. In its winter quarters from September to April.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1570. Perhaps more terrestrial than other whitethroats, commonly seen running on ground in and out of rootstocks of bushes like *S. nana* (1571).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. A pale sandy brown desert form, the palest of all white-throats. Brown ashy grey. White part of outer rectrices purer than in other races, 2nd primary (as.) usually between 7th and 8th, occasionally equal to 7th or 8th. Moults as in 1570.

¹ One of the Kutch specimens (W. 68 mm) identified by Dr. C. Vaurie 'as perhaps *S. minula marginalica* Stolzmann'.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	58-65	11-12	20-23	50-58 mm (CBT, Williamson)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale yellowish brown. Bill bluish grey, tip black; mouth whitish flesh. Legs and feet brown to plumbeous-slate.

1570. *Sylvia curruca althaea* Hume¹

Sylvia althaea Hume, 1878, Stray Feathers 7: 60, 62 (Kashmir)

C.(urruca) affinis Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 564 (S. India)²

Cf. Watson, G. E., 1969, Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 26: 39-41

Baker, FBI No. 848, Vol. 2: 450

Plate 84, fig. 5

LOCAL NAME. *Chet hyot* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark grey, back and wings tinged with brown. Ear-coverts a darker grey contrasting with glistening white throat. Tail blackish brown, outer rectrices white. *Below*, white tinged with buff on breast and belly. Sexes alike.

The dark ear-coverts, darker than crown and contrasting with white of throat, are characteristic of all Lesser Whitethroats. The very similar female of the Orphean Warbler (1565) is much larger.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor to the northwestern Himalayas; winter visitor to the Peninsula, locally common. Breeds from Chitral, westwards through Kashmir from 1500 to 2700 m, in Astor, Gilgit and Ladakh between 2100 and 3700 m, and from the higher ranges in the N.W.F.P. and south through the high ranges to northern Baluchistan. Affects stony, bush-covered hillsides, often along streams, *Berberis*, *Rubus*, *Cotoneaster* and briar in Kashmir, *Lonicera*, willows and fruit trees in Ladakh, buckthorn bushes and juniper in Baluchistan. Winters from the western Himalayan foothills south to Sind, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka and southeast to the Eastern Ghats and Tamil Nadu. Also fairly common in northern Sri Lanka. In this season affects bushes and scrub of babool etc.

Extralimital. Ranges north to Turkestan and west to the southern Caspian and Zagros mountains of Iran, these populations probably wintering in southern Iran and Iraq.

MIGRATION. Arrives on its summer grounds in April. First autumn migrants appear in Punjab and Sind in early September (TJR). Recorded in Sri Lanka from October to April.

GENERAL HABITS. Constantly utters loud *tek-tek* contact calls while foraging, but otherwise restless and unobtrusive. Frequents bushes singly,

¹ Subsequent information on habits, distribution and intergradation show that *althaea* and *minula* are better treated as subspecies of *curruca*.

² Although this name is synonymized with *althaea*, most of the notes published under the name '*S. affinis*' pertain to *S. curruca blythi*, *vide* Whistler & Ticehurst, *Ibis* 1933: 554-6.

creeping and hopping about restlessly amongst the tangles of twigs and foliage searching for caterpillars etc. Unlike the Indian Whitethroat (*S. communis*), freely ascends trees. Along with tree- and leaf warblers all whitethroats have a comical habit, when hunting, of lunging out with the bill to seize an insect just out of reach, nearly toppling over in the attempt then quickly steadying themselves with the wings.

FOOD. Insects. Commonly visits the blossoms of babool (*Acacia*), *Capparis* and *Prosopis* for nectar, perhaps also insects, often getting the forehead thickly coated with yellow pollen.

VOICE and CALLS. Ordinary note, a subdued, hard *tek . . . tek* like the clicking of two stones together or of one's tongue against the palate. This note is distinct from the *chuck* or *chur-r* of the Booted Warbler. Song, a short continuous bubbling warble, lasting barely two seconds, but repeated with slight variations at 4 to 5 second intervals (TJR). The song is occasionally uttered before its departure in spring and often while on migration.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to August. *Nest*, a thin cup of dry grass and rootlets bound together with a little wool and scantily lined with finer grass and hair. Usually placed in low bushes some 60 to 150 cm above the ground, less often in the lower branches of trees up to 3 metres. However, where low vegetation has been burnt out the birds may nest again in the outer branches of pines 4 to 6 metres up (Davidson). *Eggs*, usually 4, sometimes 3, pale grey, white or creamy marked with light or dark brown spots and blotches with secondary markings of lavender. Average size of 41 eggs from Ladakh 18.5 × 13.7 mm; of 86 from Kashmir 17.5 × 13 mm (Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from other subspecies by larger size, dark grey upperparts and larger bill. 2nd primary (as.) usually between 6th and 8th.

Spring moult takes place in February and March and includes body-feathers, central rectrices, inner secondaries and their coverts, sometimes all rectrices and remiges. Postnuptial moult complete, July to September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail	
♂♀	63-71	19-22	52-61	mm
				(Williamson)

Bill from skull 14-15 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown or hazel brown. Bill horny brown, lower mandible paler; mouth fleshy pink. Legs and feet horny black or bluish slate; claws brown.

1571. Desert Warbler. *Sylvia nana nana* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg)

Curruca nana Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833, Symb. Phys. Avium, fol. cc (Sinai)

Sylvia nana theresae Meinertzhagen, 1937, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 58: 10 (Rohri, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 847, Vol. 2: 449

Plate 84, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

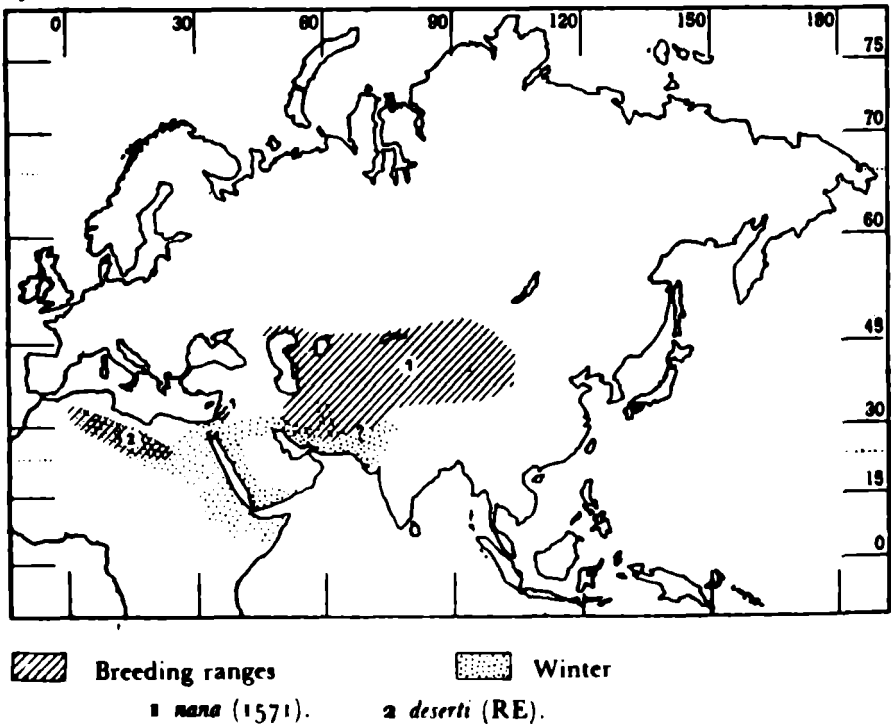
SIZE. Sparrow -; length c. 11 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, pale greyish brown; a white ring round eye. Tail pale rufous, showing when expanded dark brown inner rectrices (some with white tips) and pure white outer rectrices. *Below*, creamy white. Sexes alike.

Superficially a passable miniature of Rufous Chat (1641), but without the latter's prominent supercilium, especially when tail cocked and fanned out.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, locally common. Pakistan from extreme southeastern parts of N.W.F.P. and Punjab south through Sind, Baluchistan (Chagai, Makran coast) and northwestern India in Haryana, Rajasthan and Kutch. Affects scattered *Capparis* and suchlike bushes often far out in sandy or boulder-strewn desert, stony hillsides, and even *Salsola* and *Suaeda* vegetation on salty mudflats. May breed in Baluchistan (Dicean hills near the Sind border) whence Baker (*Nidification* 2: 407) received a nest and eggs, but confirmation required. The nest was found in 'barren, rocky mountains'.

Sylvia nana



Extralimital. Breeds from Mongolia to the Caspian Sea and Iran (south to Zagros Mts, Afghanistan and Baluchistan?). Another subspecies in the northern Sahara. Winters in southern Iran, Arabia and northeastern Africa south to Ethiopia.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters towards the end of September, leaves in March.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually seen singly hopping among low scrub or running briskly on the ground in among the bases of bushes like a desert mouse. Tail often spread out and partly cocked, the bird then reminiscent of

a *Scotocerca* (1533) or *Erythroptgia* (1641) but otherwise is a typical *Sylvia* in habits. Generally shy and retiring but at times will allow a close approach when perched on the top of a bush, bowing and eying the intruder before flying off low over the ground. Has a curious habit of often following other birds such as wheatears from bush to bush, maybe for sociability rather than with malice aforethought!

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. In winter quarters foraging birds often utter a soft chirring or rattling call. Snatches of a pleasant, rather feeble reeling song may be heard in its winter quarters. Song rendered as *tiri-tityu-tyu-tyu-tyuyu* and likened to the jingle of a tiny bell. When singing often spreads and partly erects tail, displaying the white outer rectrices and tips. Song also given in flight.

BREEDING. Mainly extralimital. *Season*, end of April to July. *Nest*, a small cup of grass bents and rootlets lined with some vegetable down; placed in dense scrub within a metre from the ground. *Eggs*, 4 or 5 (in U.S.S.R.), white marked with dark brown and pale brown blotches fairly numerous at the larger end, with secondary markings of pale grey. Average size of 16 eggs 17.5 × 13.1 mm (Baker); of 61 eggs 15.7 × 12.1 mm (Zarudny)!

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young like adult but upperparts creamy grey, no fawn tinge. Postjuvénal moult of body-feathers. Spring moult includes body-feathers, tertials and at least part of tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	57-60	11-12	c. 18	{ 46-51 mm c. 47 mm (CBT,SA)
♀♀	54-58			

Weight 12 ♂♂ 7-10.5 (av. 8.8); 2 ♀♀ 7, 9 g Paludan, Afghanistan).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow or pale gold. Bill yellowish straw, dusky on culmen and tip. Legs and feet straw-yellow.

1571a. **Ménétrières's Warbler.** *Sylvia mystacea* Ménétrières

Sylvia mystacea Ménétrières, 1832, Cat. raisonne . . . Caucase, p. 34
(Salyany, lower Kura River, eastern Transcaucasia)

Plate 84, fig. 11

SIZE. Length 12-13.5 cm. (5-5½ in.)

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small restless warbler with conspicuous dark cheeks and prominent red eye-ring.

Male (adult). *Above*, grey with wings and tail darker blackish grey, each feather narrowly bordered paler buff. The lores and ear coverts blackish, framed below by a conspicuous white malar line. Upper throat pinkish buff varying to terra-cotta. Lower breast and belly white. Tips of outer rectrices white. The reddish iris and naked orbicular ring are conspicuous in both sexes.

Female. The female is drabber, more brownish grey on upper parts and lacks any pinkish tones to upper throat, which is concolorous with malar stripe.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare and localized summer breeding visitor to west central Baluchistan (Roberts, JBNHS 77: 18). This migrant warbler winters in northeast Africa (Somalia, Sudan), and breeds in semi-desert tracts in central Asia. It has been collected in Afghanistan in late March (Paludan, 1959) and may be a scarce passage migrant in the eastern border regions of Baluchistan. A small colony of 7 to 8 pairs was discovered breeding in the Surkhab valley (30° 33' N., 67° 12' E.) at about 1670 metres, in a habitat comprising thickets of *Prunus eburnea*, *Caragana ambigua* and *Arundo donax* reeds (Roberts, JBNHS 72: 202-3; 77: 18).

Extralimital. Breeds from the Caspian Sea eastwards to Kazhakstan in the USSR and in the Middle East from Syria through northern Iraq and northern Iran.

GENERAL HABITS. Typical of the genus, restless and lively but rather furtive, generally foraging deep inside leafy bushes and tall grass and rarely descending to the ground or coming to open exposed places to feed.

FOOD. Insectivorous in their diet, including small spiders and their egg cases.

VOICE and CALLS. Like others of the genus foraging birds keep up a constant series of sharp 'tak-tak' calls.

Males start singing from late April and throughout the period of nesting and fledging of their young. They usually sing from a concealed place inside a bush, but occasionally whilst performing a short jerky display flight over a thicket of bushes. The song is a long and continuous series of chattering and babbling phrases reminiscent of *Hippolais caligata*, but not so loud and with many quite melodious trills interspersed.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing	Bill	Tail
54-62 mm	10-12 mm	51-61 mm
(Williamson)		

Weight 9 g (Paludan)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris, red or reddish brown in sub-adults. It is surrounded by a bright pinkish red naked orbicular ring. Bill, brownish horn with the base of the lower mandible yellowish.

Genus PHYLLOSCOPUS BOIE

Phylloscopus Boie, 1826, Isis, col. 972. Type, by monotypy, *Motacilla Trochilus* Linnaeus

Abrornis Hodgson, 1844, in Gray's Zool. Misc.: 82. Type, by subsequent designation, *Regulus modestus* Gould

Acanthopneuste Blasius, 1858, Naumannia: 313. Type, by monotypy, *Phyllopneuste borealis* Blasius

Herbivocula Swinhoe, 1871, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 353. Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia schwarzi* Radde

Cf. Ticehurst, C. B., 1938, A Systematic Review of the Genus *Phylloscopus*, London. Williamson, K., 1962, The Genus *Phylloscopus*. British Trust for Ornithology Field Guide No. 8.

Bill shorter than head, slim and pointed; rictal bristles present but short. For further details see Ticehurst, loc. cit., p. 27.

Key to the Species

Page

I	No wing-bars; 6th primary (as.) not emarginated	
A	Olive above, some yellow below	<i>P. borealis</i> 165
B	Brownish above, whitish suffused buff below	<i>P. trochilus</i> 136
II	No wing-bars; 6th primary emarginated	
A	Upperparts brown without olive, underparts without yellow	
1	No trace of green or yellow in plumage	
a	Goldcrest-like; flanks creamy	<i>P. neglectus</i> 140
b	Chiffchaff-like; flanks fulvous	<i>P. fuscatus</i> (adult) 149
2	Trace of greenish on lesser coverts	<i>P. collybita</i> 137
B	Upperparts brown without olive, underparts with yellow	
3	Supercilium yellow, brighter in front of eye; axillaries rusty buff	<i>P. griseolus</i> 146
4	Supercilium whitish before eye, rusty behind; axillaries fulvous white	<i>P. fuscatus</i> (1st winter) 149
5	Supercilium ill-defined, dusky yellowish	<i>P. fuligiventer</i> 147
C	Upperparts with olive; underparts with yellow or buff	
6	Supercilium long, reaching to nape	<i>P. tyleri</i> 142
7	Supercilium of moderate length	<i>P. affinis</i> 144
8	Supercilium creamish, long and conspicuous reaching hindcrown	<i>P. schwarzi</i> 182
III	Single or double wing-bars; 6th primary emarginated	
A	Pale yellow edges and tips to tertials	
1	Head pattern of dark coronal bands and pale crown-stripe	
a	Rump yellower than mantle but not a pronounced band	
i	Supercilium and face bright yellow	<i>P. subviridis</i> 158
ii	Supercilium and face whitish	<i>P. inornatus mandellii</i> 156
b	Rump with a pronounced yellow band	
iii	White in three outer rectrices	
o'	Wing-bars orange, throat yellow	<i>P. pulcher</i> 152
o"	Wing-bars pale yellow, throat grey	<i>P. maculipennis</i> 163
iv	No white in tail	<i>P. proregulus</i> 159
2	No definite head pattern but sometimes a pale crown-stripe	<i>P. i. inornatus</i> and <i>humei</i> 157, 154
B	No pale edges and tips to tertials	
1	Coronal bands blackish or sooty, crown-stripe and supercilium bright yellow	<i>P. cantator</i> 181
2	Coronal bands dusky olive, crown-stripe and supercilium pale yellow or whitish	
a	Single pale yellow wing-bar	<i>P. occipitalis</i> (some) 174
b	Double pale yellow wing-bars	
i	Outer three rectrices edged white on inner web	<i>P. reguloides</i> 177
ii	Outer two rectrices edged white, a white apical spot on third	<i>P. occipitalis</i> (some) 174
3	Head darker than mantle but no definite coronal band	
c	Upperparts brown, underparts white	<i>P. tenellipes</i> 173
d	Upperparts greenish, underparts with yellow	<i>P. trochiloides</i> 168
4	Head uniform with mantle	
c	Single yellowish wing-bar	
iii	Bill long and robust, hooked at tip	<i>P. magnirostris</i> 165

iv	Bill of moderate size, not hooked	Page
o°	Bright green above, yellow below; 2nd primary between 6th and 7th <i>P. trochiloides nitidus</i>	172
o'	Greyish green above, little yellow below; 2nd primary between 7th and 9th <i>P. trochiloides viridanus</i>	168

1572. *Phylloscopus trochilus acredula* (Linnaeus) is now deleted from the Indian list. See footnote to page under 1602 *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* Blyth.

1573. **Siberian Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus trochilus yakutensis*
Ticehurst

Phylloscopus trochilus yakutensis Ticehurst, 1935, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 55: 178
(Verkhoiansk District, Yakut Land)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, grey-brown with only a trace of olive on rump and edges of wing and rectrices. *Below*, dull white, clouded grey on breast and without yellow except at bend of wing and on thighs.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Perhaps an accidental winter visitor: specimens taken in January 1952 at Kohima, Nagaland (Meinertzshagen coll.). May be expected as a passage migrant. Affects bushes.

Extralimital. Breeds in Siberia from the Yenisey to Verkhoyansk (*c.* 133°E.). Winters in eastern Africa, at distances of over 11,000 km from its breeding range.

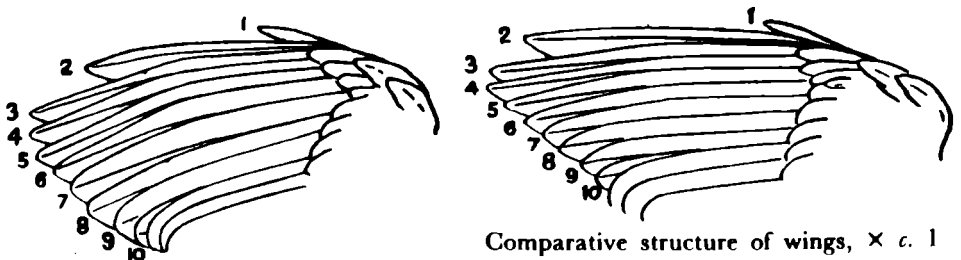
MIGRATION. Migration takes place from March to May. Autumn migration takes place mostly in September.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. Those of the genus. Call-note *wheet* hardly distinguishable from that of *collybita*. Song an unmistakable, beautiful liquid warble, usually faint at first, but gaining loudness and then descending to a more distinct end such as . . . *sweet-sweetew*. Sings almost incessantly during spring migration.

MEASUREMENTS

		Wing	Tail	
	♂♂	66–74	53–55	mm
	♀♀	64–68	50–53	mm

Weight 1 ♂ 9.5 g (Dementiev).



Comparative structure of wings, × *c.* 1
Left, *P. collybita* (1574)
Right, *P. trochilus* (1573)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel. Bill brown, base of lower mandible paler. Legs and feet pale brown.

PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA (Vieillot): CHIFFCHAFF

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Plumage with hardly any trace of greenish, rump uniform with mantle; flanks more whitish than in <i>tristis</i> <i>P. c. sindianus</i>	139
B Upperparts brownish, more greenish on mantle and wings; no yellow in supercilium; yellow on bend of wing generally darker and more conspicuous than in <i>sindianus</i> <i>P. c. tristis</i>	138
C Upperparts olive, more yellowish on rump; supercilium pale yellow <i>P. c. collybita</i>	137

1574. *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* (Vieillot)

Sylvia collybita Vieillot, 1817, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., nouv. éd., 11: 235 (France, restricted to Normandy by Mayaud, 1941, L'Oiseau: 89)

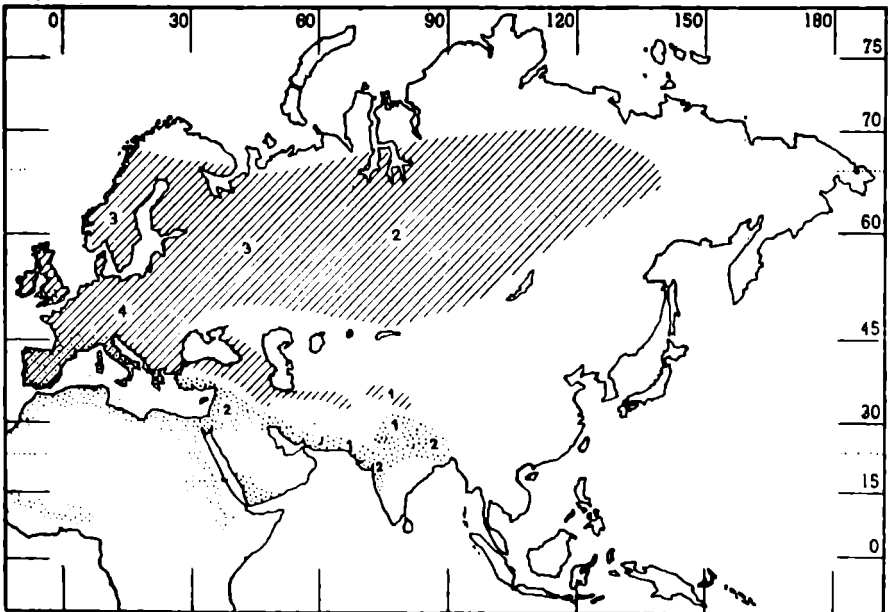
Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 86, fig. 4

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

Phylloscopus collybita



Breeding ranges Winter ranges

1 *sindianus* (1576). 2 *tristis* (1575). 3 *abietinus* (RE). 4 *collybita* (1574).

Other subspecies (extralimital) not indicated.

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1575, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Vagrant. One record: Quetta, July 1914 (Meinertzhagen coll.). Affects bushes and forest.

Extralimital. Breeds in western Europe from Poland to France and the British Isles. Winters in the Mediterranean region and Africa in the Savanna Zone.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1575.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. *Above*, brownish olive, slightly more yellowish olive on rump; supercilium yellowish white; cheeks and ear-coverts mottled buff and olive. *Below*, sullied white, streaked yellow on breast, suffused with buff on flanks; under tail-coverts yellowish white; under wing-coverts, axillaries and bend of wing yellow. Wings and tail brown with light yellowish olive fringes.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	57-63 } 53-62 }	11-12	19-21	{ 45-53 mm { 41-52 mm (Williamson)
♀♀				

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, yellowish brown at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet dark brown.

1575. *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* Blyth

P. (hylloscopus) tristis Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 966 (Calcutta)
Baker, FBI No. 854, Vol. 2: 456

LOCAL NAME. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, pale olive-brown; a short, whitish supercilium. *Below*, dull whitish washed with buff on breast and flanks. Sexes alike.

Distinctly and unmistakably 'whiter'¹ than nominate *collybita* (H. G. Alexander). Songs of the two similar but the latter's said to be more musical. The tail-wagging easily differentiates this species from *P. trochilus*.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Abundant winter visitor. The lower Himalayas (from c. 2100 m downwards) from N.W.F.P. in Pakistan east through Nepal, Sikkim, northern Bengal and the Bhutan foothills, south through the western half of Bangladesh, southern Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, western Maharashtra south to north Kanara, Gujarat, Sind and the Makran coast. On passage through the western Himalayas and northern Baluchistan. Affects bushes (especially *Acacia*, *Zizyphus* and suchlike, and waterside vegetation); also hedges, gardens, babool groves, scrub jungle, reed-beds and standing crops.

Extralimital. Breeds in Siberia from the Ural Mts to the Kolyma river. Winters west through southern Iran and Iraq.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in September (Pune, Maharashtra, 4.ix—JBNHS 86: 451), remains till the end of April. Autumn passage lasts till November.

¹ i.e. with no appreciable yellow or buff in plumage except on axillaries.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in parties of 8 to 10 birds (once 50 + — SA) flitting restlessly from bush to bush or hopping on the ground flicking wings and tail nervously as characteristic of the genus, springing up a half-metre or so now and again to snatch a midge in flycatcher fashion. Feeds also in standing crops of cotton, wheat, etc., in stubble fields, or among partially submerged bushes. Commonly observed picking insects off the water surface, clinging sideways to reed-stems, reaching down and lunging out for them and deftly transferring itself to an adjacent stem when the perch bends over into the water with its weight.

FOOD. Insects. Identified among stomach contents are weevils and other small beetles (Coleoptera), aphids, dipterons and geometrid larvae (Mason & Lefroy, 1912).

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note a plaintive-sounding *tweet* or *wheet*. Song, often uttered during spring migration, occasionally in autumn, the well known *chiff-chaff* . . . (*chip-chalp-chalp-chip-chip*—SA) casually indistinguishable from that of nominate *collybita*. However, according to H. G. Alexander, who made a special field study of leaf warblers in India, the call as well as song of *tristis* are quite distinct. He gives the song as a rapid repetition of the call-note *chi-vit chi-vet* run together by the introduction of a few more musical notes, as originally described by Seebohm.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Keys to the Species and Subspecies. *Above*, brownish to greyish brown without olive except on the edges of wing, rectrices, wing-coverts and rump. No yellow in supercilium, eye-ring and cheeks, this being replaced by buff. *Below*, sides of breast and flanks buff; bend of wing and under surface of wing yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	57-66	11-12	19-21	{ 43-55 mm { 41-49 mm
♀♀	54-65			

(Williamson, SA)

Weight 4 ♀♀ (March-April) 6.5-7.5 g—GD. 21 ♂♀ (Oct.-April) 5-8 (av. 7) g—SA. 1 ♂ (November) 9.3; 1 ♀ 7.3 g—Paynter.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1574.

1576. **Sind Chiffchaff.** *Phylloscopus collybita sindianus*¹ Brooks

Phylloscopus sindianus Brooks, 1879, Stray Feathers 8: 476 (Sukkur, Sind)
Baker, FBI No. 855, Vol. 2: 457

LOCAL NAMES. *Chip-chip*, *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1575, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor: Baltistan, Gilgit, Ladakh, Rupshu, Lahul and Spiti, from *c.* 2500 to 4400 m. Winters in Pakistan from the Himalayan foothills (and probably Jammu) and Haryana south to Sind (*vide* H. W. Waite, JBNHS 59: 962). On

¹ Roberts, Grimmett & Robson (JBNHS 82: 570) note that other authorities have treated *sindianus* as a full species.

migration through Kashmir. In summer affects willow and poplar groves, tamarisks along streams, gardens, orchards and *Hippophae* scrub. In winter frequents tamarisk and open scrub and babool jungle.

Extralimal. Breeds in Tadzhikistan and western Kun Lun range. Obtained in winter from Helmand, south Afghan border and Persian Baluchistan.

MIGRATION. Noted on passage through Kashmir and the Indus Valley in March–April and late September–November. Arrives on its breeding grounds in early May.

GENERAL HABITS. Not different from those of *tristis* (CBT).

FOOD. Small insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song described as more 'tinny' and not nearly as loud as that of the European chiffchaff (H. G. Alexander); also said to be given with less vigour and with intervals between notes longer and less regular (BBO). Other observers have noted no difference. Song may be heard in spring before departure. Call-note given by Brooks as *tis-yip* (almost 3-noted *tiss-yuitt*—TJR), different from that of *tristis*, but also *too-wit* similar to that of *occipitalis* (1606).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, domed, made of fine grass and weed stems, lined with very fine vegetable down and feathers; similar to that of *affinis* but latter lacks the layer of vegetable down. Usually placed in low thorny scrub within half a metre from the ground; sometimes in large tamarisks up to three metres, more rarely in willows up to *c.* 4 metres. Also built in the cut thorns that are placed on top of piled stone boundary walls or buildings in Ladakhi villages (BBO). *Eggs*, normally 4, sometimes 3, rarely 5, white marked chiefly at the large end with quite bold chestnut spots in contrast to typical egg of *P. c. tristis* (TJR) and specks. Average size of 140 eggs 15.8 × 12 mm (BBO).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Similar to *tristis* (1575) but with hardly any olive cast and generally paler underwing (white or yellowish white).

Spring moult (end of January to mid-March) involves body plumage, innermost secondaries and their coverts, and usually central rectrices. Postnuptial moult complete in September and October, some later.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	57–65	11–13	19–20	{ 47–56 mm { 43–52 mm (HW, CBT)
♀♀	51–62			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish brown, lower yellowish brown; mouth yellow. Legs and feet very dark brown or black; soles yellowish.

1577. **Plain Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus neglectus* Hume

Phylloscopus neglectus Hume, 1870, Ibis: 143 (Punjab and Doab)
Baker, FBI No. 856, Vol. 2: 458

Plate 86, fig. 2

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, greyish olive-brown; a pale supercilium not very distinct behind the eye. *Below*, whitish tinged with buff especially on flanks. Sexes alike.

Distinguished by earthy grey colour, small size and short tail, the last a diagnostic character (Alexander). *P. tyleri*, without a wing-bar, has a prominent supercilium behind its eye.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor, locally common. Northern Baluchistan (Ziarat, Koh-i-Pusht), N.W.F.P. (Safed Koh), possibly Kashmir in the Liddar Valley (Alexander, 1950, JBNHS 49: 11) and perhaps also Ladakh but records not well authenticated (cf. Ticehurst, 1938, p. 61). Affects juniper forest and low bushes between 2000 and 3000 m. Winters in Pakistan from the Himalayan foothills east to Punjab, south through Sind and southern Baluchistan. In this season affects tamarisks, acacias and sheesham (*Dalbergia*) plantations, especially on damp ground along irrigation canals.

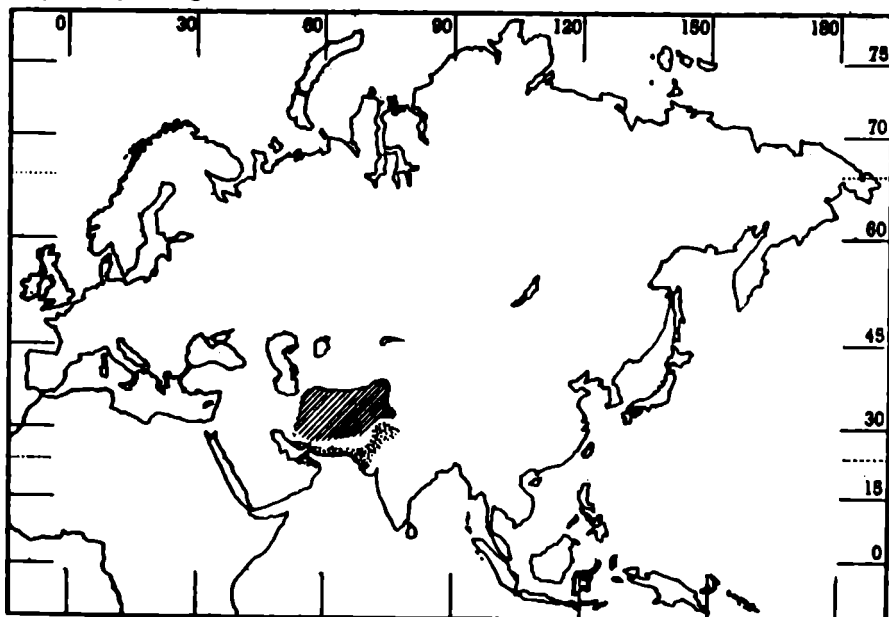
Extralimital. Breeds in eastern Iran north to the Kopet Dagh, Afghanistan and Tadzhikistan. Winters in southern Iran and Oman.

MIGRATION. Spring passage takes place from the end of February to April, autumn passage from mid-August to October. May be seen commonly on the breeding grounds as late as October.

GENERAL HABITS. Typical of leaf warblers. Forages mostly in the upper tree canopy, from time to time showing itself on top of bushes.

FOOD. Insects.

Phylloscopus neglectus



■ Breeding

■ Winter

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a hard *tak-tak* (Roberts) and occasionally a double *chi-ip* (Alexander); also described as a harsh, rather grating single *chit* or *churr* not unlike that of *Sylvia curruca* and very different from the call of most leaf warblers (CBT). Song, a brief series of 5 to 7 warbling notes, starting with short, hard notes followed by *Twissa* or *Chuwich-chissa* phrases. The whole song lasts less than half a second, and is repeated about 12 times per minute (Roberts).

BREEDING. Known only from one record in Iran. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, domed, neatly made of grass and well lined with feathers; placed in a small, dense bush within a metre from the ground. *Eggs*, 4, white, unspotted. Four eggs measured each 15 × 10.1 mm (Witherby).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage Ticehurst, 1938, or Williamson, 1962.

Pre-nuptial moult of body-feathers, lesser wing-coverts and central rectrices during March. Complete post-nuptial moult in August.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	49-55	9-11	17-19	{ 39-43 mm { 37-42 mm (CBT, HW)
♀♀	47-51			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill blackish brown paler at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet blackish brown.

1578. Tytler's Leaf Warbler. *Phylloscopus tytleri* Brooks

Phylloscopus tytleri Brooks, 1872, Ibis: 23 (Kashmir and Simla)
Baker, FBI No. 853, Vol. 2: 455

Plate 86, fig. 5

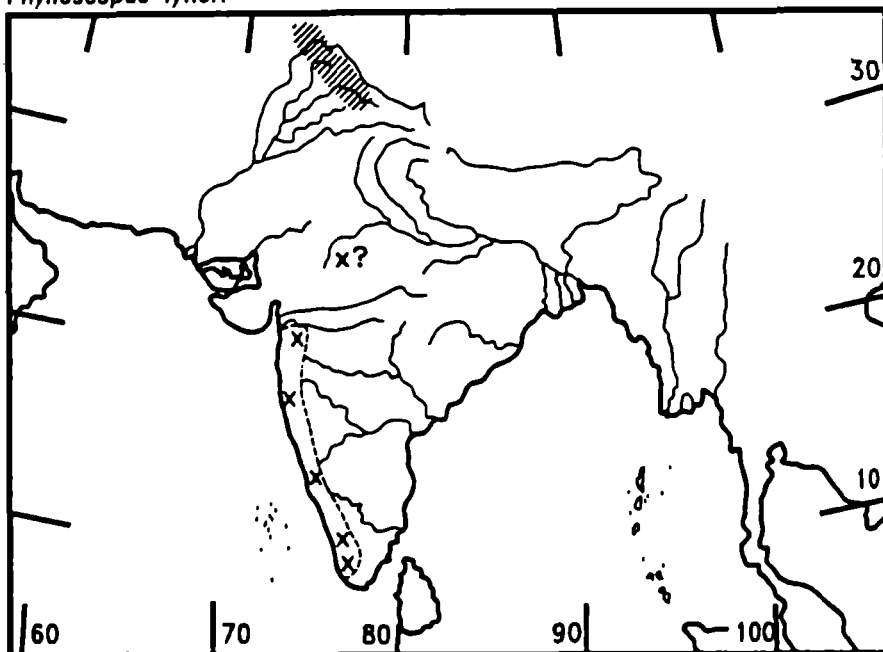
LOCAL NAME. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. Bill appears more slender and longer than others of the genus. *Above*, olive, looking dull brown in the field. A well-marked yellowish white supercilium behind the eye; cheeks and ear-coverts yellowish white with dusky mottling. *Below*, yellowish white sometimes streaked with brighter yellow on throat, breast and belly. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor. Commoner in the extreme NW. Himalayas: Swat, Indus Kohistan, Gilgit and Hazara district. Less common in Kashmir (Bates & Lowther, 1952), except in the Pir Panjal range; from *c.* 2400 m to timber-line (*c.* 3600 m). Not recorded farther east. Chiefly a bird of coniferous forest (blue pine, silver fir), also in dwarf willow and birches near tree-line. Winter range little known, records very scanty: Delhi Ridge (23.viii—Gaston, JBNHS 75: 124), Gujarat (Surat Dangs—BNHS coll.), western Maharashtra in Khandala (one specimen—Fairbanks), Londa in Karnataka (occasionally seen January–March—Koelz)¹, slopes of the Eravikulam Plateau, Kerala (sight record,

¹ Goa specimen taken in December 1972 and assigned to this species by Sálím Ali & R. B. Grubb (JBNHS 73: 42–53) is in reality *P. trochiloides* (Trevor Price, *ibid.* 77: 143).

Phylloscopus tyleri

▨ Breeding range

⊠ Isolated records

February 1985—Harrap & Redman, JBNHS 86: 460) and the Nilgiris (2 records, January and March—Davison). Records from Khandesh, M.P. and U.P. (Etawah) are of passage migrants. Passage recorded also in Kangra, Simla, Almora (Brooks) and once in extreme western Nepal (Fleming & Traylor, 1968). Winter habitat not described.

MIGRATION. Passage in northern India takes place in April and in August–October.

GENERAL HABITS. An unobtrusive leaf warbler searching for food in low bushes and undergrowth, chiefly in clearings and along margins of forest.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song of 4 or 5 notes rendered as *whittle-di-wee-you* (Alexander) and *let's kiss him*, or sometimes *superstition* (BBO), repeated at frequent intervals. Call, a squeaky single note.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a small, globular structure of grass mixed with feathers, lichen, moss, birch bark and hair, lined with feathers. Well concealed in a leafy bough of fir, sometimes in the fork of a pollarded tree, at a considerable height above the ground, generally above 6 metres and up to *c.* 9 m. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 5, white, sometimes faintly speckled with reddish. Average size of 36 eggs 16 × 12.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Bill rather long and narrow, shaped like tailor bird's (*Orthotomus*). For details of plumage see Ticehurst, 1938 or Williamson, 1962. First-winter birds are rather yellower below and greener above than adults. Postnuptial moult complete, mid-July to mid-September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58-63	13-14	17-18	{ 42-46 mm { 39-43 mm (CBT)
♀♀	53-60			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill dark brown, yellowish brown at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet greenish brown to dark brown; soles yellow.

1579. **Tickell's Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus affinis* (Tickell)

Metacilla Offinis [sic] Tickell, 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 2: 576
(Borabhúm and Dholbhúm)

Baker, FBI No. 852, Vól. 2: 454

Plate 86, fig. 6

LOCAL NAMES. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir); *Foochi* (Manbhum); *Ani chin* (Tibet); *Daotisha gabi* (Cachari).

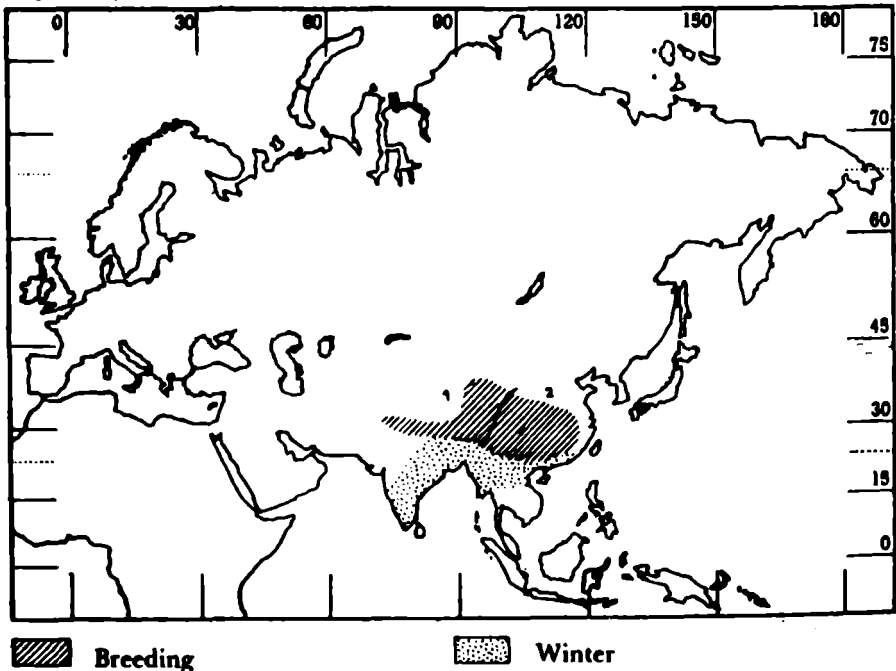
SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, dark olive-brown. A prominent long, yellow supercilium. *Below*, almost canary yellow. Sexes alike.

Combination of uniform olive upperparts and bright yellow underparts serves easily to identify this species. Similar appearing *P. griseolus* in breeding plumage has more buffy white throat and upper breast.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Abundant summer (breeding) visitor to the Himalayas: from Gilgit and Hazara east through Sikkim and

Phylloscopus affinis



■ *affinis* (1579).

■ *subaffinis* (RE).

southeastern Tibet (not recorded in Bhutan in the breeding season). A bird of very high altitudes breeding down to 2700 m in Gilgit, but generally above 3355 m in Nepal, 3300 m in Kashmir and up to the limit of scrub growth c. 4800 m in Tibetan facies; optimum zone 3500–4500 m. Affects scrub of *Berberis*, willow, juniper, rhododendron, *Hippophae* and *Caragana*; in Nepal also dwarf bamboo, edges of forest and bushes among upland cultivation. Winters from the Himalayan foothills (Nepal eastwards) south through the Peninsula to the southernmost hills (Karnataka, Kerala), east through Bangladesh, Assam and Manipur; keeps to the hills, from their base to at least 2100 m. In this season frequents scrub and secondary jungle, and well-wooded country.

Extralimital. Breeds in eastern Tibet and western Sichuan north to Kansu. Winters east to northwestern Thailand.

MIGRATION. Found on its summer grounds from April to October and in its winter quarters from November to April (southern India). Abundant in the Himalayas at medium elevations during spring migration (March–April). Autumn passage mostly in October.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in pairs in summer. Often in loose parties in winter, feeding in low bushes close to the ground, sometimes clinging upside down to sprigs and leaves or making short sallies into the air for insects.

FOOD. Weevils, small beetles, midges and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, given constantly from bush-tops in breeding season, a single note rapidly repeated five or six times, preceded by one or two higher-pitched notes; rendered as *pick-pick whi whi whi whi* (BBO) or *ze zizizizizi* (GD). Very similar to that of *P. griseolus* (1581) but for the single (sometimes double) note that precedes it; for further renderings of song see Diesselhorst, 1968: 271. Song period April to end of July; a light autumn resumption in September. Call-note a hard *tak-tak* or a feeble sparrow-like *chip* or *tsip* uttered as it flicks wings nervously and hops about.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August, chiefly June and July. *Nest*, a ball of grass or sometimes juniper fibre, copiously lined with feathers, the entrance near the top; placed in a low *Caragana* or suchlike bush, often rather conspicuously in its outer rim, some 30 or 60 cm above the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, sometimes 3 or 5, either unspotted white, or white sparsely stippled with rusty red especially at the large end; both types may be found in the same clutch. Average size of 40 eggs 16.2 × 12.3 (BBO); of 18 eggs 15.2 × 11.5 mm (Ludlow). Incubation and care of young by both parents. Incubation period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

Young, warmer brown above than adult; underparts with a variable amount of yellow. Postjuvénal moult of body-feathers in August. Prenuptial moult of body-feathers in March and April, postnuptial moult complete, on or near breeding grounds in August and September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53–63	12–13	18–19	{ 44–51 mm { 39–48 mm
♀♀	51–61			

(CBT, BB, HW)

Weight 12 ♂♂ (March–Sept.) 6.3–7.6; 5 ♀♀ (June–Sept.) 6.8–7.7 g (GD).
 COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower yellowish brown (Osmaston) or orange-yellow (SA). Legs and feet yellowish brown; soles yellow.

1581. **Olivaceous Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus griseolus* Blyth

Ph.(ylloscopus) griseolus Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 443
 (banks of the Hoogly River, near Calcutta)
 Baker, FBI No. 858, Vol. 2: 459
Plate 86, fig. 8

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, olive-brown. A conspicuous yellow supercilium brighter in front of the eye, pale eye-ring and dark streak through eye. *Below*, oil-yellow tinged with dusky on breast and flanks. Sexes alike.

One of the easiest leaf warblers to identify; recognized also by its treecreeper-like climbing habit (q.v., 1842).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor to the Pakistan and western Himalayan ranges, locally common. Breeds from northern Baluchistan to Chitral, Gilgit, Astor, Baltistan, Ladakh, the Zaskar Mts, Lahul and Spiti, from *c.* 2400 to 4500 m. Affects rocky or stony hillsides with a few bushes, desolate scree studded with tufts of grass, juniper forest, and willows along river beds. Winters in the northern Peninsula from Rajasthan and Gujarat through Madhya Pradesh to lower Bengal, south to Maharashtra (Mahableshwar and Matheran), Goa and Andhra Pradesh (Nelipaka and Asifabad); in the hills up to at least 1000 m. In this season affects rocky country, steep sides of rocky ravines and deciduous forest. On passage through Pakistan [Lahore (Ahmad, 1965)] and northwestern India from Chagai to central Nepal (Biswas, 1968, JBNHS 65:783) and the plains of Uttar Pradesh.

Extralimital. Breeds also in Afghanistan and north to the Altai.

MIGRATION. Passage takes place from August to October and in March–April. Particularly common on passage in Islamabad and Murree foothills from late March up to first week in May (Roberts) and in central Nepal in April (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985). Recorded on its breeding grounds from May to September.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly or in pairs; on migration often in twos and threes. Usually keeps near the ground in low herbage and scrub, clambering over stones and boulders, rock outcrops and scarps, and in its winter quarters commonly on walls of ancient forts, archaeological ruins, etc. Often seen running up trunks of large trees in sideway and zigzag hops like a treecreeper (*Certhia*) or scuttling around and along horizontal branches like a nuthatch (*Sitta*) in search of insects, with a constant flicking of the wings.

FOOD. Insects—weevils, small beetles, larvae, etc.

VOICE and CALLS. A hard, finch-like *pick* or *quit* while foraging. Song similar to that of *fuligiventer*; also recalls song of *affinis* but lacks the single or double introductory note.

BREEDING. *Season*, April–May in Baluchistan; chiefly June–July in the Himalayas. *Nest*, a ball of grass or juniper fibre copiously lined with feathers, placed in low bushes, herbage or nettles usually within c. 60 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, white spotted with dull red, mostly in a broad zone around the large end. Average size of 19 eggs 16.7 × 12.5 mm (Baker). Incubation period 14–17 days, and young fledge in 11 days (Koushar & Gavrilov, JBNHS 71:367–75).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage Ticehurst, 1938, or Williamson, 1962.

Young, like adult but warmer brown above, less bright yellow below. Postjuvénal moult of body-feathers. Prenuptial moult of body-feathers in February and March. Postnuptial moult complete from July to September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	65–67	14–15	20–21	{ 49–52 mm { 50–53 mm (HW, SA)
♀♀	63–68			

Weight 6 ♂♀ 7–9 (av. 7.6) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower yellow. Legs and feet yellowish brown; claws brown; soles yellow.

PHYLLOSCOPUS FULIGIVENTER (Hodgson): SMOKY LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Underparts greenish yellow	<i>P. f. fuligiventer</i>
Underparts grey	<i>P. f. tibetanus</i>

1582. *Phylloscopus fuligiventer fuligiventer* (Hodgson)

H. (orornis)? fuligiventer Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 31 (Nepal)
Baker, FBI No. 859, Vol. 2: 460

Plate 86, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, very dark olive-brown; a long, greenish yellow supercilium. *Below*, dull greenish yellow (or dusky oil-green). Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant. Breeds from 3600 to over 4300 m in Bhutan, Sikkim and west to central Nepal, 5000 m, where found nesting on Lamjung Himal (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985). Frequents low scrub above timber-line and boulder-strewn alpine meadows. Winters from the western Nepal terai (Rand & Fleming, 1957) and duns (Proud, JBNHS 58: 277) east through the Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal foothills, northern Bengal and Assam in the plains of the Brahmaputra south to Cachar. In this season very partial to proximity of water: frequents dense bushes, grass and sedges along banks of watercourses, both small streams and large slow-flowing rivers.

MIGRATION. Noted on its breeding grounds from June to September.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in pairs, on or near the ground in low scrub, or clambering about among large boulders in search of food. In winter keeps close to water, coming out freely on to little islets, stones or pieces of driftwood. Often flutters out over water catching insects, hovering momentarily above the surface as it does so (Proud).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a monotonous repetition of a single note *tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli* or sometimes an almost disyllabic *tsli* . . . etc. given five or six times (Desfayes). Call-note *cht* . . . *cht* constantly uttered (Proud).

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from *tibetanus* by the greenish yellow underparts (*v.* grey).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	51-61	12-14	19-22	40-50 mm (Williamson)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower brown, yellowish at base. Legs and feet brownish black, dark brown or greenish brown.

1583. *Phylloscopus fuligiventer tibetanus* Ticehurst

Phylloscopus tibetanus Ticehurst, 1937, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 57: 109
(Bombi La, Tsari, S. Tibet)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAME. *Chinteb-tok* ('top-of-the-thumb-size bird'—Tibetan).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1582 but underparts grey with little or no yellow.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant. Breeds in southeastern Tibet on the northern slopes of the main range from *c.* 3900 m to 4500 m, in the scrub zone and screes above timber-line. Winters in the Arunachal foothills and adjacent plains, in same habitat as *fuligiventer*.

Extralimital. Breeds on the ranges on both sides of the Tsangpo river east to Sanga Cho (cf. Williamson, 1962: 48).

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1582.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note likened to that of *Troglodytes* (Ludlow). Both call and song probably not different from those of *fuligiventer*.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. *Above*, dark sooty brown like *fuligiventer*. *Below*, different shades of grey, usually lacking any yellow. Supercilium greyish white (*v.* greenish yellow).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
1 ♂	59	13	21	50 mm
1 ♀	57	—	—	46 mm

(CBT, NBK)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill nearly black, yellowish at gape. Legs and feet dark brown.

PHYLLOSCOPUS FUSCATUS (Blyth): DUSKY LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Palest; rear part of supercilium fulvous <i>P. f. fuscatus</i>	151
B Darker; whole supercilium and underparts greyish white <i>P. f. weigoldi</i>	149
C Darkest; underparts more ochraceous buff <i>P. f. mariae</i>	149

1584. *Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldi* Stresemann

Phylloscopus weigoldi Stresemann, 1924, Abh. u. Ber. Mus. f. Tierk. u. Völkerk., Dresden 16: 10 (Dschiesong, near Tatsienlu, SE. Chwanben)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1586, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. The Himalayan foothills and adjacent plains, from central and eastern Nepal, common around Kosi barrage (Fleming & Traylor, 1968; Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985) east through Arunachal Pradesh. Middle and South Andaman specimen in British Museum (Abdulali, JBNHS 83: 341). Habitat as in 1586.

Extralimital. Breeds above timber-line in western Sichuan and Quinghai.

MIGRATION. Passage recorded in southeastern Tibet and eastern Bhutan in September and October.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1586.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *fuscatus* but darker; supercilium, cheeks and underparts greyish white, but subspecies of winter birds not always easy to assign.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	56–67	12–14	21–23	48–56 mm
♀♀	53–60			42–49 mm

(CBT, Williamson)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Bill (except base of lower mandible), legs and feet said to be nearly black. Probably not different from 1585.

1585. *Phylloscopus fuscatus mariae*¹ Ripley

Phylloscopus fuscatus mariae Ripley, 1951, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 6: 5
(Moirang, Manipur)
Baker, FBI No. 860 (part), Vol. 2: 461

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

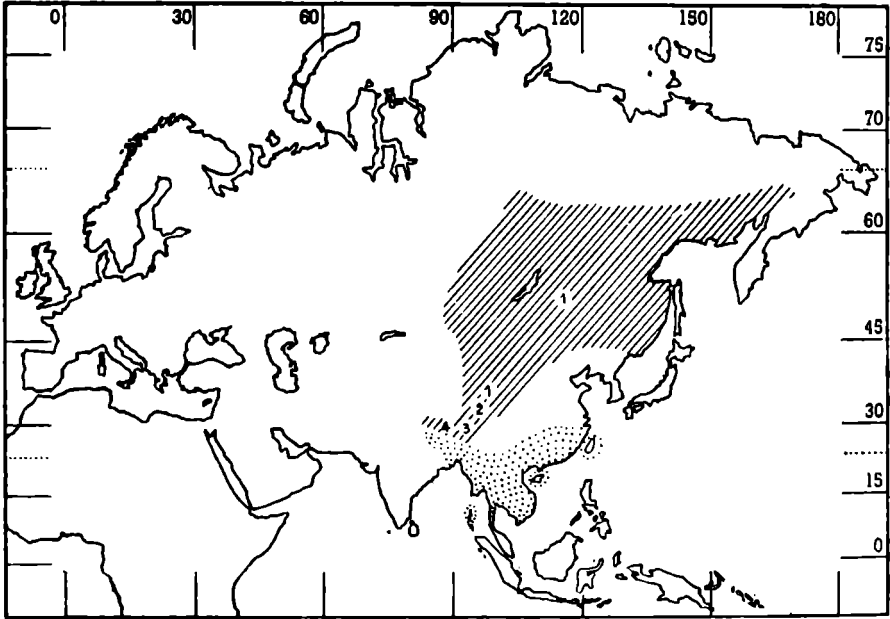
SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

¹ Rejected by Vaurie (*Birds of the Palaearctic Fauna*, p. 280).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1586, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.


STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to Manipur (whence described) and the Andaman Islands (Abdulali, JBNHS 61: 562). Affects low bushes and long grass in swampy areas, often near cultivation.

Phylloscopus fuscatus* and *P. fuligiventer



Distributional ranges

 Breeding

 Winter (all subspecies)

1 *fuscatus* (1586). 2 *weigoldi* (1584). 3 *tibetanus* (1583). 4 *fuligiventer* (1582).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1586.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *fuscatus* but darker; cheeks, flanks, underwing and under tail-coverts more ochraceous buff.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	
3 ♂♂	57-63	50-55	mm
1 ♀	57	43	mm

(SDR)

Weight 2 ♂♂ (October) 7, 8.5 g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, dark brown or black; lower mandible brown, yellowish brown or yellowish horn, yellow at base. Legs and feet brownish yellow, light brown or greenish brown; soles yellow.

1586. *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus* (Blyth)

Phyllopneuste fuscata Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 113
(neighbourhood of Calcutta)

Phyllopneuste homeyeri Dybowski, 1883, Bull. Soc. Zool. France: 358
(Tigil, Kamtchatka Peninsula)

Oreopneuste fuscata altaica Sushkin, 1925, Distrib. Bds. Russian Altai: 73-4
(south slopes of Sailughem Range, Altai)

Baker, FBI Nos. 860 (part) and 861, Vol. 2: 461-2

Plate 86, fig. 11

LOCAL NAME. *Foochi* (Manbhum).

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, dusky olive-brown. A pale, prominent supercilium, pale semi-eyering, and dark streak through eye. *Below*, whitish with a grey wash on breast; flanks and under tail-coverts fulvous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, locally common. From the Himalayan foothills (up to *c.* 1400 m in central Nepal) south through Uttar Pradesh, Bangladesh and Assam; also Andaman Is. Affects reed and scrub jungle, low bushes and long grass around pools, and hedges and standing crops in damp areas.

Extralimital. Breeds in northern China and southeastern Siberia; winters also in southern China and the Indochinese countries.

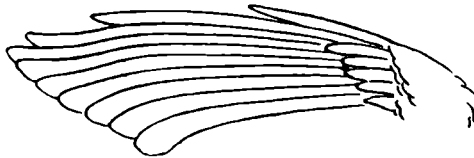
MIGRATION. Recorded on passage in southeastern Tibet and eastern Bhutan in September and October. Remains on winter grounds till April or early May.

GENERAL HABITS. Forages in low bushes or on the ground, usually singly, incessantly flicking wings and tail.

FOOD. Insects. Stomach contents showed weevils and other small beetles (Coleoptera), geometrid, pyralid and lepidopterous larvae; also some vegetable matter and *Ficus* and weed seeds (Mason & Lefroy, 1912).

VOICE and CALLS. A single *chuck* or *tek* like Lesser Whitethroat's but softer, and a soft *chi-chiree*. 'A sharp clicking note' (Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from *weigoldi* in being paler and having the cheeks and supercilium behind eye fulvous.



Wing, $\times c. 1$

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58-70 } 53-61 }	12-13	20-22	46-59 mm 43-51 mm
♀♀				

(Williamson, Hartert)

Weight 3 ♂♂ (April) 9-10.2; 4 ♀♀ (April) 8-8.5 g—Paynter. 2 oo? 9, 10 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible and tip of lower brown, remainder yellow. Legs and feet yellowish brown.

PHYLLOSCOPUS PULCHER Blyth: ORANGEBREASTED LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

More yellowish olive above *P. p. kangrae*
 Darker; less yellowish more olive above *P. p. pulcher*

1587. *Phylloscopus pulcher kangrae* Ticehurst

Phylloscopus pulcher kangrae Ticehurst, 1923, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 44: 29 (Simla)
 Baker, FBI No. 865, Vol. 2: 465

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

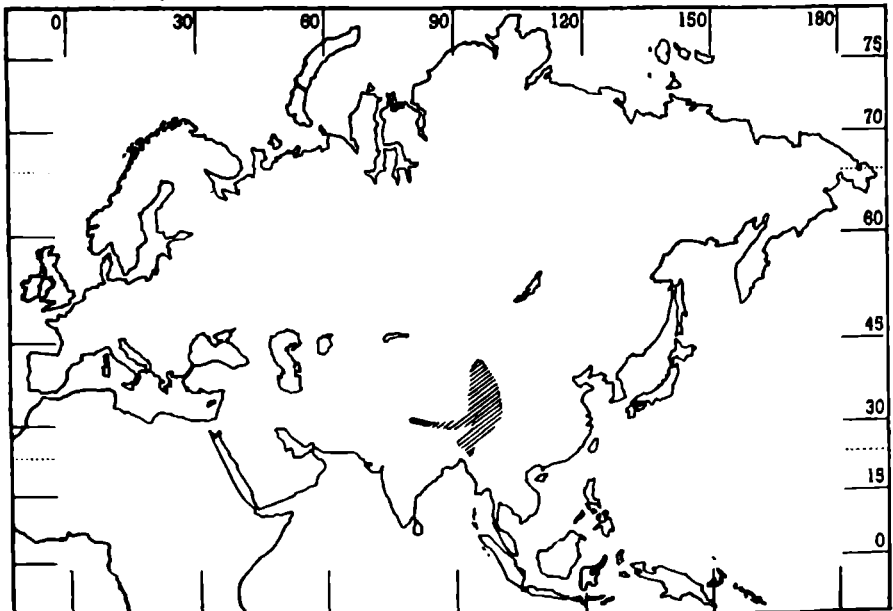
SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1589, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, common. Breeds in the western Himalayas from Kishtwar and Zaskar to Garhwal and Kumaon, between 2800 and 3900 m, optimum zone 3000–3600 m. Winters (October to March) between 1000 and at least 2100 m, east to western Nepal. Recorded from Delhi Ridge in dense woodland canopy on 23.ix and 25.x (Gaston, JBNHS 75:124). In summer affects birch and mixed conifer-rhododendron forest; in winter forest of oak, *Ilex*, etc.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1589.

Phylloscopus pulcher



Distributional ranges

■ *kangrae* (1587).

▨ *pulcher* (1589)

BREEDING. *Season*, mainly June and July. *Nest*, a ball of green moss, grass, lichen and strips of birch bark copiously lined with feathers. Placed in the outer branches of a conifer, in dense bushes or against trunks of trees, some 60 cm to four metres above the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, white with reddish brown blotches and specks, mostly at the large end, sometimes forming a well-defined ring. Average size of 16 eggs 14.9 × 11.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from the nominate race (1589) in being more yellowish olive above; head not so dark; underparts paler and purer yellow; grey suffusion on breast reduced.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1588, 1589.

1588, 1589. *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher* Blyth

Ph. (ylloscopus) pulcher Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 592
(Nepal, restricted to Nepal Valley by Biswas, 1962, JBNHS 59: 413; cf. also 414)

Phylloscopus erochroa Gray, 1846, Cat. Mamms. Bds. Nepal: 66, 152
(Nepal, restricted to Chandragiri Pass, central Nepal Valley,
by Ripley, 1950, JBNHS 49: 401)

Phylloscopus pulcher pernix Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 16
(Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 864, Vol. 2: 464

Plate 86, fig. 14

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two orange-yellow wing-bars, lower very prominent. *Above*, olive; crown sooty olive with an indistinct median stripe and a prominent yellow supercilium extending to nape. Rump pale yellow. Inner webs of outer rectrices white. *Below*, pale yellow suffused with grey on breast. Sexes alike.

One of the most easily identified leaf warblers. Orange double wing-bar and white in tail very noticeable in the field, the latter particularly in flight.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, common. From western Nepal (where intergrading with *kangrae*) east through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, thence south through Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and in the Khasi and Garo hills of Meghalaya (Koelz, loc. cit. *supra*). In the Himalayas breeds between 3000 and 4300 m, optimum zone 3800–4100 m. Altitudinal distribution and status unknown south of the Brahmaputra (on Mt Victoria, Heinrich found it common between 2400 and 2800 m, but the birds disappeared after 10 May; nest found in the Chin Hills at *c.* 1800 m). In the breeding season affects mixed conifer, rhododendron and birch forest, and also dwarf juniper, rhododendron or other scrub above tree-line. Winters (October to March) between 500 and 2800 m, its movements then influenced by weather conditions. At this season frequents oaks and other dense forest.

Extralimital. Extends through the mountains of western China to Kansu.

MIGRATION. Moves to higher altitudes at the end of March and first week of April but does not appear to start breeding until mid-June.

GENERAL HABITS. More arboreal than other leaf warblers, especially in

winter when it often keeps with the itinerant hunting parties of small insectivorous birds high up in the canopy foliage of trees.

FOOD. Insects. Observed drinking sap of oak (*Quercus*)—Proud.

VOICE and CALLS. Song said by several observers (Proud, Heinrich, Schäfer) to be reminiscent of song of *P. sibilatrix* but much slower and shorter; a very thin and high twitter preceded by, or ending with, a long-drawn high-pitched trill increasing in depth of tone and loudness. Song period: end of February till end of June (Proud). Call-note, a high-pitched *tsip* or *twick* constantly repeated, sometimes quickly run together, sounding like the twitter of a flowerpecker (*Dicaeum*).

BREEDING. As in 1587. This and several other leaf warblers commonly brood-parasitized by *Cuculus poliocephalus* and other cuckoos.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Young. *Above*, slightly browner, less olive than adult; *below*, duller and greyer. Postjuvénal moult of body-feathers, August to October. Prenuptial moult of body-feathers, mid-February to mid-April. Postnuptial moult complete, July to August.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53-62	12-13	18-21	{ 37-45 mm { 36-42 mm
♀♀	52-63			

(BB, CBT, Rand & Fleming, Abdulali)

Weight 10 ♂♂ (June-July) 6.6-7.2; 3 ♀♀ (June-July) 5.4-6 g—GD. 3 ♂♂ (July) 6.8-8.1; 2 ♂♂ (December) 7.1, 7.4; 4 ♀♀ (December) 6.2-7 g—RAP.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible black; lower mandible dark horny, yellowish on base, gape and sides. Legs, feet and claws brown; soles dull yellow.

PHYLLOSCOPUS INORNATUS (Blyth): YELLOWBROWED LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Head pattern relatively well-marked	<i>P. i. humei</i> 154
B	Head pattern very faint	
1	Wing-bars and supercilium yellow	<i>P. i. inornatus</i> 157
2	Wing-bars and supercilium buffish white	<i>P. i. mandellii</i> 156

1590. *Phylloscopus inornatus humei* (Brooks)

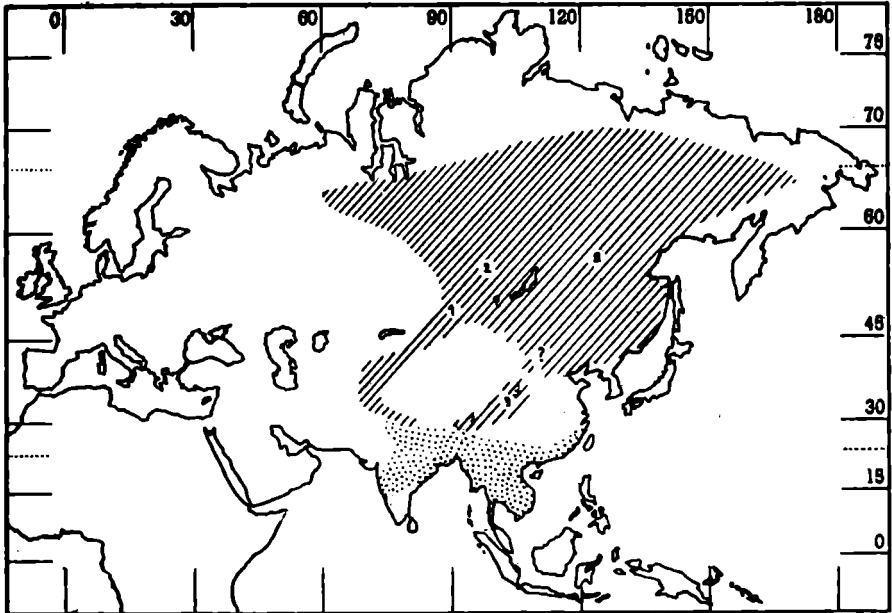
Reguloides humei Brooks, 1878, Stray Feathers 7: 131 (Northwest India)
Baker, FBI No. 870, Vol. 2: 469

LOCAL NAMES. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir); *Foochi* (Manbhum).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two wing-bars, upper usually less clear cut. *Above*, greenish olive; sometimes faint coronal bands, prominent pale whitish supercilium and eye-ring. *Below*, whitish more or less tinged with yellow. Sexes alike.

Combination of whitish supercilium, double wing-bar, concolorous rump and mantle and absence of white in the relatively short tail identifies this species.

Phylloscopus inornatus

Distributional ranges

 Breeding

 Winter
1 *humei* (1590).2 *inornatus* (1592)3 *mandellii* (1591)

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common summer (breeding) visitor to the western Himalayas from N.W.F.P. east through Gilgit, Hazara, the Murree hills and Kashmir to Garhwal, from *c.* 2100 to 3600 m, optimum zone 2700–3000 m. Winters from *c.* 1400 m downwards and in the plains of northern Pakistan and peninsular India south to Belgaum, Hyderabad and Anantagiri (doubtfully south to Nellore); east through Nepal terai and lower hills of Sikkim and Bangladesh to the Brahmaputra-Ganges. In summer affects glades in mixed or coniferous forest, and birch forest above the conifer zone. In winter haunts roadside trees, gardens, orchards and dry-deciduous forest.

Extralimital. Breeds also in adjacent parts of Afghanistan and north through the Turkestan ranges to the Altai. The nominate race extends from Lake Baikal to the northern Urals, Anadyr and the Ussuri region. *P. i. mandellii* breeds in the ranges of western China.

MIGRATION. Spring passage takes place from March till the middle of May, some birds already showing up on their breeding ground in the last week of March, where they may be seen till October. An abundant passage migrant through east and central Nepal in spring and autumn (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985). Autumn migration in September and October. Young birds may start drifting down in August. Recorded in the Peninsula from October to April.

GENERAL HABITS. Forages high up in trees as well as in low bushes. May be seen fluttering against the bark of a tree or even descending to the ground.

FOOD. Insects. Among stomach contents were found blattids and small beetles, ants (*Phidole malinsi*) and spiders (Mason & Lefroy, 1912).

VOICE and CALLS. A sharp fairly long double *tiss-yip* (Alexander) uttered as a call-note or alarm-note; also rendered as *chilip* or *tiu-lip* (SA) and as *tehweet*, or *te-we-ut*, in one note (Whistler). Song, brief and stereotyped, comprising the two-noted territorial calls, *tissoo-tissoo*, interspersed at intervals with a curious drawn-out buzz, rendered as *vit-vit-zzhii* (Sushkin). See also 1591.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of May to July. *Nest*, a ball of grass and moss lined with finer grass, hair and, occasionally, a few feathers, with entrance on the side. Placed on the ground, on steep slopes or banks among ferns or at the foot of a small bush or tree. *Eggs*, from 1-5 (Price & Jamdar, JBNHS 88: 15), white spotted with reddish brown, hardly distinguishable from those of *proregulus* (1594). Average size of 100 eggs 14.6 × 11.4 mm (Baker). Incubation period 12-22 days; nestling period 11-14 days (Price & Jamdar, *ibid.* 88: 15). Brood-parasitized by *Cuculus poliocephalus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Keys to the Species and Subspecies. Differs from the nominate race (1592) in having the upperparts and edges of wing and rectrices duller, more greyish olive, giving a mealy appearance; yellow of head, underparts and wing-bars replaced by buffish white.

Postnuptial moult complete from August to November, either on breeding grounds or after arrival in winter quarters. Prenuptial moult of body-feathers in March-April.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	51-61	10-12	17-19	{ 38-45 mm { 37-43 mm (BB, HW)
♀♀	51-60			

Weight 15 ♂♂ (November to January) 5.3-7.1; 2 ♀♀ (January) 5.8, 6; 1 ♂ (March) 7 g—RAP. 2 ♂♂ (October) 6.2, 7.2; 1 ♀ (October) 6.2 g—GD.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible very dark horny, lower mandible fleshy or light brown with dark horny tip. [It is the only *Phylloscopus* with a dark tip to the lower mandible—H.G. Alexander.] Legs horny to dark horny; feet and claws horny to pale horny; soles yellowish white (BB).

1591. *Phylloscopus inornatus mandellii* (Brooks)

Reguloides Mandellii Brooks, 1879, Stray Feathers 8: 389 (Sikkim)
Baker, FBI No. 871 (part), Vol. 2: 470

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha koro* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1590, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. From the Himalayan foothills east of Sikkim, south through Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh; also Lower Bengal (JBNHS 83: 668), Orissa (BNHS coll.), and Mussoorie (*ibid.* 86: 451); in the hills up to c. 1880 m. Summer visitor to southeastern Tibet (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 200 and 1951: 563) and probably the ranges of Arunachal Pradesh from 2800 m up. Breeding recorded by Baker (JBNHS 9: 17, 1894) on a peak above Hungrum, North Cachar. In summer

affects mixed coniferous and scrub forest. Winter habitat as in 1592.

Extralimal. Breeds in the mountains of Western China. Winters east to northern Burma.

MIGRATION. Spring passage recorded in southeastern Tibet in April, autumn passage in September.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1590.

VOICE and CALLS. A sparrow-like chirp *dschilp* and a pipit-like *tsipp tsipp* (Schäfer). Song rendered by the same as *fitifitifiti* mixed with trills. See 1592. Also a long-drawn, sweet *si-i-p* while foraging (Chattopadhyay, JBNHS 83: 668–9).

BREEDING. Probably as in 1592. A nest reported by Baker (JBNHS 9: 17) at the end of March was a ball of moss lined with a little grass and rootlets; it was said to have been wedged between some stones on a steep mossy bank (this situation often recorded for *inornatus*). The three eggs were white with numerous freckles and spots of bright reddish. They measured 15.5 × 10.9, 15.2 × 10.6 and 15.2 × 10.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Keys to the Species and Subspecies. Differs from *inornatus* in having the upperparts darker and browner, except for greenish rump. Dark coronal bands and pale median stripe faintly indicated. Supercilium and underparts dirty yellowish white; centre of belly more yellowish. Upper wing-bar and pale edges to tertials less distinct.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1592.

Weight (winter) 4.5–6 g (SDR).

1592. *Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus* (Blyth)

Regulus inornatus Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 191 (Darjeeling)

Phylloscopus humii praemium Mathews & Iredale, 1915, Aust. Av. Rec. 3: 44,

new name for *Motacilla superciliosa* Boddaert, 1783

Baker, FBI No. 871 (part), Vol. 2: 470

Plate 86, fig. 10

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha koro* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1590, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. The east Himalayan foothills from *c.* 1500 m downwards, west to central Nepal (Proud, JBNHS 53: 63) and south through Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh. Also Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (JBNHS 86: 451), Bihar and Orissa. Collected in the Andamans (Narcondam I., 23. iii. 1972 —S. A. Hussain), and a sight record from Car Nicobar (Abdulali, JBNHS 71: 502; 75: 770). Affects scrub, gardens, groves and open forest.

Extralimal. Breeds in Siberia, winters in the Indochinese countries, southern China and Taiwan.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in October, leaves in April.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1590.

VOICE and CALLS. Contrary to what has been repeatedly stated in the literature, this subspecies also utters the disyllabic *tiss-yip* recorded for *humei*; variously rendered as *tjis-jipp* (Weigold), *pyu-i* (Kozlova) or *chee-wee* (Proud). However, *inornatus* seems to have, in addition to the disyllabic call, a note

given as *wheet* (Proud), *weest* (SA), *vist* (Portenko), or also a shrill *twee* (Brooks). A call which is probably the same as the latter is recorded by two observers as a pipit-like *biest-biest* (Weigold) or *tsipp tsipp* (Schäfer, for *mandellii*). Also a *si-si* while in family parties. Song poor and feeble, rendered as *sz sz sz sztit* or *schuh djuid jid* rising and falling in tone (Weigold) and *ts ts ts tsit zzhii* ending in a peculiar buzzing sound (Ivanov).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumages see Williamson, 1962: 16; for distinction from *humei* and *mandellii* see 1590 and 1591 and Key to the Subspecies. Postnuptial moult complete on breeding ground, late July to August. A moult of body-feathers only during March.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	55-61	10-12	17-18	{ 40-44 mm { 36-41 mm (CBT)
♀♀	51-57			

Weight (winter) 5-7 g (SDR). 6 ♂♀ (Oct.-Nov.) 5-8 g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel. Bill brown, base of lower mandible yellowish flesh. Legs and feet olive-brown; soles yellow.

1593. Brooks's Leaf Warbler. *Phylloscopus subviridis* (Brooks)

Reguloides subviridis Brooks, 1872, Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal: 148
(Etawah, U.P.)

Baker, FBI No. 869, Vol. 2: 468

Plate 86, fig. 9

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two yellowish white wing-bars, lower prominent, upper indistinct. *Above*, yellowish olive, head and cheeks appearing yellowish; a conspicuous yellow supercilium; a very faint paler median coronal stripe but indistinct; rump yellowish. *Below*, dull yellowish white. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor generally in the upper reaches of forested zone to Chitral, Dir, Swat and Gilgit (Astor, Naltar Valley, Mt Deobani) and N.W.F.P. (Kagan Valley, Byan Khel, Hariab Valley, Safed Koh); from *c.* 2100 to 3600 m. Winters at lower elevations (*c.* 1800 m downwards) from Kohat to Simla, south in the plains to Multan (SW. of Lahore), Rajasthan, Gwalior, M.P. (Sálim Ali, JBNHS 41: 98) and east to Etawah, Kanpur and Fatehgarh, U.P. Affects coniferous forest in summer; bushes, olive groves and thorny *kikar* (*Acacia*) trees in winter.

Extralimital. Breeds also in adjacent parts of Afghanistan and in Turkestan probably north to Kara-Kul Lake and Fergana Range (Dementiev).

MIGRATION. Arrives on summer grounds at the end of March, leaves in September and early October. In winter quarters from September to March, reaching its peak numbers in early November.

GENERAL HABITS. Typical of the genus. Extremely restless and active, foraging mainly in the upper tree-canopy. Usually singly or in pairs; in winter also in mixed parties.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note a distinct *chwey* (Whitehead) or *twee-ut* (Whistler) fairly sharp, almost double but running into one, much flatter than the call of *P. inornatus*, the second half of the note lower than the first (Alexander, *in litt.*); it is also quite distinct from the slight, single note of *P. proregulus*. Song, shrill and weak, but long and complicated, consisting of a series of single notes followed by soft sparrow-like chirps, interspersed with a weak trilling, *tsi-tsi-tsi-treeech*, described by Whistler as *wet wet wet weet whir-r-r-r-r-r* or *pi-pi-piaz-z-z-z* with some variations (Whitehead). Song begins in March before departure.

BREEDING. Little known. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a ball of coarse grass lined with fine grass or goats' hair, placed on the ground, on a sloping bank. *Eggs*, 4, white with reddish spots and speckles. Average size 13.7 × 12.7 mm (Whitehead).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Considered by some authors to be conspecific with *P. inornatus*.

Postnuptial moult probably completed on breeding grounds. Moult of body-feathers in February or later. Upperparts are more olive, less yellow in late winter and spring.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	49-62	10-12	16-18	37-47 mm (Williamson)

Weight (April-July) 6 ♂♂ 5-6; 2 ♀♀ 5, 5 g—Paludan, Afghanistan.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown above, base of lower mandible pale yellow. Legs and feet dark brown.

PHYLLOSCOPUS PROREGULUS (Pallas): PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Underparts dull white tinged with yellow	<i>P. p. simlaensis</i> 159
B	Underparts yellow	
1	Paler above	<i>P. p. chloronotus</i> 161
2	Darker above	<i>P. p. newtoni</i> 162

1594. *Phylloscopus proregulus simlaensis* Ticehurst

Phylloscopus proregulus simlaensis Ticehurst, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 41: 55 (Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 868, Vol. 2: 467

Plate 86, fig. 15

LOCAL NAME. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two yellow wing-bars. *Above*, olive-green. A dusky olive coronal band on either side of a prominent pale yellow median stripe. A long conspicuous yellow supercilium and a dark streak through eye. A prominent pale greenish yellow rump-band. *Below*, dull white tinged with yellow. Sexes alike.

The yellow rump distinguishes it from all but *pulcher* and *maculipennis*, both of which have white in tail.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, common. Breeds in the western Himalayas from N.W.F.P. to west central Nepal, between 2200 and 3300 m, optimum zone 2700–3000 m. Winters from c. 2000 m down to the foothills (360 m in Kangra, 300 m in Nepal), optimum zone 1200–1800 m. Winters in the main valleys of Gilgit, Chitral and in the forested areas of the foothills. In summer affects principally forests of fir, pine, deodar and also mixed conifers and birch, *kharshu* oak (*Quercus semecarpifolia*) and rhododendron. In winter frequents woods and bush-covered hillsides.

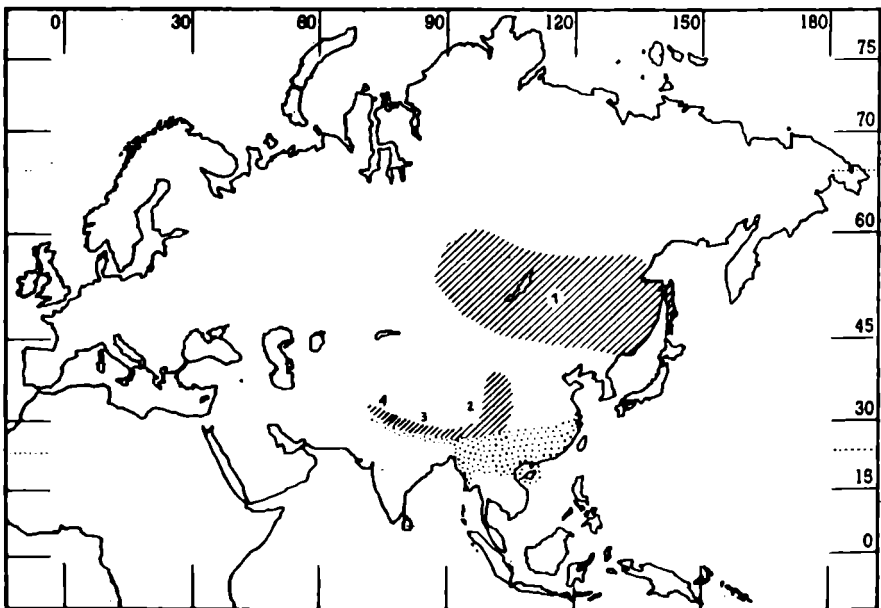
Extralimital. The species breeds in southern Siberia from the Russian Altai to Sakhalin Island and in the mountains of western China. Winters in the Indochinese countries and southern China.

MIGRATION. Occurs below c. 2000 m from October to March. Leisurely ascent to breeding grounds takes place from end of March through April.

GENERAL HABITS. Generally keeps high up in trees but occasionally also hunts in undergrowth; usually singly or in pairs, in winter often in mixed foraging parties of tits, tree-creepers and other small birds. Exceedingly active and restless. Easily identified from its habit of fluttering and hovering in front of sprigs to pick off insects in the manner of a goldcrest, when the bright yellow rump shows up prominently.

FOOD. Insects and their larvae.

Phylloscopus proregulus



Distributional ranges

▨ Breeding

▤ Winter

1 *proregulus* (RE). 2 *newtoni* (1596). 3 *chloronotus* (1595). 4 *simlaensis* (1594).

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a twittering note. Call-note, a sharp *tsip* (Bates and others). Also a plaintive *twee* near the nest, and a flat *chi-wee* (Alexander). Song, long and complicated, interspersed with rapid trills. Many of them are very high pitched and barely audible to the human ear (Roberts).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a neat ball with lateral entrance, of moss, lichen and a few strands of grass or some pine needles, lined with feathers. Usually placed in the outer branches of a conifer between two and fifteen metres, mostly between three and six, above the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, rarely 5 or 3, white with numerous reddish blotches and dots, mostly at the large end. Average size of 100 eggs 14.1 × 10.9 mm (Baker). Frequently brood-parasitized by *Cuculus saturatus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Brighter above, more yellowish green, than other races; underparts paler yellow than in *chloronotus*.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1595.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower yellow, yellowish or brown; mouth yellow. Legs and feet brown or fleshy brown; soles yellow (Abbott).

1595. *Phylloscopus proregulus chloronotus* (Gray)

Abornis chloronotus Gray, 1846, Cat. Mamms. Bds. Nepal: 66, 152
(Nepal, restricted to Katmandu Valley by Ripley, JBNHS 49: 401)

Baker, FBI No. 866 (part), Vol. 2: 466

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1594, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, common. Breeds in central and eastern Nepal between *c.* 2700 and 4200 m. Winters (end of October to mid-April) from *c.* 2000 m down to the foothills. In the breeding season affects chiefly coniferous forest mixed with birch, rhododendron or oak, sometimes either of the preceding in pure stands. In winter frequents woods and jungle-covered hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1594.

VOICE and CALLS. See 1594 and 1596. A frequent call is given as *wis-wis-wis* (GD). Has a feeble but pleasing tinkling song. Period: middle of February (in winter quarters) till end of August (Proud).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *simlaensis* in having the underparts a darker yellow, and from *newtoni* in being paler above. Moults of body-feathers noted in March.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	48–58	10–11	37–44 mm
♀♀	46–55	—	35–36 mm

(BB)

Tarsus 17–18 mm (SA)

Weight 5 ♂♂ (May–July) 5.1–6.2; 2 oo? 4.9, 5.3 g (GD). 6 ♂♂ (Nov.–Jan.) 4.8–5.4; 5 ♀♀ (Nov.–Dec.) 4.5–4.9 g (RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible very dark horny; lower yellowish fleshy with dark horn tip. Legs and feet horny; claws light horny with darker tips; soles light yellow (BB).

1596. *Phylloscopus proregulus newtoni* Gätke

Phylloscopus newtoni Gätke, 1889, Ibis: 579 (India = Darjeeling)
Phylloscopus proregulus forresti Rothschild, 1921, Novit. Zool. 28: 45
 (Lichiang Range, Yunnan)
 Baker, FBI No. 866 (part), Vol. 2: 466

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1594, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal short range migrant, common. Breeds from Darjeeling and Sikkim east through Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, between 2700 and 4200 m. Also North Cachar (Baker, 1894, JBNHS 9: 16). Winters (September to March) from *c.* 2100 m down to the foothills and in the hills of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur, south through Bangladesh to the Chittagong region (Baker, loc. cit., and Rashid, 1967). Habitat as in 1595.

Extralimital. Northern Burma and northwards in the mountains of western China. Winters in Burma south to Arakan, and east to northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1594.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a soft, double *tsip-tsip* (SA). Also a canary-like *houip*. Song strong and pleasing, consisting of various notes repeated four or five times, rendered as *dju-dju-dju-dju*, *zidjud*, *zidjud*, etc. (Weigold).

BREEDING. As in 1594.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *chloronotus* in being darker above. Postnuptial moult complete in September.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1595.

Weight 11 ♂♀ (winter) 4–6 g (SDR). 4 ♂♂ (July) 4.7–5.8 g (RAP).

PHYLLOSCOPUS MACULIPENNIS (Blyth): GREYFACED LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Darkest; back olive	<i>P. m. maculipennis</i> 163
B	Paler; back more yellowish olive	<i>P. m. centralis</i> 163
C	Palest; back still more yellowish olive and brighter	<i>P. m. virens</i> 162

1597. *Phylloscopus maculipennis virens* Ticehurst

Phylloscopus maculipennis virens Ticehurst, 1926, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 46: 61
 (Saraj, Punjab Himalaya)
 Baker, FBI No. 863 (part), Vol. 2: 463

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1599, q.v. Confusable with *P. proregulus* but for its grey face and throat and bright yellow underparts (Nitin Jamdar, JBNHS 84: 685–6).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, uncommon and known only from winter quarters. The western Himalayas from Kashmir to Kumaon. Altitudinal distribution and habitat in summer unknown; see 1599 (altitudes given by Ticehurst, 1938, p. 123, are those given by Whistler for the eastern race). Winters from at least 1800 m down to the foothills, chiefly about 1200–1500 m. In this season found mostly in forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1599.

BREEDING. Unknown. Possibly preparing to breed in the first week of July at c. 3300 m in Tehri Garhwal (Nitin Jamdar, loc. cit.).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *centralis* (1598) but paler, less olive on back. Differs from nominate *maculipennis* (1599) in having the edges of crown paler slate-grey, upperparts brighter, more yellowish olive; underparts paler.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1599.

1598. *Phylloscopus maculipennis centralis* Ripley

Phylloscopus maculipennis centralis Ripley, 1950, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 63: 106
(Rakcha, Dailekh District, western Nepal)
Baker, FBI No. 863 (part), Vol. 2: 463

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1599, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant. Western and central Nepal. Vertical distribution and habitat as in 1599.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1599.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from nominate *maculipennis* in being lighter, more yellowish olive on upperparts with the crown a lighter shade of iron-grey. Underparts paler yellow. Differs from *virens* in being darker, more olive on back (less yellowish olive) and darker, more fuscous on the crown.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1599.

Weight (Nov.–Dec.) 5 ♂♂ 5.3–5.7; 2 ♀♀ 4.7, 4.9 g (RAP).

1599. *Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis* (Blyth)

Abrornis maculipennis Blyth, 1867, Ibis: 27 (Nepal, restricted to Ilam District, eastern Nepal, by Ripley, 1950, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 63: 106)

Phylloscopus maculipennis papilio Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 42
(Mawphlang, Khasi Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 863 (part), Vol. 2: 463

Plate 86, fig. 16

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two conspicuous yellow wing-bars. *Above*, head brownish grey with an interrupted whitish median coronal stripe, a long well-defined whitish supercilium, and a dark stripe through eye. Cheeks mottled whitish and grey. Back olive-green, rump yellow. Inner web of outer rectrices white. *Below*, throat and breast grey; rest of underparts yellow. Sexes alike.

Small size, grey head and throat, yellow rump, double wing-bar, and white in tail make this species unmistakable.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, rather sparsely distributed. Breeds across Nepal through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Probably breeds also in the hills south of the Brahmaputra (recorded as common by Baker) and in Nagaland (Ripley, 1958), since the species breeds in the Chin Hills and south to Mt Victoria. Found in summer between 2440 and 3500 m (Inskipp & Inskipp), optimum zone 2900–3200 m, in open mixed forest of oak and rhododendron or conifers and rhododendron, or mixed deciduous, all with plenty of undergrowth. Winters from *c.* 2900 m down to the foothills, mostly between *c.* 1400 and 2300 m, in broad-leaved, chiefly oak forests, and secondary scrub.

Extralimital. Breeds also in the mountains of Sichuan and Yunnan to northern Vietnam. A vertical migrant in its entire range.

GENERAL HABITS. A very active and restless species haunting mostly medium-sized trees though sometimes may ascend to great heights; also frequents bushes in forest, especially in winter. Usually single in summer, often in itinerant hunting parties, mixed or by themselves in winter. Flicks wings and white-margined tail as it hops about or flutters and hovers in front of sprigs or blossoms for insects.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song undescribed. Call-note, a short *zitt* very similar to that of *P. proregulus*. Alarm, a high-pitched *sit sit sit* endlessly repeated.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to June. *Nest*, only recently discovered by Diesselhorst, extremely well concealed in a thick moss ball hanging from a branch, some five metres above the ground, completely invisible from below. *Eggs* undescribed.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumage and wing formula see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962). Postnuptial moult complete in August and September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	48–53	<i>c.</i> 10	16–17	{ 32–40 mm { 30–33 mm
♀♀	45–50			

(CBT, Heinrich)

Weight ♂♀ (winter) 4.5–6 g (SDR). (June–July) 4 ♂♂ 4.8–6; 3 ♀♀ 4.5–5.5; 3 ♂♂? 4.7–5.7 g (RAP). 4 ♂♂ (breeding) 5; 2 ♀♀ 4.7, 5.5 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet ♂ brownish yellow, ♀ brownish grey.

1600. **Arctic Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus borealis borealis* (Blasius)

Phyllopneuste borealis Blasius, 1853, Naumannia: 313 (Sea of Okhotsk)
Baker, FBI Nos. 872 and 873, Vol. 2: 472

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A relatively large leaf warbler with a slight single wing-bar, not always present. *Above*, brownish olive; a yellowish supercilium and a dark streak through eye; sides of head mottled yellowish and dusky. *Below*, dull white with a little amount of pale yellow, breast often mottled dull grey. Sexes alike.

Distinctive call-note (q.v.) when once learnt is best guide to identification.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Two winter records from the Andaman Islands. Frequents mangrove swamps and mango groves.

Extralimital. The species breeds in northern Eurasia from Finland and Anadyr and also Alaska, south in the mountains to Mongolia. Winters in the southern Indochinese countries, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

MIGRATION. Arrives in its winter quarters in September, leaves in April. Performs one of the longest migrations among the phylloscopi, the farthest distance between known points of breeding and wintering being over 10,500 km (CBT).

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary. Usually keeps to trees and high bushes.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud *tswee ep* or *dz-dzit* unlike any other leaf warbler, and a hard *zik* or *chik*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumages and wing-formula see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	60–70	13–15	18–21	40–50 mm (Williamson)

Weight 45 ♂♂ 9–15 (av. 11); 25 ♀♀ 8–13 (av. 10) g—Shaw *in* Williamson.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel to dark brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown with yellowish tomium, lower mandible orange-yellow (adult) to pale brown or yellowish flesh, dark on underside towards tip (first winter); mouth orange (adult). Legs and feet pale or yellowish brown, often with greyish tinge in front (Williamson & Davis).

1601. **Largebilled Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus magnirostris* Blyth

Ph. (ylloscopus) magnirostris Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 966
(Calcutta)

Baker, FBI No. 878, Vol. 2: 476

Plate 86, fig. 22

LOCAL NAMES. *Deru* (Kohat); *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. The largest of all Indian leaf warblers; with a single very faint wing-bar, sometimes showing traces of a second. *Above*, brownish olive; a prominent yellowish supercilium and a dark streak through eye; cheeks mottled yellowish and dusky. *Below*, yellowish white with grey streaks on throat and flanks. Sexes alike.

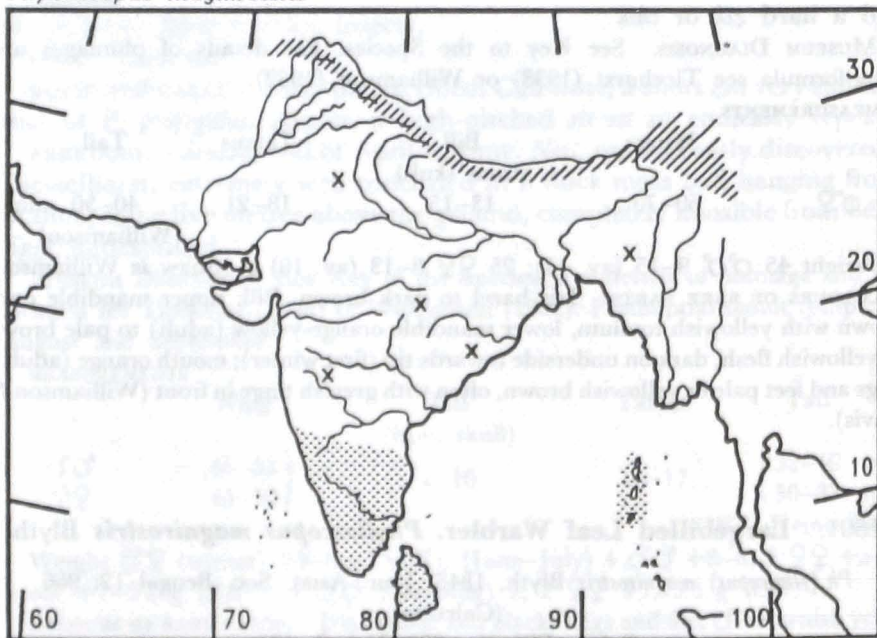


× c. 3

Very similar to Arctic Leaf Warbler (1600) but the two not likely to be found together. Very similar also to Greenish and Bright Green leaf warblers (1604, 1605). Best distinguished by their call-notes (qq.v.).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common summer (breeding) visitor to the Himalayas from N.W.F.P. (Safed Koh) east through Bhutan and presumably Arunachal Pradesh. Breeds between 1800 and 3600 m, mostly above 2100 m. Winter range not satisfactorily known: recorded in Kerala (Sálím Ali, JBNHS 38: 493, Ferguson, JBNHS 15: 458; also Bourdillon and Davison), Karnataka (Sálím Ali, JBNHS 43: 576, Belgaum, Butler, SF 9: 408, Londa, Koelz, JBNHS 43: 19), Tamil Nadu (Nichols, JBNHS 44: 400, Koelz, JBNHS 47: 135, Navarro, JBNHS 86: 451), Andhra Pradesh, Nellore (Jerdon), Maharashtra, Nagpur (D'Abreu, *Rec. Nagpur Mus.*, No. 3, 1923), Manipur (Hume, SF 11: 218) and Mishmi Hills (Ali & Ripley, JBNHS 48: 31). All other data from the Indian Peninsula and Assam are in September, October, April and May and could be passage records. Said to be rare in all the above-mentioned localities except in the hills of

Phylloscopus magnirostris



Breeding



Known winter range



Isolated passage (?) records

Kerala (up to at least 1200 m) where it has been found to be common locally. Also winters throughout Sri Lanka where moderately plentiful in all zones (Phillips, 1953) and in the Andaman Islands (North Andaman, Hume collection; South Andaman, Wimberley and Davison & Hume specimens in British Mus.). Recorded commonly on passage in the Himalayan foothills, in the Peninsula (but not west of U.P. and M.P.), and in Bangladesh and Assam. In summer affects birches or other deciduous trees, or mixed rhododendron and firs in ravines or on their sides, almost invariably in the vicinity of torrential streams. In winter chiefly favours evergreen forest in sholas.

Extralimital. Breeds also in the mountains of western China north to Kansu. Winter range abroad little known. Said to winter at lower altitudes near breeding range; probably in the Indochinese countries as it has been recorded on passage in Tenasserim.

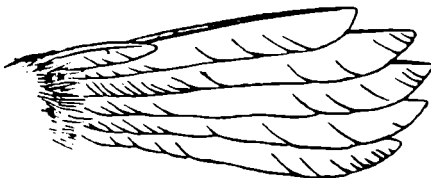
MIGRATION to and from summer grounds occurs from May to September. Downward movement begins after breeding as large numbers appear in the Nepal Valley in August. Passage in the Peninsula takes place from the end of August to October; recorded in winter quarters from October to May. Spring passage April to mid-May.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually keeps singly to the crowns of medium-sized trees and lower canopy of taller ones. Also forages in undergrowth, and like most of the genus flutters out to seize disturbed or flying insects (Roberts). Unobtrusive and difficult to observe, but easily detected by its call and song.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, an unmistakable interrogative *dir-tee?* or *wee-chi?* second note much higher than first (various observers). This, in more agitated tone, is also the alarm-note in summer, e.g. when nest approached by intruder. In winter, a three-noted whistle on an ascending scale *yaw-wee-wee* likened to the song of the Orangebreasted Blue Flycatcher [*Muscicapa tickelliae*, 1443] (Henry, Sri Lanka). Song, a very distinctive, clear, five-noted silver bell-like *see, si-si, si-si* on three descending tones, with occasional variations (BBO, Alexander); reminiscent of ditty of *Rhipidura albicollis*, 1455 (SA). Song period, mid-April till end of August (Proud). May also be heard in September while on migration, and occasionally in winter quarters.

BREEDING. *Season*, June to August. *Nest*, roughly domed, made of grass stems, moss, dead leaves, ferns and lichen, lined with fine grass; placed under a fallen log or rock, in hollows or crevices, under an overhanging bank or among the tangled roots of a fallen tree, often overhanging a stream. *Eggs*, usually 4, sometimes 5 or 3, white, unspotted. Average size of 50 eggs 18.2×13.2 mm (Baker); of 9 eggs 18.5×13.6 mm (BBO). Sometimes brood-parasitized by *Cuculus saturatus* (Currie, JBNHS 24: 594).



Wing, $\times c. \frac{1}{2}$

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumage and wing-formula see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962). A complete moult takes place in winter quarters from the end of January till mid-April.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	62-73 } 58-65 }	14-15	19-20	{ 48-56 mm 52-54 mm (BB, HW)
♀♀				

Weight 2 ♂♂ (July) 11.3, 12 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel brown. Bill brown, pale flesh at gape and base of lower mandible; mouth 'livid' (summer—HW), bright yellow or pale pinkish yellow (winter—SA). Legs and feet pale brown, greyish brown or brownish slate; soles lemon-yellow.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILOIDES (Sundevall): GREENISH LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Upperparts brighter green; underparts yellow <i>P. t. nitidus</i>	172
B Upperparts duller greenish; underparts sullied yellowish white	
1 2nd primary (as.) usually longer than 8th <i>P. t. viridanus</i>	168
2 2nd primary usually shorter than 8th	
a Above greyer and paler; below less greyish <i>P. t. ludlowi</i>	170
b Above more olive, darker on head; below more greyish <i>P. t. trochiloides</i>	171

1602, 1572. *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* Blyth

Phylloscopus viridanus Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 967
(Calcutta)

Baker, FBI No. 875, Vol. 2: 474

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A single faint wing-bar. *Above*, dull greenish; a well-marked yellowish supercilium and a dark streak through eye; cheeks mottled olive and yellowish. *Below*, sullied yellowish white. Sexes alike.

Indistinguishable in the field from *P. t. nitidus* (1605) which however is greener above and yellower below, and has a better marked yellow wing-bar. *P. magnirostris* has a distinctive song and call-note.

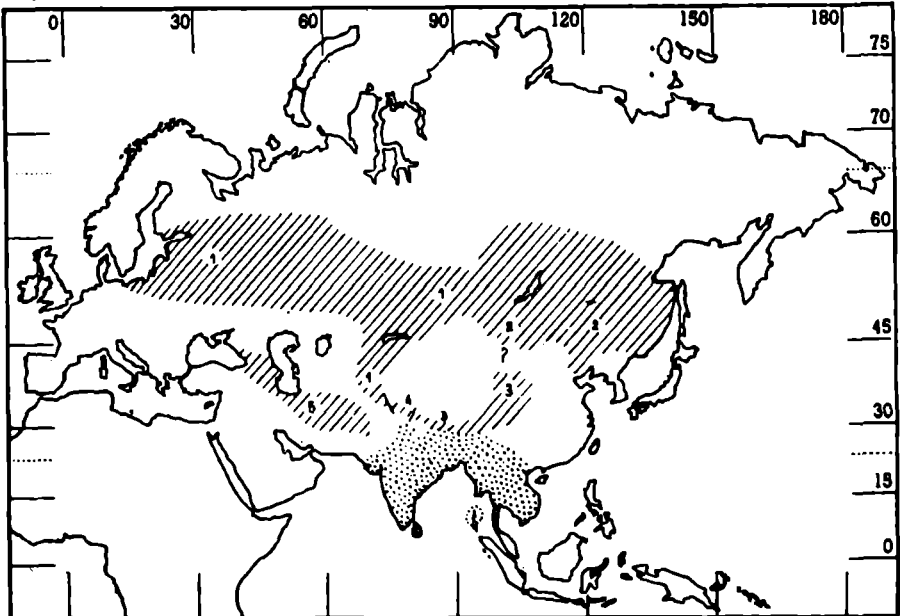
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common summer (breeding) visitor to the western Himalayas from Indus Kohistan, Gilgit and Kashmir south of the main range, from 2700 to 3700 m. Winters from the Nepal and Sikkim foothills south throughout the Peninsula, east to the Brahmaputra-Ganges rivers in Bangladesh, west to central Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat (JBNHS 52: 760)¹, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, W. Bengal, south throughout Maharashtra, Goa (Trevor Price, JBNHS 77: 143), Karnataka to southern Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Also Sri Lanka where rare (Phillips). In Nepal up to *c.* 1800 m, in Kerala up to the summits of the hills but most common

¹ 1572. *Phylloscopus trochilus acredula* (Linnaeus) collected by Sálím Ali in Gujarat (JBNHS 52: 760) is in actuality No. 1602, *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* vide Abdulali & Unnithan (JBNHS 83: 209), and is now removed from the Indian list.

between c. 600 and 900 m. In summer affects willow, tamarisk and poplar groves (Gilgit, Kashmir) and mixed fir and deciduous forest (Turkestan). In winter frequents gardens, orchards, wooded compounds, lowland acacia groves, open deciduous and, to a lesser extent, evergreen jungle.


Extralimital. Breeds in Turkestan north to the Altai, thence west to the Baltic Sea. Other subspecies in eastern Siberia and western China. *P. t. nitidus* breeds in northern Iran and in the Caucasus Mountains. The species winters in India and the Indochinese countries.

Phylloscopus trochiloides



Distributional ranges

 Breeding

 Winter (all subspecies)

1 *viridanus* (1602). 2 *plumbeitarsus* (RE). 3 *trochiloides* (1604).

4 *ludlowi* (1603). 5 *nitidus* (1605).

MIGRATION. Found on its breeding grounds from April to September; on autumn passage from end of August to October; an exceptionally early record on 1/vii from Maharashtra (JBNHS 86:451). On winter grounds from October to May; spring migration, March to May.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually met with singly, sometimes among mixed foraging parties of small insectivorous birds, feeding mostly in the foliage canopy but also in undergrowth, bustling energetically among leaves and blossoms, clinging to sprigs upside down, nervously flicking wings, and at times launching into the air to seize a midge like a flycatcher.

FOOD. Insects, including small beetles and caterpillars.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note while foraging a characteristic squeaky *chiwee* or *si-chiwee* (sometimes *si-si-chiwee*) repeated every few seconds. Identical

with call of *P. t. nitidus* (1605) and likewise indistinguishable from that of *P. inornatus humei* (1590). Song, also heard in the winter quarters prior to spring migration and constantly during passage, a lively high-pitched quick-repeated *chi-chi-chiwee*, *chi-chichiwee* . . . (of about 2 seconds duration) or *chi-chirichi-chiwiwee* . . . and variants of this theme (SA). Main song period April till end of July.

BREEDING. Very few authentic records in India. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a ball of moss, lichen, dead leaves and root fibres, lined with fine grass, fine moss, a few hairs and feathers, with a lateral entrance. Placed on sloping ground among roots of trees, or in hollows of rotten trunks up to two metres or so from the ground. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, unspotted white. Average size of 36 eggs 15.3×11.9 mm (Baker). Incubation by female only, care of nestlings by both sexes (Dementiev).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumages, wing-formula and moults see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	59-65	12-13	18-19	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 45-51 \text{ mm} \\ 42-47 \text{ mm} \end{array} \right.$
♀♀	54-65			

(CBT, Rand & Fleming, HW)

Weight ♂♀ (breeding) 6.5-10.5 (av. 7.9); (winter) 7-9.3 (av. 7.8) g—CBT. 25 ♂♀ (October, S. India) 8-14 (av. 9.5) g—SA.

Average of 10 autumn migrants 7.4 g (Williamson).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower pale flesh or pale yellow. Legs and feet greyish or greenish brown; soles lemon-yellow.

1603. *Phylloscopus trochiloides ludlowi* Whistler

Phylloscopus trochiloides ludlowi Whistler, 1931, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 52: 62
(Maran River, near Kishtwar)

Baker, FBI No. 875 (part), Vol. 2: 474

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1602, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor to Baltistan intergrading with *viridanus* in Gilgit and Kashmir, and with *trochiloides* in Garhwal and Kumaon. Vertical distribution and habitat as in 1602. Winters in the Peninsula: Etawah, Fatehgarh (U.P.), Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), Wynaad (Kerala), the Nilgiris and in the Eastern Ghats (Andhra Pradesh).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1602. Territorial song given by both sexes while establishing winter territories (Price, JBNHS 76: 416). Call, a perky, diabolic *cheeyur!* or *cheelip!* reminiscent of the N. American Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* (Ripley, *ibid.* 85: 99).

BREEDING. As in 1602.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *viridanus* but slightly greyer above and a little larger. Paler and greyer above than *trochiloides* with less greyish wash below.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60-66 } 56-60 }	12-13	18-20	{ 45-55 mm 44-51 mm
♀♀				

(Williamson, HW)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 7.5 g each, 1 ♀ 7.5 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1602.

1604. *Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides* (Sundevall)

Acanthiza trochiloides Sundevall, 1838, Fysiogr. Sällskap. Tidskr. Lund 1: 76
(Calcutta)

Baker, FBI No. 875 (part), Vol. 2: 474

Plate 86, fig. 21

LOCAL NAME. *Inruite* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1602, q.v.

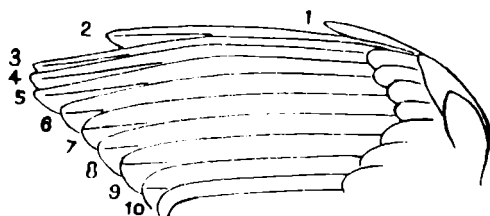
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Abundant summer (breeding) visitor to the Himalayas from Garhwal and Kumaon to Arunachal Pradesh, between 2900 and 4200 m, optimum zone 3500-4000 m, wandering up to 4600 m after the breeding season. Also breeds in Nagaland and North Cachar at *c.* 1800 m (Baker, *Nidification* 2: 425). Winters from the Himalayas (up to *c.* 2200 m) south to lower Bengal (but apparently not south of the Gangetic Plain) and throughout Bangladesh and Assam. Also Andaman Islands. Has straggled to Wynaad and Sri Lanka. In summer affects subalpine mixed forest of fir, birch, rhododendron or juniper as well as pure stands of birch or conifers; also haunts bush jungle with isolated trees; occasionally met with in the scrub zone above timber-line, but does not appear to breed in this biotope. In winter frequents various types of mixed forest and open cultivated country.

Extralimital. Breeds also in the mountains of western China and winters east through the Indochinese countries. For range of the species see under 1602.

MIGRATION to breeding ground occurs from April to September; passage at lower elevations mostly in September and April.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1602.

BREEDING. As in 1602. Six eggs measure 15.5-15.6 × 11.7-12.5 mm (Baker, Ludlow).



Wing, × *c.* 1

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *viridanus* in wing-formula: 2nd primary is usually shorter than 8th, mostly between 9/10 or = 10th, while in *viridanus* it is often longer than 8th, usually between 7/8. For details of plumages and moults see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	62-68 } 55-62 }	12-14	18-20	{ 50-57 mm { 45-52 mm (CBT, BB)
♀♀				

Weight 13 ♂♂ (May-Aug.) 8-8.9, 2 ♂♂ (Sept.) 9.4, 9.8 g; 14 ♀♀ (May-Aug.) 7.9-10.3 g (GD). 4 ♂♂ (April) 7.5-8.7, 9 ♀♀ (April) 6.8-7.9 g; 13 ♂♂ (July) 8-9.5, 14 ♀♀ (July) 7.3-9.5 g (RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel brown. Bill dark brown, yellow to orange at base of lower mandible; mouth yellow. Legs and feet yellowish brown to greenish brown.

1605. *Phylloscopus trochiloides nitidus* Blyth¹

Ph. (ylloscopus) nitidus Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 965
(vicinity of Calcutta)

Baker, FBI No. 874, Vol. 2: 473

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *viridanus* (1602) but underparts distinctly yellow. Probably not distinguishable in worn winter plumage. Call-notes of the two identical.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to southern India (Kerala, where common, Tamil Nadu and probably the Eastern Ghats) and Sri Lanka where common in all zones. On passage throughout the Peninsula east to Bengal and in Pakistan (Sind, northern Baluchistan and the western Himalayas) up to at least 2400 m. A few individuals over-winter in lower Sind, and they are conspicuous in Quetta gardens from late October till early December (Roberts). Probably nests sporadically in central Baluchistan—singing males seen at Ziarat from late April to mid-May (Roberts). The occurrence of *nitidus* at Fort Munro as early as 27 July (Waite, JBNHS 37: 690) may also be an indication of breeding not far away. In winter affects heavy forest as well as gardens, orchards or other cultivation. In summer affects mixed forest at the upper limit of trees.

Extralimital. Breeds in the mountains of northern Afghanistan, central and northern Iran west to the Caucasus Mts.

MIGRATION. Recorded in winter quarters from October to April. Autumn passage from August through October. Spring migration from end of March till end of May; the last of the migrating leaf warblers to be seen in Kohat (Whitehead, *Ibis* 1909: 125). Abundant during spring migration in the lower Himalayas east to Sikkim, but appears to avoid this region in autumn when passage is chiefly recorded from Punjab to Sind.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1602. In winter quarters reported (this or *magnirostris*?) roosting individually at night under leaves, e.g. of papaya trees (*Carica papaya*)—Pillay, N.G., JBNHS 57: 659.

¹ Besides similarity in niche selection and biology, *nitidus* intergrades with *viridanus* and must be treated as a subspecies of *trochiloides*.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note indistinguishable from that of *viridanus* (SA, Proud). Its two-noted call, *chiwee-chiwee* can be heard throughout the year (Roberts). A common call in Sri Lanka is given as *thirrip* (Henry). Song claimed to be recognizable (Proud); for rendition see under 1602.

BREEDING. As in 1602.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *viridanus* in being a brighter green above and distinctly yellow below. *Contra* Ticehurst (1938: 155) intergrades do occur (specimens examined U.S. Nat. Mus.). For details of Plumages, wing-formula and moults see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58-68	12-14	18-20	{ 45-51 mm { 43-47 mm (BB, HW)
♀♀	58-64			

Weight 3 ♂♂ 7.2-7.5; 1 ♀ 6.5 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower yellowish brown. Legs and feet greyish brown (variable).

1605a. Palelegged Leaf Warbler. *Phylloscopus tenellipes* Swinhoe

Phylloscopus tenellipes Swinhoe, 1860, Ibis: 53 (Amoy, SE. China)
 Baker, FBI No. 879, Vol. 2: 477

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two faint wing-bars. *Above*, olive-brown, more rusty on rump, darker on rump and crown. A conspicuous buff supercilium and a dark streak through eye; a broken eye-ring. Sides of head mottled buff and dusky. *Below*, dull white, flanks washed with brownish. Sexes alike.

Very similar to *P. fuscatus* (1586) but distinguished by presence of wing-bars and pale-coloured legs.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor: a migrant was taken on a boat 10 miles east of Great Nicobar (*Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 25: 291; see also JBNHS 64: 186). Obtained in Narcondam I. (Andamans) in March (Abdulali, JBNHS 71: 502). Affects deciduous forest.

Extralimital. Breeds in Japan, Sakhalin and the Ussuri region. Winters in the Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Frequents undergrowth and lower branches of trees.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a distinct *tik-tik*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. For details of plumage and wing-formula see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	55-66	12-14	18-19	41-50 mm (Williamson)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower fleshy brown. Legs and feet pale flesh.

PHYLLOSCOPUS OCCIPITALIS (Blyth)

Key to the Subspecies

Under tail-coverts concolorous with belly *P. o. occipitalis*

Under tail-coverts yellow, contrasting with belly *P. o. coronatus*

1606. **Large Crowned Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis*
(Blyth)

Ph. (yllopneuste) occipitalis Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 593
(Southern India)

Baker, FBI No. 881, Vol. 2: 479

Plate 86, fig. 18

LOCAL NAME. *Viri tiriv* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two wing-bars of which only one noticeable. *Above*, light greyish olive; wings more yellowish; shoulders yellow. A pale median coronal stripe with a broad, dusky olive band on either side, blackish on nape. A conspicuous pale yellow supercilium, a dark line through eye. Cheeks pale yellow. *Below*, whitish tinged greyish on breast and flanks, slightly streaked with yellow on breast and belly. Sexes alike.

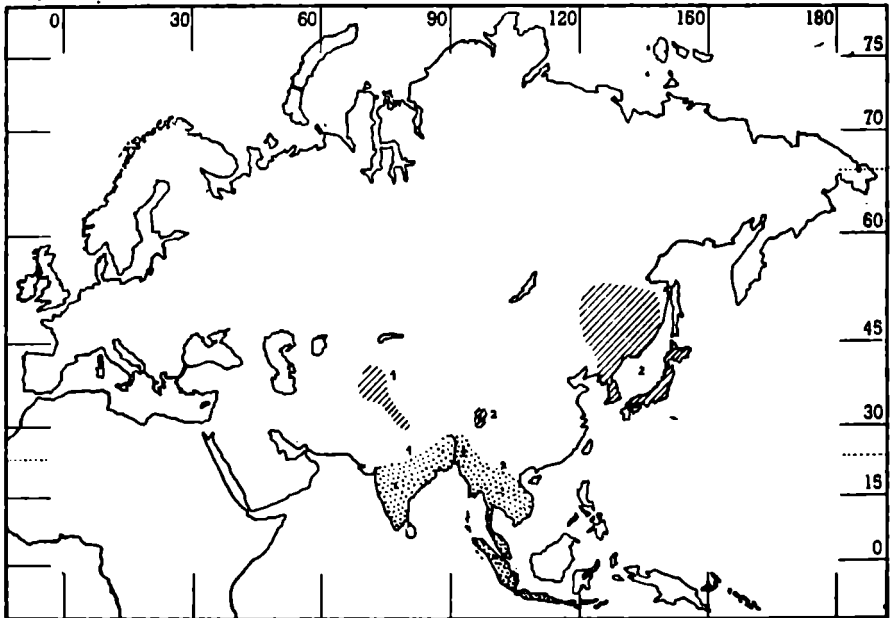
Orange at base of lower mandible is a distinctive character.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Abundant summer (breeding) visitor to the western Himalayas: Safed Koh, Chitral and Swat (N.W.F.P.) and Baltistan east to Garhwal and Kumaon; from *c.* 1800 to 3200 m. Breeds abundantly in Kashmir. Winters in the Peninsula from southern Gujarat (Surat Dangs) and northwestern Maharashtra (Dhulia), Madhya Pradesh (Raipur) and the Eastern Ghats (Vishakhapatnam) south to the southernmost hills; more common on the western side of the Peninsula. Appears to keep mostly to the hills, up to at least 2100 m. All records south of a line Dhulia-Raipur (*c.* 21°N.) are from October to April. Listed as winter visitor to Bangladesh west of the Brahmaputra-Ganges by Rashid, 1967. Recorded on passage at Lahore, and in Rajasthan and Gujarat; east to central Nepal and eastern Bihar (Madhupur). In summer affects coniferous forests, willow groves, deciduous or mixed conifer-deciduous forest; in winter mostly moist-deciduous and evergreen biotope.

Extralimital. Breeds also in northwest Afghanistan and north to Uzbekistan. Also Ussuriland (see 1607).

MIGRATION. Found on summer grounds from end of March till September; autumn passage from July to October (Delhi Ridge—Gaston, JBNHS 75:124). May be seen in the Peninsula (M.P.) as early as August. Records from Rajasthan on 22 July. In winter quarters from October to April; spring passage third week of March to early May.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in pairs in the breeding season, in parties up to 30 birds in winter, almost invariably in mixed company with flycatchers, titmice, *Zosterops*, *Alcippe poioicephala* and other small birds. A restless leaf warbler, continually flicking its wings and tail as it creeps or flits among branches and shrubs, clinging to twigs to peer under leaves or making

Phylloscopus occipitalis

Distributional ranges

▨ Breeding

▤ Winter

1 *occipitalis* (1606). 2 *coronatus* (1607).

short aerial sallies after insects. Hunts mostly in the canopy of moderate-sized trees and higher bushes. Under excitement, as when mobbing a snake or owl, tail spread out and wings drooped at sides.

FOOD. Insects and spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. Rather noisy. Said to have a wide repertoire of songs. Commonest song is a constantly repeated, cheerful, rapid *chiwee-chiwee* etc. (Alexander); also rendered as a squeaky but spirited *chi-chi-chi-chwei chwei-chwei-chwei* (or *ti-ti—tiu-tiu-tiu-tiu*) quickly repeated (SA). A 'monotonous *chip-chip-chip-chip*' (Magrath) appears to be another rendition of the song rather than a call-note. Song period, third week of March till early August. Alarm-note, *chick-wip* or *chick-weep*; sometimes repeated almost incessantly, maybe for several minutes, at the rate of *c.* two per second while fussing agitatedly around an intruder near nest (BBO, SA).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, varying from cup-shaped to completely domed according to situation. Made of moss, leaves and fibres, lined with fur or hair. Usually placed well out of sight, sometimes an arm-length within crevices of walls. Also in holes in trees up to a couple of metres from the ground, hollows in dead stumps, under stones in rocky banks or under roots of trees, in old rat-burrows and sometimes in vertical holes in the forest floor; nests have even been recorded in rafters of cowsheds and in the gable of a bungalow roof. *Eggs*, normally 4, unspotted white. Average size of 36 eggs 16×12.3 mm (BBO), of 50 eggs 16.4×12.7 mm (Baker). Both sexes tend the young; share in nest-building and incubation, and period of

incubation, not recorded. Often brood-parasitized by *Cuculus saturatus* (Ratray).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumages, wing-formula and moults see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	59-71	13-15	17-19	{ 45-55 mm { 45-55 mm
♀♀	56-70			

(Williamson, HW, Koelz)

Weight 8 ♂♂ (summer) 8-9 (av. 8.5); 5 ♀♀ (summer) 8-9 (av. 8.4) g—Paludan, Afghanistan. 3 ♂♂ (winter) 7.25, 8.27, 9.7 g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown, lower mandible pale orange; mouth pale orange or pale yellow. Legs and feet slaty brown or greyish brown; soles yellow (SA).

1607. *Phylloscopus occipitalis coronatus* (Temminck & Schlegel)

Ficedula coronata Temminck & Schlegel, 1847, in Siebold's Fauna Japon.,
Aves: 48, pl. 18 (Japan)

Phylloscopus occipitalis extimus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration,
No. 1: 16 (Karong, Manipur)
Baker, FBI No. 882, Vol. 2: 480
Plate 86, fig. 19

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1606 but has white underparts and bright yellow under tail-coverts. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to the Sikkim foothills up to c. 2000 m (Meinertzhagen), the Garo, Khasi and Mizo hills, Nagaland and Manipur (Koelz, loc. cit.; presumed by collector to be migrants) and the Chittagong ranges of Bangladesh (Rashid). In winter affects deep jungle.

Extralimital. Breeds in Korea, Amurland, Japan and Sichuan (Traylor, M. A., *Fieldiana: Zool.* 53: 37, 1967). Winters also in the Indochinese countries, Sumatra and Java.

MIGRATION. Arrives in the Malay Peninsula in September, remains till mid-April (Robinson).

GENERAL HABITS. In winter very silent and unobtrusive. Keeps to the lower boughs of trees and bushes.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note unrecorded. Song probably not uttered in winter: two repeated short syllables followed by a longer, drawn-out one *djip-djip*, *djip-djip*, *djee* (Austin & Kuroda).

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Resembles *occipitalis* but crown darker, upperparts greener, under tail-coverts yellow contrasting with white belly. For details of plumages, wing-formula and moults see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60-65	13-15	17-19	42-50 mm
♀♀	57-61			

(Williamson)

Weight ♂♀ 8-10.5 g (Williamson).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible reddish amber, cutting edge and lower mandible orange; mouth orange. Legs and feet greyish brown.

PHYLLOSCOPUS REGULOIDES (Blyth): CROWNED LEAF WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	White edge to outer rectrices 2-4 mm broad	<i>P. r. assamensis</i> 179
B	White edge to outer rectrices <i>c.</i> 2 mm or less	
1	Upperparts yellower green	<i>P. r. kashmiriensis</i> 177
2	Upperparts greener	<i>P. r. reguloides</i> 178
3	Yellow of underparts confined to streaks on breast	<i>P. r. claudiae</i> 180

1608. *Phylloscopus reguloides kashmiriensis* Ticehurst

Phylloscopus reguloides kashmiriensis Ticehurst, 1933, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 54: 19 (Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 883 (part), Vol. 2: 481

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

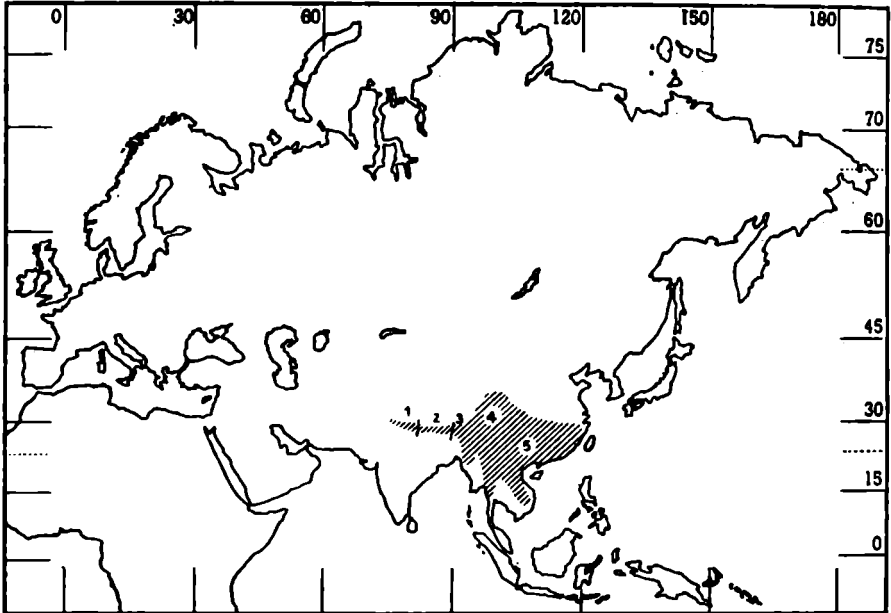
FIELD CHARACTERS. A smaller version of *P. occipitalis* (1606), but wing-bars generally a darker yellow, and lateral coronal bands darker, less grey-green. Not readily distinguishable from *P. occipitalis* in the field. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon resident and altitudinal migrant. Breeds in the western Himalayas from Murree (one record only, 1904, Rattray, JBNHS 16: 426) and Kashmir (Brooks, JASB 41: 81; Wilson, JBNHS 12: 636) east to Garhwal, between *c.* 2400 and 3300 m. Affects rhododendron and oak forest. Winters in the foothills and adjacent plains south and east to Etawah (U.P.), Darbhanga and Dinapore (Bihar), Orissa and Tamil Nadu (Point Calimere and the Nilgiris). In winter frequents subtropical pine and sal forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1609.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, similar to that of *occipitalis* (1606) but smaller, often placed between stones in walls, sometimes in tree hollows up to a couple of metres above the ground. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, white, unspotted. Average size of 36 eggs 15.6 × 12.1 mm (Baker). See also 1610.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *P. occipitalis* by smaller size, yellower median coronal stripe, brighter greenish upperparts, broader wing-bars and different wing-formula: 2nd primary usually between 8/9 or equal to 9 while in *occipitalis* it usually falls between 7/8. Differs from *reguloides* (1609) in having the upperparts,

Phylloscopus reguloides

Breeding ranges

- 1 *kashmiriensis* (1608). 2 *reguloides* (1609). 3 *assamensis* (1610).
4 *claudiae* (1611). 5 Other races, extralimital.

edges to wings and coverts a yellow green; lateral coronal bands less dark, not so conspicuous. Postnuptial moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	57–65	13–14	16–17	42–48 mm (CBT)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown; lower and edge of gape orange-yellow. Legs and feet bluish green to greenish yellow.

1609. ***Phylloscopus reguloides reguloides*** (Blyth)

Phyllopneuste reguloides Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 191
(Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 883 (part), Vol. 2: 481

Plate 86, fig. 20

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Similar to *occipitalis* (1606) but smaller.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and altitudinal migrant, fairly common. Breeds in the Himalayas from Kumaon to eastern Bhutan, between 2000 and 3500 m, optimum zone 2500–3000 m. Affects forests of

oak, rhododendron and conifers, mixed or in pure stands. Winters in the foothills from c. 1500 m downwards, and adjacent plains to northern Bangladesh and upper Assam; has strayed to Bihar; two records from Burma (Bhamo and northern Tenasserim). In winter frequents bushes in forest, forest edges and bush country with isolated trees.

MIGRATION. Arrives on its summer grounds in early March, leaves in August.

GENERAL HABITS. In the breeding season usually met singly or in pairs: in winter often in the mixed foraging parties of small insectivorous birds. Hunts in tree canopy as well as in bushes.

FOOD. Chiefly insects; berries also recorded (GD).

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note *kee-kew-i* constantly repeated (HGA). Song rendered as *ziwizi wizi wit* and said to recall that of the Coal Tit (*Parus ater*, 1803—GD); also described as a distinctive trill of nine to ten notes *chi-ti-chi-ti-chi-ti-chi-ti-chee* (Proud). No direct comparison with song of *occipitalis* available. See also 1610. Song period mid-March till end of August (Proud).

BREEDING. As in 1608. One nest is described as cup-shaped, made of moss and placed in a hole in the ground, 60 cm from the entrance. The three eggs measured 17 × 12, 16 × 12, 17 × 12 mm (Ludlow). See also 1610.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See 1608. Differs from *assamensis* (1610) by restricted amount of white (2 mm wide) on inner webs of the two outer rectrices (*v.* 2–4 mm in *assamensis*) and slightly brighter upperparts. Intergrades with *kashmiriensis* in Kumaon and with *assamensis* in Bhutan. For details of plumage see Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962). Postnuptial moult complete from July to early September. Prenuptial moult of body-feathers in February and March.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	53–62	11–13	16–18	39–49 mm (Williamson)

Weight 7 ♂♂ (Mar.–Oct.) 6.9–8.7; 7 ♀♀ (Mar.–Oct.) 6.2–8 g (GD). 8 ♀♀ (Oct.–Mar.) 6.6–9.4; 6 ♂♂ (Nov.–Mar.) 6.6–9.4; 5 ♂♂ (June–Aug.) 7–8.5; 8 ♀♀ (Oct.–Mar.) 6.6–9.4; 4 ♀♀ (June–July) 6.9–8.6 g (RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower yellow. Legs and feet pale yellowish plumbeous.

1610. *Phylloscopus reguloides assamensis* Hartert

Phylloscopus trochiloides assamensis Hartert, 1921, Vög. pal. Fauna (3): 2139, new name for *Acanthopneuste trochiloides harterti* Baker, 1913, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 31: 36 (Peak near Shillong, Khasia Hills) *nec Phylloscopus bonelli harterti* Zedlitz, 1912

Phylloscopus reguloides terpsinus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 16 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 884, Vol. 2: 481

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1608, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and altitudinal migrant, fairly common. Breeds in Arunachal Pradesh and the hills south of the Brahmaputra (cf. Koelz, loc. cit.), Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur. In the Himalayas breeds between *c.* 2400 and 3600 m; for habitat see 1609. In Meghalaya in the Khasi Hills above *c.* 1400 m in evergreen wet forest and mixed broad-leaved and pine forest (on Mt Victoria between 2000 and 3000 m). Winters from *c.* 2200 m (Nagaland) down to the foothills and adjacent plains west to Sikkim and south to the Chittagong region in Bangladesh. In winter may be seen in light scrub and pastureland with low second growth.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1609.

VOICE and CALLS. Has some 'cheep' call-notes. Alarm-notes *chee-pit* or *zip-aye*. Song rendered as *pit-chew-a-pit-chew-a-pit-chew-a*, the notes slurred into each other to produce a continuous undulating wave of sound (Smythies). Also given as *tshitschui . . . tshitschui—tshitschui*, recalling the song of *P. trochiloides* (Heinrich).

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to June. *Nest*, a well-built ball of green moss, sometimes a few scraps of dead leaves or lichen being added, lined with soft vegetable down, occasionally with feathers. Placed in hollows on banks covered with moss, weeds and ferns; sometimes in holes in trees or rotten stumps. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, unspotted white. Average size of 50 eggs 15.3 × 11.9 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes though female has greater share. Brood-parasitized by *Cuculus saturatus* and *C. poliocephalus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For distinguishing from *reguloides* and *claudiae* see 1609 and 1611.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1609.

Weight 1 ♂ (March) 7 g (RAP).

1611. *Phylloscopus reguloides claudiae* (La Touche)

Acanthopneuste trochiloides claudiae La Touche, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 43: 22
(Mengt, Yunnan)

Baker, FBI No. 886, Vol. 2: 483

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1609, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor to the Khasi Hills in Meghalaya and Manipur.

Extralimital. Breeds in the mountains of Yunnan and Sichuan. Another subspecies in Fujian. Winters at lower elevations and at short distance from breeding area.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. Probably those of the species (1609 and 1610).

BREEDING. Probably as in 1610.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Resembles *assamensis* but upperparts slightly brighter, not so yellowish green. Cheeks and median coronal stripe greyer yellow and paler. Underparts whiter, yellow confined to streaks on breast. Two outer rectrices only very narrowly and sharply edged with white. For wing-formula see Ticehurst, 1938.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60-67	12-13	17-18	{ 45-49 mm { 43-47 mm (CBT)
♀♀	57-62			

Weight ♂♀ (breeding) 7.5-10 (av. 8.7) g—CBT.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1609.

1612. **Blackbrowed or Yellowfaced Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus cantator cantator* (Tickell)

Motacilla Cantator Tickell 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 2: 576
(Borabhúm and Dolbhúm)

Baker, FBI No. 895, Vol. 2: 492

Plate 86, fig. 17

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A double yellow wing-bar, the lower one distinct. *Above*, olive-green. Two black coronal bands with a yellowish green median stripe, and a conspicuous yellow supercilium; sides of head bright yellow. *Below*, throat and under tail-coverts bright yellow, belly whitish. Sexes alike.

Combination of above characters identifies the species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Little recorded. Known to breed in North Cachar between 1200 and 1800 m (Baker, *Ibis* 1906: 262) and probably Manipur (Hume, SF 11: 221, 225). Specimens taken in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, February–March (R. A. Paynter) where, according to Rashid, it is a resident. Collected in Sikkim at *c.* 1000 m in March (Stevens, JBNHS 29: 1026) and at *c.* 2000 m in June (Schäfer *vide* Sálím Ali, 1962); may be expected in the lower hills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. More widespread in winter when recorded in all parts of eastern Bengal (Rashid), Assam, the Jalpaiguri duars, Bhutan foothills, extreme eastern Nepal with many records between November and early April, mostly in far eastern terai and foothills between 250 and 600 m (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985), and lower Bengal (type locality). In summer affects dense evergreen forest; in winter more open, deciduous and mixed forest.

Extralimital. Extends east to Vietnam, Hainan and Fujian (*ricketti*).

GENERAL HABITS. Sociable in winter when often found in the roving mixed foraging parties of small birds. Hunts in the lower branches of trees, in bushes and bamboo clumps. Spreads tail and flicks it upwards. Makes short sallies after winged insects.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a loud and incessant *pio, pio* . . . (CBT). Song undescribed.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to June. *Nest*, a little ball of green moss thickly lined with soft vegetable down; placed on the ground, generally at the foot of trees, half buried among fallen leaves, or in hollows in banks, concealed in moss, weeds or other cover. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, unspotted white. Average size of 50 eggs 14.5 × 11.9 mm (Baker). Building of nest and

incubation by both sexes. Incubation period unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage and wing-formula Ticehurst (1938) or Williamson (1962). First-winter birds have duller upperparts, and paler yellowish white underparts. Apparently a complete moult in July.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	50-57	12-13	17-18	35-43 mm (Williamson)

Weight 1 ♂ 7; 2 ♀♀ 5, 6 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel to dark brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower yellow. Legs and feet fleshy yellow to pale yellow.

1612a. **Radde's Leaf Warbler.** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (Radde)
Sylvia (Phylloscopus) schwarzi Radde, 1863, Reise Süden v. Ost. Sibir.: 260,
Plate ix (Tarei-nor).
Plate 86, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Upperparts and flanks brownish olive; but for its bigger and heavier bill, longer tail, and yellowish tinge to underparts easily confused with *P. fuscatus*. A dark prominent line runs through eye, and a black line above its cream-coloured supercilium, the last reaching the hind crown. Undertail coverts rufous. Legs reddish or flesh coloured.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Known only from two sight records from Nepal—a solo recorded by R. Fairbank from Charali (*c.* 75 m) in eastern Nepal terai on 25.xii.1979, and an individual each seen on 4th and 5th March 1983 at Pokhara in central Nepal by G. Walinder and B. Sandgren (Inskipp & Inskipp, JBNHS 81: 705; *Guide to Birds of Nepal*, 1985). Keeps to undergrowth and bushes.

Extralimital. Resident in southern belt of Siberia and the adjacent parts of Manchuria, Korea and Sakhalin. Found in open woods and edges of taiga, but not within forest depths. Winters in southern China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and in Burma.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and CALLS. Keeps close to ground in undergrowth. Timid and retiring. *Call*, a soft *stup* similar to that of *fuligiventer* (Inskipp & Inskipp, loc. cit.: 75).

BREEDING. Outside our limits.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1612.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Irides dark brown. Upper mandible light brown, lower yellow, feet yellowish brown.

Genus SEICERCUS Swainson

Seicercus Swainson, 1837, *Classif. Bds.* 2: 84, 259.

Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia Burkii* Burton

Bill broad and blunt, about half the length of the head. Rictal bristles greatly

developed, in some cases reaching almost to the tip of the bill. Wing rather rounded, first primary (as.) small, second and third graduated.

Key to the Species

	Page
A Crown rufous <i>S. castaniceps</i>	191
B No rufous on crown	
1 A white supercilium <i>S. xanthoschistos</i>	187
2 No white supercilium	
a A yellow eye-ring <i>S. burkii</i>	184
b A white eye-ring	
i Grey of head not extending below eye <i>S. affinis</i>	183
ii Grey of head extending below eye <i>S. poliogenys</i>	190

1613. Allied Flycatcher-Warbler. *Seicercus affinis* (Hodgson)

Abrornis affinis Hodgson, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. E. I. Co. 1: 341 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 888, Vol. 2: 486

Plate 87, fig. 5

LOCAL NAME. *Inshushia-gaté* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A yellow wing-bar. *Above*, crown striped grey and black; sides of head yellow; a conspicuous but incomplete white eye-ring. Rest of upperparts olive-green; inner webs of outer rectrices white. *Below*, bright yellow. Sexes alike.



× *c.* 1

S. burkii has a complete, yellow eye-ring and lacks the wing-bar. Easily confused with *S. poliogenys* but which has the grey of head descending below the eye.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to altitudinal movements. The eastern Himalayas from eastern Nepal (not recorded thence since Hodgson's days), Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh from *c.* 2300 m (summer) to the foothills (winter). Also the hills south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland to Meghalaya and Manipur, breeding above 1400 m, descending to the foothills and adjacent plains in winter. Affects dense, humid evergreen or pine forest.

Extralimital. Extends east to Vietnam and Fujian.

GENERAL HABITS. Very similar to the leaf warblers (*Phylloscopus*). Hunts mostly in the foliage of shrubs and undergrowth in deep forest, often catching insects on the wing. Flits tirelessly, flicking wings nervously, often fluttering and hovering in front of sprigs and blossoms to pick insects. In winter usually met with in the mixed itinerant foraging parties.

Display. Fluffs out feathers and spreads tail and wings while cowering low down on a branch close to the female, then springing erect and bursting into song.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note a sharp *che-wheel* like that of *S. burkii* (Stanford). Song not satisfactorily described.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, a well-made ball of green moss with rootlets and a few leaves incorporated, with a first inside layer of rootlets, a layer of fine moss compactly woven, and a final lining of soft vegetable down; placed in hollows or in dense moss on steep banks, occasionally in holes in dead trees. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, unspotted white. Average size of 30 eggs 15.4 × 12.4 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes; incubation period unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	50–58	11–13	17–19	38–49 mm (SA, BB)

Weight 6 ♂♂ (winter) 6–8 g (SDR, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, lower yellow. Legs and feet yellow.

SEICERCUS BURKII (BURTON): BLACKBROWED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
1	Upperparts brighter, green <i>S. b. whistleri</i>	184
2	Upperparts duller, olive <i>S. b. burkii</i>	185
3	Upperparts darker, greener than 2 <i>S. b. tephrocephalus</i>	186

1614. *Seicercus burkii whistleri* Ticehurst

Seicercus burkii whistleri Ticehurst, 1925, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 46: 22
(Dharmasala, Punjab Himalayas)

Baker, FBI No. 889 (part), Vol. 2: 487

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1615, q.v.

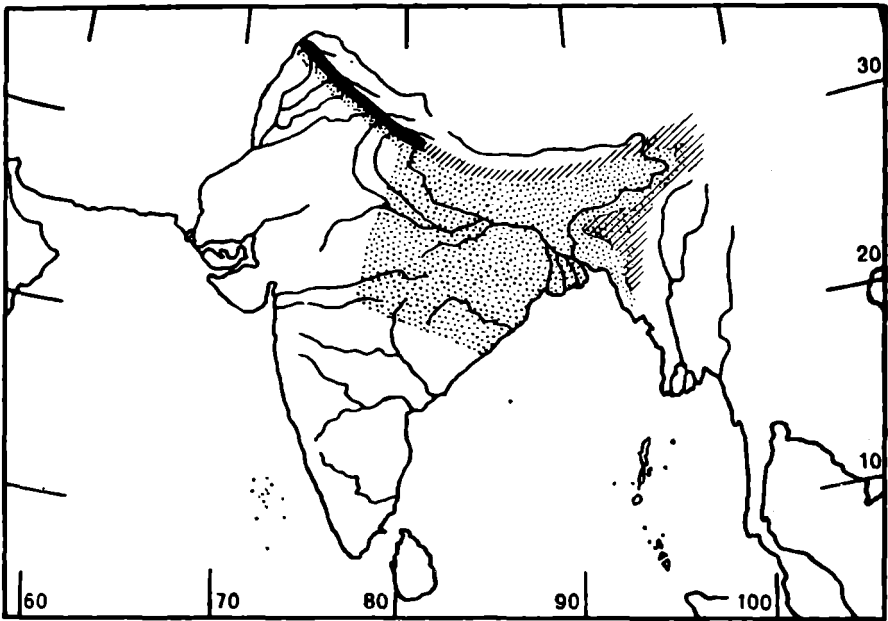
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor, locally common. The western Himalayas from Kaghan Valley (Hazara dist.) and Kashmir, where rare (Dickinson, JBNHS 63: 204) east to Kumaon, between c. 1800 m and at least 3000 m, mostly in the upper zone of this range. Winters from c. 1800 down to the foothills; obtained in Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and in Upper Sileru, borders of Andhra, Orissa and in the Peninsula as far as northern Maharashtra (Chikalda, Kamptee). Affects dense deciduous or mixed forest.

MIGRATION. Passage at mid-elevations takes place mostly in April–May and in October.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1615.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-notes rendered as *pillip* or *wee-up* and a single sharp *chiw* uttered every few seconds while foraging. A fine song of loud, clear notes resembling the trill of a canary (A. E. Osmaston); leiothrix-like, and recalling also that of *Seicercus xanthoschistos* (1617)—SA.

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly June and July. *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1615.

Seiurus burkii

Distributional ranges

■ *whistleri* (1614).

▨ *burkii* (1615).

● Winter

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race (1615) in having the upperparts bright green, less olive, and the underparts paler yellow, less washed with olive on the flanks.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1615.

1615. *Seiurus burkii burkii* (Burton)

Sylvia Burkii, Burton, 1835, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 153
(Himalaya Mts, restricted to Sikkim by Ticehurst, 1925, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 46: 23)
Seiurus burkii nemoralis Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 17
(Sangau, Lushai Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 889 (part), Vol. 2: 487

Plate 87, fig. 2

LOCAL NAME. *Inshushia-gadeba* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. No wing-bar. *Above*, olive-green including supercilium and sides of head. Two black stripes on crown. A conspicuous, complete, yellow eye-ring. *Below*, deep yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common summer visitor (except in the lower zone where summer and winter ranges overlap). The Himalayas from western Nepal through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, thence south through the Patkai Range, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and the Mizo hills. Breeds between *c.* 2400–3800 m (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985), mostly above 2400 m (also on the northern slopes of the

Himalayan ranges) and above *c.* 1000 m in the hills south of the Brahmaputra. Winters (October to April) from *c.* 2100 m (lower during cold weather) down to the foothills and in the plains south to lower Bengal, Orissa (Koelz, SA), northeastern Andhra Pradesh (Sankrametta, Raghavendra Nagar and Wengasara) [Ripley, JBNHS 85: 100] and the Chittagong region.¹ Affects the upper evergreen forest of oak, rhododendron and birch as well as mixed coniferous and deciduous forest.

Extralimital. Extends east through southern China and the northern Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Haunts low undergrowth and the middle story in forest, rarely ascending into the canopy. In non-breeding season often met in small parties or among the roving mixed flocks of flycatchers, warblers, minlas and other small babblers, etc. Actions and behaviour typically phylloscopine (SA).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE AND CALLS. As in 1614. Song period, end of March till at least end of July (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season,* early May to July (Himalayas), early April through June (Assam). *Nest,* a ball of moss, grass, bark fibres, bamboo leaves, dry pine needles or rootlets, neatly lined with fine moss and lichen; placed on sloping ground or among roots of fallen trees, usually well concealed in moss or weeds. *Eggs,* normally 4, unspotted white. A clutch of 7 found by Ludlow might be the laying of two females. Average size of 40 eggs 16.1 × 12.3 mm (Baker); 4 eggs from Bhutan measure 16.5 × 12.7 mm (Ludlow). Incubation by both sexes; other details of breeding biology not recorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For distinction from *whistleri* see 1614; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit. Postnuptial moult apparently in September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	55-61	13-14	19-20	{ 43-53 mm { 43-49 mm
♀♀	51-58			

(BB, Stresemann, SA, Stevens, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 10 ♂♂ (May-Oct.) 6.5-9.3 (av. 7.7); 1 ♀ (Oct.) 6.2 g—GD. 9 ♂♀ (Oct.-Nov.) 4-8 g (BB, SA); 2 ♂♂ 7, 7.8 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris very dark brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown, paler near tip and yellowish on edges and extreme tip; lower mandible yellow or orange-yellow. Legs, feet and claws yellowish brown.

1615a. *Seicercus burkii tephrocephalus* (Anderson)

Culicipeta tephrocephalus Anderson, 1871, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 213
(Bhamo)

Baker, FBI No. 890, Vol. 2: 488

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

¹ However, see 1615a.

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1615, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Non-breeding specimens collected in Bangladesh [Sundarbans (Burigoalni) and Chittagong Hill Tracts (Rangmati and near Manimukh)] in February, March and April (R. A. Paynter).

Extralimital. Burma (Chin Hills) east to northern Yunnan and southern Sikang. Winters in N. Thailand.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and CALLS. As in 1615.

BREEDING. Not recorded within our limits.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. 'Darker green than nominate *burkii* (1615), coronal bands better indicated, lateral bands darker, dull black, central band ashy, more or less tinged with olive' (Vaurie).

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1615.

SEICERCUS XANTHOSCHISTOS (Gray): GREYHEADED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Back green.....	<i>S. x. tephrodiras</i> 190
B	Back grey	
1	Darkest; back slaty.....	<i>S. x. flavogularis</i> 189
2	Intermediate.....	<i>S. x. xanthoschistos</i> 188
3	Palest; back grey.....	<i>S. x. albosuperciliaris</i> 187

1616. *Seicercus xanthoschistos albosuperciliaris* (Jerdon)

Abornis albi-superciliaris 'Blyth' = Jerdon, 1863, Bds. India 2: 202
(Cashmere)

Baker, FBI No. 892, Vol. 2: 490

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1617, q.v.

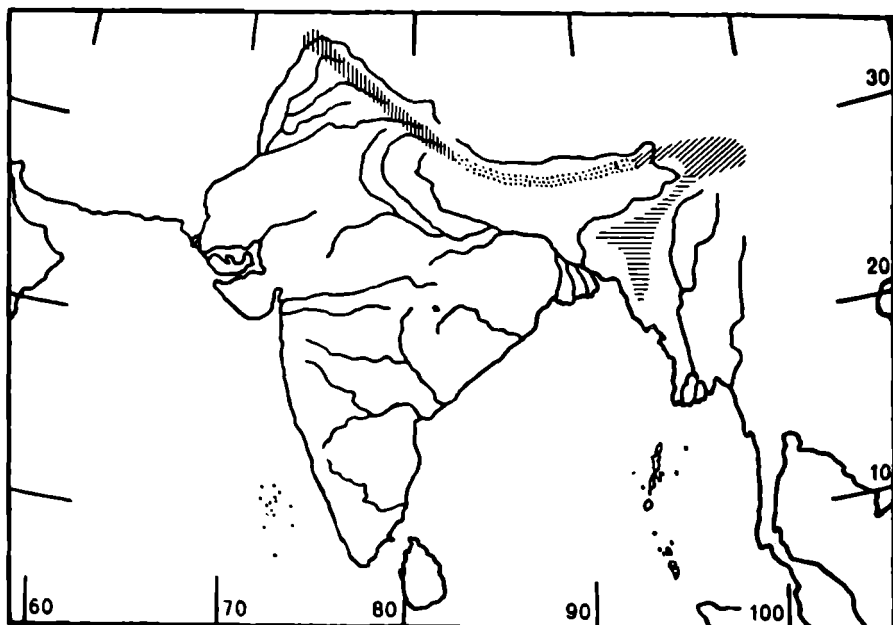
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to summer-winter vertical movements, locally common. The western Himalayas from Swat and Murree Hills and Kashmir to Nepal (Pokhara; specimens, R. A. Paynter, *in litt.*). Breeds between 900 and 2700 m, optimum zone 1500–2100 m, scarce and local below 1200 and above 2400 m. Winters commonly in the foothills, locally up to *c.* 2000 m, from October to early April. Affects well-wooded valleys, oak, pine and deodar forest in summer, extending to scrub jungle, gardens and orchards in winter.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1617.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June. *Nest*, globular, made of green moss and grass, lined with hair and fur; placed on grassy banks often protected by an overhanging bush. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 5, unspotted white. Average size of 50 eggs 15.9 × 12.5 mm (Baker). Often brood parasitized by *Cuculus saturatus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like the nominate race (1617) but grey and greenish of upperparts, and yellow of underparts, paler. Young, like adult but grey of upperparts washed with brown, green parts not so bright; underparts pale.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1617.

Seicercus xanthoschistos

Distributional ranges

 *albosuperciliaris* (1616).

 *xanthoschistos* (1617).

 *flavogularis* (1618).

 *tephrodiras* (1619).

1617. ***Seicercus xanthoschistos xanthoschistos*** (Gray)

Phyllopnuste xanthoschistos 'Hodgs.' = Gray, 1846, Cat. Mamms, Bds. Nepal: 65, 151 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 891 (part), Vol. 2: 489

Plate 87, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown and back grey; a long, white supercilium; rump and wings greenish yellow; inner web of outer rectrices white. *Below*, bright yellow. Sexes alike.

The white supercilium identifies this species. In flight rapidly opens and shuts tail scissors-wise, flashing the white rectrices which proclaim its identity.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to summer-winter vertical movements. From western Nepal east through Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan, intergrading in Arunachal Pradesh with *flavogularis* (cf. Baker, 1913, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 8: 270). Breeds between *c.* 1000 and 2700 m, sparsely as low as 300 m; optimum zone 1200–2300 m. Winters from *c.* 2000 m down to the foothills. Affects rather open evergreen forest, coniferous or broad-leaved.

GENERAL HABITS. Similar to leaf warblers' and others of the genus

Seicercus. Frequents mostly higher shrubs and the lower canopy of trees, usually hunting on the top side of branches and among leaves. In winter (October to March) commonly associates with the usual mixed hunting parties of small insectivorous birds. In summer keeps singly or in pairs.

FOOD. Insects, caterpillars and occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a distinctive high-pitched, oft-repeated *psit-psit*. Alarm (?) a plaintive *tyee-tyee*. Song, brief and repeated incessantly; comprised of two very thin high-pitched series of rising and falling phrases (Roberts). It has been noted as resembling that of *Seicercus burkii* (1614, SA). Song may be heard throughout the year with a main period from early March till end of June and a resumption in September and October (Proud).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. Postnuptial moult complete in September and early October.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	51-58	11-13	18-20	{ 38-45 mm { 39-42 mm (BB, SA)
♀♀	48-56			

Weight 12 ♂♂ (May, Oct.) 6-8.5; 8 ♀♀ (May, Oct.) 6.2-7.6 g (GD). 15 ♂♂ (Oct.-Apr.) 6-7; 2 ♀♀ (Feb., Mar.) 6, 7 g (BB, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horny to almost black, paler on tip and on edges; lower mandible brownish yellow. Legs, feet and claws pale horny to horny brown; soles white (BB) or lower mandible orange-yellow; legs and feet brownish flesh with a yellow tinge; claws pale flesh (SA).

1618. *Seicercus xanthoschistos flavogularis* (Godwin-Austen)

Abrornis flavogularis Godwin-Austen, 1877, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 46: 44
(neighbourhood of Saddy, Assam)

Abrornis flavigularis Godwin-Austen, 1878, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 47: 19
(Sadiya)

Seicercus xanthoschistos pulla Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 106
(Denig, Mishmi Hills, NE. Assam)

Baker, FBI Nos. 891 (part) and 903, Vol. 2: 489, 499

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1617, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to seasonal vertical movements. Arunachal Pradesh in the Abor and Mishmi Hills reaching the edge of Assam plains in winter. Altitudinal distribution and habitat, probably as in 1617.

Extralimital. Northern Burma.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1617.

VOICE and CALLS. Call noted to be 'easily distinguishable from that of *albosuperciliaris*' (a local dialect?—SA).

BREEDING. Unrecorded, probably as in 1617.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *xanthoschistos* (1617) in being darker, slaty on

crown and mantle, and somewhat more washed with olive on flanks, although description based on an apparently aberrant specimen (*Synopsis*, 1982, p. 441); probably not distinguishable from *xanthoschistos*.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1617.

1619. *Seicercus xanthoschistos tephrodiras* Sick

Seicercus xanthoschistos tephrodiras Sick, 1939, Orn. Monatsb. 47: 78

(Mt Victoria, Chin Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 891 (part), Vol. 2: 489

LOCAL NAME. *Inshushia* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1617, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to seasonal vertical movements. In the hills south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya. Breeds between *c.* 900 and 1800 m in the Khasi Hills; probably higher in Nagaland (up to 2400 m on Mt Victoria). Affects open evergreen forest.

Extralimital. The Chin Hills of Burma.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1616.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to August, chiefly May and June. *Nest and eggs* as in 1616. Average size of 50 eggs 15.7 × 11: 9 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes though female has major share. Incubation period 10 or 11 days.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *flavogularis* (1618) in being darker above and in having a dark olive wash on flanks. Differs from *xanthoschistos* (1617) in having a green instead of grey back.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 14 ♂♂ 51–55; 3 ♀♀ 50–51 mm (Stresemann, SDR)

Weight 6.5–7 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1617.

1620. *Greycheeked Flycatcher-Warbler. Seicercus poliogenys* (Blyth)

C.(ulicipeta) poliogenys Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 441

(Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 893, Vol. 2: 491

Plate 87, fig. 9

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A yellow wing-bar. *Above*, head and nape slaty with two black coronal bands and a conspicuous white eye-ring. Rest of upperparts olive-green; inner web of outer rectrices white. *Below*, chin and lower cheeks pale grey; rest of underparts bright yellow. Sexes alike.

General colour scheme rather similar to Greyheaded Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*, 1449) but the darker slaty head and conspicuous white eye-ring, as in White-eye (*Zosterops*), are diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT Resident in moderate numbers, subject to seasonal vertical movements; from Uttar Pradesh (Green, JBNHS 83: 613) east through Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and the hills south of the Brahmaputra, Assam, Nagaland?, Manipur and the Chittagong ranges of Bangladesh. Vertical distribution imperfectly known in the Himalayas: noted at 2400 and 3000 m in spring and from 1800 m down to the foothills in winter. South of the Brahmaputra it breeds from 1200 m to the tops of the hills. Affects open evergreen forest and dense bamboo jungle.

Extralimital. Extends to Yunnan and the northern Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Phylloscopine; typical of the flycatcher-warblers. Recorded as moving through the leaves along the sunny surface of vines strung over undergrowth, occasionally clinging to the underside of a small twig like a titmouse (Fleming). Also noted as keeping to the upper branches of trees (Cripps).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a ball of moss and grass, the latter scanty or sometimes wanting, lined with a felt-like pad of matted moss and moss roots; placed on the ground among moss, weeds, bracken, etc., or between moss-covered stones and boulders. *Eggs*, usually 4, unspotted white. Average size of 40 eggs 15.8 × 12.5 mm (Baker). Incubation by both sexes.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. This species has three outer rectrices with white inner web. For details of plumage see Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	50–55	c. 9	c. 18	40–42 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull c. 12 mm

Weight 1 ♂ 7; 2 ♀♀ 6, 6 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower horny. Legs yellow, feet brownish yellow.

1621. Chestnut-headed Flycatcher-Warbler. *Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps* (Hodgson)

Abornis castaniceps Hodgson, 1845, in Blyth, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 593 (Nepal)

Seicercus castaniceps nagaensis Koelz, 1951, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 3: 29 (Kohima, Naga Hills, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 894, Vol. 2: 492

Plate 87, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow –; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two yellow wing-bars. *Above*, crown chestnut with dark lateral bands becoming black on nape, and white spots on nape on

either side and between the black bands. Nape and sides of head grey; a white eye-ring. Back and wings yellowish olive; rump bright yellow; outer rectrices with white inner web. *Below*, throat and upper breast bluish ashy; rest of underparts bright yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to seasonal vertical movements, locally distributed. The Himalayas from central Nepal east through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, and the hills south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur and around Chittagong. In the Himalayas, breeds between *c.* 1800 and 2700 m (Inskipp & Inskipp), wintering (November to March) from *c.* 2300 m down to the foothills; in Meghalaya in the Khasi Hills breeds between 750 and 1800 m. Affects dense forest of oak etc.

Extralimital. Burma and Yunnan. The species extends east through the Indochinese countries, southern China to Fujian, and south through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. Outside the breeding season usually found in mixed itinerant hunting flocks of leaf warblers, flycatchers, nuthatches and small babblers, etc., usually keeping fairly high up in the substage or canopy foliage. Restless behaviour and habit of flicking wings nervously while hopping about identical with that of *Phylloscopus*.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A double call-note *chi-chi* and a loud, wren-like *tsik* quite distinctive. Song undescribed.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, an oval ball of green moss compactly woven, with a dense lining of felted moss and tiny moss roots. Usually placed on the ground, well concealed by overhanging moss and creepers, sometimes in hollows at the foot of trees and bushes, or on banks and steep hillsides. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, unspotted white. Average size of 50 eggs 14.6 × 11.6 mm (Baker). Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes. Frequently brood-parasitized by Emerald Cuckoo (*Chalcites maculatus*, 586).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young undescribed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	48-53	10-11	16-17	{ 40-43 mm { 35-38 mm
♀♀	47-50			

(BB, SA, Stres.)

Weight 6 ♂♀ 4-6 (av. 5.3) g—SA, BB.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horny, paler on edge and tip; lower mandible yellowish brown. Legs, feet and claws pale greyish horny; soles white to yellowish white.

Genus ABROSCOPUS Baker

Abroscopus Baker, 1930, Fauna Brit. India, Bds. 7: 192. Type, by original designation, *Abromis superciliaris* Blyth

Tickellia Blyth, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 199.

Type, by monotypy, *Abromis? hodgsoni* Moore

Differs from *Seicercus* in having ten rectrices instead of twelve.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Supercilium yellow	<i>A. schisticeps</i> 194
B	No yellow on crown	
1	Crown grey	<i>A. superciliaris</i> 193
2	Crown rufous	
a	Two black coronal bands	<i>A. albogularis</i> 196
b	No coronal band	<i>A. hodgsoni</i> 197

ABROSCOPUS SUPERCILIARIS (Blyth): YELLOWBELLIED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

Crown washed with olive-green, not clearly demarcated from nape	<i>A. s. flaviventris</i>
Crown brownish grey, more clearly demarcated from olive-green of nape	<i>A. s. drasticus</i>

1622. *Abroscopus superciliaris flaviventris* (Jerdon)

Abrornis flaviventris Jerdon, 1863, Birds India 2 (1): 203 (Darjeeling, northern West Bengal). New name for *Abrornis albogularis* Blyth, 1861, preoccupied

Abrornis albogularis Blyth, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 200 (Sikkim). Not *Abrornis albogularis* Moore, 1854

Baker, FBI Nos. 896 (part) and 897, Vol. 2: 494, 495

Plate 87, fig. 6

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha mini* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forecrown brownish grey; a broad, white supercilium; sides of head mottled dark and pale grey. Rest of upperparts yellowish olive. *Below*, throat whitish, remainder bright yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements; locally common. From central Nepal (Biswas, JBNHS 59: 423) east through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and the hills south of the Brahmaputra from Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh south to the Chittagong ranges. Breeds at *c.* 500–900 m (Himalayas) and between 900 and 1800 m in south of the Brahmaputra. Wanders into adjacent plains in winter. Affects mixed bamboo forest, secondary and scrub jungle especially where bamboo occurs, and in the vicinity of streams.

Extralimital. Adjacent hills of Burma.

GENERAL HABITS. Typically phylloscopine. Keeps to trees and high bushes; often makes short aerial sallies for insects. In the non-breeding season, usually in the roving mixed parties of 'tinies'.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded. Song said to be 'short, sweet and clear'.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, a neat cup of fibres, rootlets or moss, resting on a base of a few small bamboo leaves, usually placed in hollows in bamboo stems within a couple of metres from the ground. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, white more or less tinted with pink, freckled with reddish brown spots, forming a ring or cap at the large end, or sometimes so densely covered with

spots as to look uniformly pink, terracotta or rich red. Average size of 36 eggs 15.2×11.6 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes. Sometimes brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. For details of plumage see Deignan, 1947, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 60: 20; for distinction from *drasticus* see 1623.

Young, similar to adult but forecrown ashy; green of upperparts a little darker; yellow of underparts duller. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	47-53	12-13	18-21	{ 39-49 mm { 36-40 mm
♀♀	46-48			

(BB, Abdulali)

Weight 3 ♂♂ 6-7 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill horny brown, pinky plumbeous at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet brownish flesh.

1623. *Abroscopus superciliaris drasticus* Deignan

Abroscopus superciliaris drasticus Deignan, 1947, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 60:20 (Margherita, Lakhimpur District, Assam Province, India)

Baker, FBI No. 896 (part), Vol. 2: 494

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow -; length *c.* 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1622, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. Arunachal Pradesh, probably intergrading with *flaviventris* in eastern Bhutan. Breeds from the base of the hills probably up to *c.* 1500 m. Wanders into the adjacent plains in winter.

Extralimital. Northern Burma. The species extends east to Vietnam and south to Java and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1622.

BREEDING. As in 1622.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *flaviventris* but with the whole crown dark brownish grey, scarcely washed with olive-green, and much more clearly demarcated from the colour of the remaining upperparts (in *flaviventris* the top of crown is more or less washed with olive-green and not clearly demarcated from the oily olive-green of the hindcrown and nape). Olive-green of mantle more suffused with yellow; yellow of rump and lower underparts more golden.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 14 ♂♀ 42-50 mm (Deignan)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black, lower mandible dark grey. Legs and feet whitish flesh to yellowish flesh.

ABROSCOPUS SCHISTICEPS (Gray): BLACKFACED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Yellow restricted to throat *A. s. flavimentalis*
 Yellow extending to breast *A. s. schisticeps*

1624. *Abroscopus schisticeps schisticeps* (Gray)

Culicipeta schisticeps Gray, 1846, Cat. Mamms. Bds. Nepal: 67: 153
(Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 899 (part), Vol. 2: 496

Plate 87, fig. 4

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown, nape and ear-coverts slaty grey. Very conspicuous yellow superciliary stripes nearly meeting on forehead. Lores and round the eye black. Rest of upperparts olive. Inner webs of outer rectrices white. *Below*, yellow, tinged with olive on breast and paling to white on belly. Sexes alike.

The striking head pattern is diagnostic. On colour alone, could casually be confused with Yellowbellied Fantail Flycatcher (1450), but open, partially cocked tail and behaviour of latter distinctive.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, uncommon and local. Garhwal Himalayas (Nitin Jamdar, JBNHS 83: 444–5), Nepal, Darjeeling and Sikkim between 1500 and 2500 m. A withdrawal from the higher zone probably occurs in the cold weather. Affects forest of oak etc., with patches of scrub or bamboos.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually seen in mixed hunting parties, very commonly associated with *Parus modestus* and *Rhipidura hypoxantha*, along with miscellaneous small babblers and warblers. Keeps mostly to bushes but sometimes parties ascend lofty trees, especially those draped with climbers, soon dropping down into the undergrowth one after the other like a shower of falling leaves.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Little recorded. Said to make a continual chattering while feeding.

BREEDING. *Season*, about May and June. *Nest* (one described), a loose lining of bamboo leaves placed in the bottom of a cleft in a tree *c.* 150 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, 5, dull pinkish white profusely mottled and streaked with red; average size *c.* 14 × 10.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
11 ♂♂	45–49	10–11	42–44 mm
2 ♀♀	46, 47	11, 11	41, 43 mm
			(BB)

Tarsus 15–17 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill pale brownish horny, 'a somewhat unusual colour for the bill in comparison with its near allies' (Stevens). Legs and feet dusky olivaceous.

1625. *Abroscopus schisticeps flavimentalis* (Baker)

Abornis schisticeps flavimentalis Baker, 1924, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 44: 63
(Mt Victoria)

Baker, FBI No. 901, Vol. 2: 497

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1624, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh (?)¹, the Cachar hills of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland (?), and Manipur, from *c.* 1500 to 2400 m in the Himalayas, down to *c.* 600 m in Cachar. Affects glades and banks of streams in deep forest, especially where interspersed with tracts of bamboo, scrub-covered ravines and thin forest or open country near cultivation.

Extralimital. Southeastern Tibet and the adjacent hills of Burma to Mt Victoria (up to 2600 m). The species extends to Yunnan and northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1624.

BREEDING. *Season*, April, May and probably June; cf. also 1624. *Nest* (one described), a pad of moss and feathers lined with soft down, placed in a hollow in a burnt-out bamboo a few feet from the ground in bamboo jungle. *Eggs*, 4, densely freckled with reddish brown, forming a cap at the large end, measuring 15.1 × 11.1 to 15.4 × 11.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *schisticeps* (1624) in having the yellow paler and restricted to chin and throat; breast and belly white.

MEASUREMENTS As in 1624.

Weight 1 ♂ 6 g (SA). 1 ♀, 1 o? 4, 4 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded, probably as in 1624.

1626. *Whitethroated Flycatcher-Warbler. Abroscopus albogularis albogularis* (Horsfield & Moore)

Abornis albogularis 'Hodgson' = Horsfield & Moore, 1854, Cat. Bds. Mus. E.I.
Co. 1: 340 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 902, Vol. 2: 498

Plate 87, fig. 3

LOCAL NAME. *Daotisha mini* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 8 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, head rufous with two black superciliary bands to nape. Back and wings olive-green; rump yellowish white. No white in tail. *Below*, throat and belly white; a band across breast, and under tail-coverts yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Eastern Nepal (*vide* Biswas, JBNHS 59: 423), Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, the hills of Meghalaya and Mizoram south to the Chittagong Hill

¹ Abdulali (JBNHS 83: 348) opines that birds north of the Brahmaputra are nominate *schisticeps*, the wing measurements of three specimens from the area in the BNHS collection being 49 and 50(2) mm against 46–48 mm of *A. s. flavimentalis*.

Tracts, Nagaland (?) and Manipur; from c. 300 to 1200 m, in Cachar up to 1800 m, optimum zone 600–1200 m. Affects bamboo jungle, secondary scrub, and moist-deciduous forest.

Extralimital. The species extends to Sichuan, southern China, Taiwan, Hainan and the Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually keeps to lower growth in open country but may sometimes be seen high up in trees. 'Moves about in small parties, hovering at the tip of a branch or darting after flies.' At times spreads its tail like *Rhipidura*.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Little recorded. Keeps up a shrill twitter while moving about.

BREEDING. *Season*, early April to June. *Nest*, a layer of bamboo fibre, roots, bamboo leaves or scraps of grass on which is placed a pad of felted moss with a cup in the centre; built in a hollow in a bamboo 30 cm or so from the ground, almost always in the vicinity of streams. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, similar to those of *A. superciliaris* (1622, q.v.). Average size of 33 eggs 14.4 × 11.5 mm (Baker). Building and incubation by both sexes; period not recorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	43–47	7–8	c. 16	36–40 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull c. 11 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower light greyish flesh. Legs and feet yellowish brown.

1627. Broadbilled Flycatcher-Warbler. *Abroscopus hodgsoni hodgsoni* (Moore)

Abromis? hodgsoni Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. Mus. E.I. Co. 1: 412 (Nepal)

Tickellia hodgsoni rupchandi Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 17 (Kohima, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 904, Vol. 2: 500

Plate 87, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead and crown chestnut; lores and sides of head grey with a short ashy supercilium. Rest of upperparts olive-green tinged with yellow on rump. Inner web of two outermost rectrices white. *Below*, chin, throat and breast dark grey, becoming whitish on throat. Rest of underparts bright yellow. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, possibly subject to some vertical movements, uncommon. Nepal (not recorded since Hodgson), Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh?, Nagaland (Koelz), Manipur? and south to Mt

Victoria. Breeds between *c.* 1100 and 2700 m (2200–2600 on Mt Victoria). Affects dense scrub and bamboo especially along forest edges.

Extralimital. Adjacent hills of Burma. The species extends to Yunnan and northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Little recorded. Keeps to dense undergrowth, frequently in the mixed hunting parties of small birds.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. 'Note [song?]' a single long-drawn, very shrill whistle followed after an interval of 10 seconds or so by two notes, the second lower' (BBO). Also described as a very thin and sharp twitter or warble (Heinrich).

BREEDING. *Season*, about May and June. *Nest* (one described), eggshaped with an entrance near the top, made of dry leaves, chiefly bamboo, lined with rootlets and a finer layer of soft, dry bamboo leaves. The three eggs were 'pale claret, spotted, streaked and speckled, chiefly at the larger end, with darker claret'. Average size of 3 eggs 16 × 11.9 mm (BBO).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	45–49	12–14	20–21 (Koelz, SA, BB, MD)	38–45 mm

Weight 1 ♀ 5 g (SA). 1 ♂? 4 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill horny brown, paler and more yellow at base. Legs and feet pale yellow or fleshy horn colour.

Genus *REGULUS* Cuvier

Regulus Cuvier, 1800, *Leçons d'Anat. Comp.* 1, tab. 2.

Type, by tautonymy, *Motacilla Regulus* Linnaeus

Very small birds with dense, soft plumage. Bill small, straight, less than half the length of head. Rictal bristles present. Wing short and rounded. Tail shorter than wing. Tarsus relatively long.

REGULUS REGULUS (Linnaeus): GOLDCREST

Key to the Subspecies

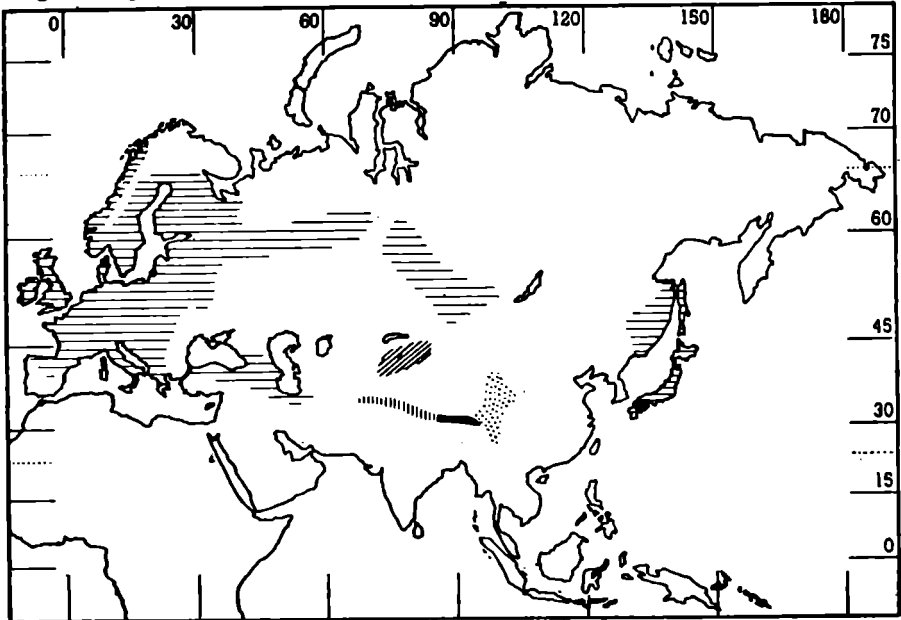
		Page
A	Palest; coronal bands grey	<i>R. r. tristis</i> 198
B	Coronal bands black	
1	Paler; median stripe less reddish	<i>R. r. himalayensis</i> 200
2	Darker; median stripe more reddish orange	<i>R. r. sikkimensis</i> 201
3	Darkest above; abdomen paler, without buff or fulvous tinge	<i>R. r. yunnanensis</i> 201

1628. *Regulus regulus tristis* Pleske

Regulus tristis Pleske, 1882, *Bull. Acad. Sci. St. Petersburg.* 35: 146
(Merv)

Baker, *FBI No.* 946, Vol. 2: 541

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

Regulus regulus

Breeding ranges

- | | |
|---|---|
|  <i>tristis</i> (1628). |  <i>himalayensis</i> (1629). |
|  <i>sikkimensis</i> (1630). |  <i>yunnanensis</i> (1631). |
|  Other races, extralimital | |

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 8 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1629, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A straggler to Ladakh in winter, so far recorded in September and April (Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 415). Affects coniferous forest; in winter also orchards, poplar and willow groves.

Extralimital. Breeds in Turkestan, spreads over a wider area in winter. The species ranges from the Azores and Western Europe to Japan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1629.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male like *himalayensis* ♂ but lateral coronal bands dark iron-grey instead of black; median stripe orange-and-yellow. Upperparts greyer. Underparts suffused more with fulvous than buffish yellow.

Female like *himalayensis* ♀ but lateral coronal bands ashy, median stripe duller lemon-yellow. Rest of plumage as in ♂.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 16 ♂♂ 54–58 mm; 6 ♀♀ 53–57 mm (Dementiev)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1629.

1629. *Regulus regulus himalayensis* Bonaparte

Regulus himalayensis Bonaparte, 1856, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris 42, No. 17: 767 ('les monts Himalaya,' restricted to Kotgarh, Simla Hill States by Deignan, 1956, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 76: 106)

Regulus Himalayensis Jerdon, 1863, Bds, India 2: 206 (NW. Himalayas = Kotgarh *vide* Ticehurst, 1926, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 31: 499)

Regulus regulus salimalii Deignan, 1954, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 74: 104 (Kotgarh).
New name for *Regulus Himalayensis* 'Blyth' = Jerdon, 1863
Baker, FBI No. 944 (part), Vol. 2: 539

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 8 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A diminutive *Phylloscopus*-like bird with two yellow white wing-bars.



× *c.* 1

Male. *Above*, greyish olive-green tinged with yellowish on rump; a dark patch on wing. Crown with an orange median stripe bordered by two broad black bands; a large whitish area around eyes. *Below*, pale greyish fulvous, tinged with olive on flanks.

Female. Similar to ♂ but with coronal stripe yellow *contra* orange.

Easily confusable with similar-sized *Phylloscopus proregulus*, particularly juveniles, in which the 'gold crest' is entirely lacking, but separable by the conspicuous white eye-ring and greyish sides of neck; also by the call-notes (Roberts.)

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, uncommon but widely distributed across the Himalayas from the Safed Koh (possibly farther south), Chitral, Swat and Gilgit and Kashmir east to central Nepal (intergrading here with *sikkimensis*). Breeds from *c.* 2200 m up to the limit of fir forest, *c.* 3600 m, locally 3900 m (Nepal). In winter between 1500 and at least 3000 m. Has straggled in winter to Quetta. Affects silver fir and deodar forest; in winter occasionally orchards or deciduous groves.

Extralimital. Adjacent ranges of Afghanistan.

GENERAL HABITS. Outside the breeding season usually seen in mixed parties of tits and leaf warblers. Keeps to the canopy of conifers, from the lowest branches to a fair height, hunting actively among the green foliage often hovering in front of sprigs.

FOOD. Insects and their larvae.

VOICE and CALLS. A distinctive high-pitched mouse-like squeaking *tzi-tzi-tzi-tzi*, oft-repeated, which usually gives the first indication of its presence among a mixed foraging party high up in the tree-tops. Song not described from the Himalayas.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a pouch of green moss, lichen, spiders' web and cocoons, and rootlets, hanging at the extremity of a branch between 2 and 12 metres above the ground, well concealed and very difficult to find. *Eggs*, 4 to 7, white with large reddish spots, or pale creamy buff speckled with pink-buff around the large end. Average size of 13 eggs 14.3 × 10.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young, like adult but crown lacking

dark bands or flame-coloured patch. Upperparts browner; underparts greyer white. Postjuvénal moult of body, lesser and median coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	53-58	9-10	c. 17	c. 36 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black. Legs and feet dark greenish brown; soles paler, more yellowish.

1630. *Regulus regulus sikkimensis* R. & A. Meinertzhagen

Regulus regulus sikkimensis R. & A. Meinertzhagen, 1926, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 46: 97 (Sikkim)

Baker, FBI No. 944 (part), Vol. 2: 539

Plate 84, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 8 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1629, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon resident, subject to vertical movements. Eastern Nepal (Stevens, JBNHS 29: 1014; Diesselhorst 1969: 287), Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh in the Dafla and Abor hills; from c. 2600 to 3000 m in winter, up to 4000 m (upper limit of fir forest). Affects mainly fir forest in the breeding season; at other times may be seen also in pine, oak or birch forest, even in buckthorn thickets.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1629.

BREEDING. As in 1629.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *himalayensis* (1629) in having the coronal stripe more reddish orange in male. Upperparts darker and duller. Underparts suffused more with fulvous brown than buffish yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	55-58	1 ♂? 10	19	36 mm
4 ♀♀	51-53			

Wing by Ludlow, rest SA)

Weight 1 ♂ (June) 5.5; 1 ♀ (Sept.) 6.4; 1 ♂? (June) 5 g (GD). 1 ♂ (Sept.) 6 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill blackish brown. Legs, feet and claws pale horny brown.

1631. *Regulus regulus yunnanensis* Rippon

Regulus yunnanensis Rippon, 1906, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 19: 19

(Yangtze River, W. Yunnan)

Baker, FBI No. 945, Vol. 2: 541

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 8 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1629, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. Northern Arunachal Pradesh from *c.* 2200 to at least 3500 m (in Tibet up to 4400 m). Affects dry, temperate conifer forest; in winter also evergreen oak.

Extralimital. Adjacent southeastern Tibet, and Yunnan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1629.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sikkimensis* (1630) in having the upperparts darker and the underparts paler.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1630.

Genus LEPTOPOECILE Severtzov

Leptopoecile Severtzov, 1872, Vertik. Turkest. Zhivotn.: 135, pl. 8.

Type, by monotypy, *Leptopoecile sophiae* Severtzov

Lophobasileus Pleske, 1890, Wiss. Result. Przev. Reise, Zool. Th. 2, Vög.: 95.

Type, by monotypy, *Leptopoecile elegans* Przevalski

Plumage very soft and copious. Bill very slender, straight and pointed. Rictal bristles present. Wing rounded. Tail graduated or rounded.

Key to the Species

	Page
No crest; outer rectrices with white outer web	<i>L. sophiae</i> 204
A well-developed crest; no white in tail	<i>L. elegans</i> 202

1632. Crested Tit-Warbler. *Leptopoecile elegans* Przevalski

Leptopoecile elegans Przevalski, 1887, Zapiski Imp. Akad. Nauk, St. Petersburg. 55: 77
(upper Yellow River, southeast Tsinghai)

Lophobasileus elegans meissneri Schäfer, 1938, Proc. Acad. Sci. Philadelphia 89: 385
(Malashi country south of Litang, Sikang)

Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 84, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

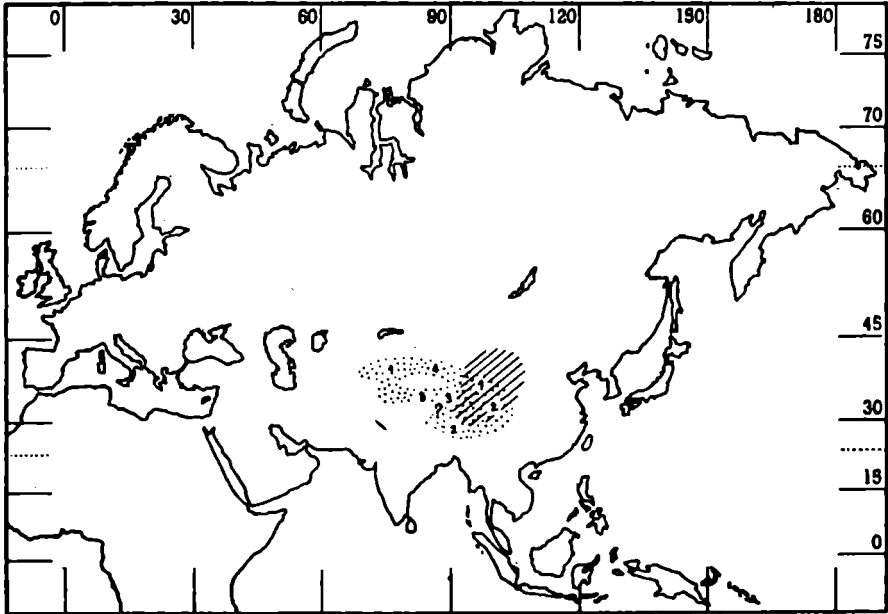
FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, forehead white becoming pale greyish lilac on crown and crest; lores black; sides of head and hind-collar rich chestnut. Back dark dull blue becoming bright cerulean blue on rump; wings and tail dull greenish blue. *Below*, throat pale chestnut; breast vinaceous; belly purplish blue; under tail-coverts chestnut.

Female (adult). *Above*, crown darker than in male, crest shorter. Back dark greenish olive; rump verditer-blue mixed with greenish olive. Checks, sides of neck and underparts dirty white tinged with vinaceous, lower flanks washed with purple.


Pointed pale-coloured crest and chestnut collar distinguish this species from *L. sophiae*. Female distinguished by different head pattern and lack of white in tail.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident in the Tsangpo bend area of SE. Tibet, therefore presumably also occurs in adjacent northern Arunachal Pradesh; between *c.* 3400 and 4300 m in summer, 2800 and 3900 m in winter. Affects fir forest, and juniper scrub above timber-line.

Leptopoecile sophiae* and *L. elegans



Distributional ranges

 *L. sophiae.*

 *L. elegans* (1632).

- 1 *L. s. sophiae* (1633). 2 *L. s. obscura* (1634). 3 *L. s. stoliczkae* (RE).
4 *L. s. major* (RE).

Extralimital. The mountains of western China and eastern Tibet.

GENERAL HABITS. Outside the breeding season, often found in mixed company with tits, goldcrests and *L. sophiae*. May be found high up in trees as well as in shrubs. Behaviour goldcrest-like (Schäfer).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A soft peeping call-note and sometimes a shriller note reminding one of *Troglodytes* (Przevalski).

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
1♂	53	11	19	45 mm (MD)
♂♀	52-56	10-11	20-21	<i>c.</i> 44 mm (Hartert)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill black. Legs and feet brown; claws darker.

LEPTOPOECILE SOPHIAE Severtzov: STOLICZKA'S TIT-WARBLER

Key to the Subspecies

- Belly pale fulvous *L. s. sophiae*
 Whole underparts lilac-purple *L. s. obscura*

1633. *Leptopoecile sophiae sophiae* Severtzov

Leptopoecile Sophiae Severtzov, 1872, Vertik. Turkest. Zhivotn.: 135, pl. 8
 (pinewoods at Issyk-Kul)

Baker, FBI No. 947, Vol. 2: 542

Plate 84, fig. 8

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, crown chestnut washed with lilac; a broad, creamy supercilium. Back grey; wings pale brownish grey; rump violet-blue. Tail blackish brown tinged with verditer; outer web of external rectrices white. *Below*, sides of head, throat and flanks violet-blue, the base of feathers rufous; belly pale fulvous. In summer the whole belly is vinous purple without the fulvous area (Biddulph).



× *c.* 1

Female (adult). Like male but paler and without blue except on rump. Sides of head and underparts pale fulvous. Flanks slightly washed with blue.

Broad supercilium, lack of crest and absence of white in outer rectrices distinguish this species from 1632.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to vertical movements. Baltistan, Gilgit and Ladakh. Breeds between 3000 and 3900 m, descending to *c.* 1800 m in winter, occasionally down to 1500 m in the Indus Valley. Affects dwarf juniper scrub above timber-line and *Hippophae* thickets along rivers.

Extralimital. Extends to the Pamirs and Tien Shan systems. The species ranges to Kansu and Sichuan.

GENERAL HABITS. Outside the breeding season met in small restless parties, often in company with other small insectivorous species. Keeps to thick undergrowth, ceaselessly hopping or flitting about and difficult to observe. From time to time individuals climb to tops of bushes, call loudly with tails cocked like a Magpie-Robin, and fly down to the base of the next bush (R. L. Fleming, Jr.).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a low, subdued *teet* uttered constantly (Ludlow); song?, a sweet, loud, chirping call (Scully).

BREEDING. As in 1634.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young. *Above*, grey with a vinaceous tinge on lower back; crown tinged ferruginous. *Below*, underparts dirty white.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	49-53	1 o? 11	20	53 mm
♀♀	48-51			

(Wing by Dementiev, rest MD)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris bright red. Bill black. Legs and feet almost black (W. L. Abbott).

1634. *Leptopoeile sophiae obscura* Przevalski

Leptopoeile obscura Przevalski, 1887, Zapiski Imp. Akad. Nauk, St. Petersburg. 55: 80 [mountain forests of northeastern Tibet (= upper course of the Di Chu)]
Baker, FBI No. 948, Vol. 2: 543

Plate 84, fig. 9

LOCAL NAME. *Chiu-thep-to* (Gyantse).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1633, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common in Tibet. Found in Tibetan facies north of the main range from the Tsangpo bend west at least to central Nepal, between 2800 and 4000 m at all seasons. Regularly seen in the Gandak Valley, northwestern Nepal, where it is apparently resident (Fleming, *Fieldiana* 41: 173, 1957, Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985). May be expected in Arunachal Pradesh on the northern slopes (cf. Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 205). Affects juniper, *Lonicera*, *Berberis*, *Caragana* and rhododendron scrub above timber-line, and thickets of *Hippophae* and willows along stream-beds.

Extralimital. The mountains of western China and eastern Tibet north to Kansu.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1633.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. Probably double-brooded. *Nest*, domed, oval or ball-shaped, made of moss, vegetable down and animal fur, feathers and shreds of grass, strengthened with cobweb, and decorated with bits of lichen and cocoons; lined, but apparently not always, with soft feathers. Placed low down in a bush usually under one metre. *Eggs*, 4 to 6, white spotted with reddish brown. Average size of 50 eggs 15.1 × 11.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sophiae* in being darker throughout; purple pigment covers the whole of the underparts; rump more bluish, less lavender.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing ♂♂ 51-53; ♀♀ 49-51 mm (Kinnear)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1633.

Subfamily TURDINAE: Thrushes and Chats

For description and morphological details see Baker, E. C. S., 1924, FBI 2: 7 (Fam. Turdidae); Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959: 523 (Fam. Turdidae); Ripley, S. D., 1964, article 'Thrush' in Thomson, A. L. (ed.), *A New Dictionary of Birds*. London and New York.

Cf. Ripley, S. D., 1952, *Postilla*, Yale Peabody Museum, No. 13: 1-48.



Magpie-Robin (1661)

Genus BRACHYPTERYX Horsfield

Brachypteryx Horsfield, 1822, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 157.

Type, by original designation, *Brachypteryx montana* Horsfield
Heteroxenicus Sharpe, 1902, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 12: 55, new name for
Drymochares Gould, 1868, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 218.

Type, by monotypy, *Brachypteryx (Drymochares) stellatus* Gould,
nec Drymochares Mulsant, 1817

Wing short and rounded. Tarsus smooth, long and strong. Tail short, almost square. Bill slender, about half the length of the head. Rictal bristles well developed.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Upperparts chestnut	<i>B. stellata</i> ♂ and ♀ 207
B	Upperparts deep blue	<i>B. hyperythra</i> ♂ 208
C	Upperparts slaty blue	
1	No white supercilium	<i>B. major</i> ♂ and ♀ 209
2	A white supercilium	
a	Chin and throat white	<i>B. leucophrys</i> ♂ 210
b	Whole underparts dark slaty blue	<i>B. montana</i> ♂ 212

D	Upperparts brown		
3	Chin and throat chestnut	<i>B. hyperythra</i> ♀	208
4	Chin and throat whitish	<i>B. leucophrys</i> ♀	210
5	Chin and throat brown	<i>B. montana</i> ♀	212

1635. **Gould's Shortwing.** *Brachypteryx stellata stellata* Gould

Brachypteryx (Drymochares) stellatus Gould, 1868, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 218
(Nepal = Sikkim)¹

Baker, FBI No. 486, Vol. 2: 16

Plate 88, fig. 1

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A stub-tailed, long-legged, slaty grey robin, with bright chestnut upperparts.

Above, chestnut with black lores and a narrow grey supercilium. Lower rump slaty grey flecked with whitish. *Below*, slaty grey: finely vermiculated on throat and breast with grey and black and flecked with triangular white spots on belly. Flanks and vent tinged with rufous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, very locally distributed and subject to vertical movements. Kumaon (JBNHS 53: 468), east central Nepal (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985), Sikkim, northeastern Bhutan (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1937: 265) and Arunachal Pradesh in the upper Subansiri region where common (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 181); from *c.* 3300 to 4200 m in summer, and from *c.* 2000 to at least 3400 m in winter, once as low as 540 m in Sikkim (Schäfer). Affects dense rhododendron and bamboo growth in fir forest, dwarf rhododendron on hillsides; also rocks and boulders in the alpine zone away from all shrub growth 'where undoubtedly breeding' (Ludlow). In winter has been observed in a dark, damp streambed full of ferns and moss.

Extralimital. One record from Burma and one from northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Not such a ground-skulker as other shortwings, and often absurdly tame. Will sometimes ascend to the tops of the bushes and stumps to gaze at an intruder in a most confiding manner. Meinertzhagen observed them running on the ground (not hopping) in and out of roots and fallen branches just like a mouse.

FOOD. Larvae, grubs and small coleoptera (Meinertzhagen); also seeds and grit (Stanford).

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note *tik-tik*. Song unknown.

BREEDING. Unknown. *Season*, end of May to July (judging from juveniles and state of gonads).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Young, dark blackish brown on head and neck with paler brown shaft-streaks, which on mantle cover nearly the whole feather. Rump as in adult but without freckling. *Below*, throat and breast similar to head; abdomen greyish black with broad whitish, arrow-shaped markings which on flanks and abdomen are suffused with buff. As the bird becomes older the colour of the upperparts fades to paler reddish brown

¹ The specimen is stated as coming from Sikkim by Sharpe, 1883: 31. *Vide* Biswas, 1961, JBNHS 58: 653.

and the white arrow-marks and speckling on the lower parts become more suffused with buff while the dark edges to the breast-feathers fade to a buffy brown. Postjuvenal moult in September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	73-76	1 ♂ 15	29	41 mm
♀♀	70-72			

(Wing by Kinnear and Stresemann, rest MD)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black; inside of mouth black. Legs and feet fleshy horn.

1636. **Rustybellied Shortwing.** *Brachypteryx hyperythra*
Jerdon & Blyth

Brachypteryx hyperythra Jerdon & Blyth, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 201
(Darjheeling)

Plate 88, fig. 2

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, lores and a frontal line black. A short and rather concealed white supercilium. Rest of upperparts deep blue. *Below*, entirely ferruginous.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown. *Below*, pale ferruginous; centre of belly whitish.

♂ very similar to Blue Chat, *Erithacus brunneus* (1650) but white supercilium less conspicuous. Could be confused also with ♂ Redbreasted Blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapa hyperythra* (1417) but its noticeably long tarsus and more terrestrial habit usually diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An endemic species, but rare and little known. Recorded from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh (Dafla Hills) and Assam (Margherita) and Nagaland (Asalu, Godwin-Austen *vide* Hume). Winter records only from: base of Dafla Hills and adjacent plains in December and January, in forest undergrowth, scrub and reeds; Mangpu (Sikkim) at c. 1100 m; a sight record at Tonglo (Sikkim) 2900 m in January in dense *Arundinaria* bamboo (Stevens).

GENERAL HABITS. Frequents dense undergrowth and thickets. Quite fearless.

FOOD. Unrecorded.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	63-64	c. 11	28-29	38-45 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel brown. Bill black. Legs and feet fleshy to light horny brown.

No. 1636a, *Brachypteryx crypta* Ripley, described in 1980 in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* and subsequently listed in *A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan*, 2 ed., 1982, has now been relegated to the synonymy of No. 1166, *Trichastoma tickelli assamensis* (Sharpe), *vide* Ripley, JBNHS 81: 701-2.

BRACHYPTERYX MAJOR (Jerdon): RUFOUSBELLIED SHORTWING

Key to the Subspecies

Sides of abdomen olive-brown *B. m. major*

Sides of abdomen slaty blue *B. m. albiventris*

1637. *Brachypteryx major major* (Jerdon)

Phaenicura major Jerdon, 1844, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 13: 170 (Neilgherries)

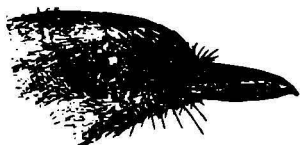
Baker, FBI No. 481, Vol. 2: 10

Plate 88, fig. 4

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, slaty blue; lores and frontal line black; a faint bluish line above this, extending back over eye. *Below*, throat and breast slaty blue; centre of belly white. Rest of lower plumage, including under tail-coverts, pale rufous; sides olive-brown. Sexes alike.



× *c.* 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident. The hills of southern Karnataka (Bababudans, Brahmagiris) and Tamil

Nadu (Nilgiri hills) from *c.* 1300 to 2200 m, mostly above 1600 m. Affects well-wooded sholas.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1638.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June, chiefly in May after the advent of rains. Also July and August (Betts). *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1638. Average size of 15 eggs 23.7 × 16.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	
1 ♂	81	18	—	63	mm
2 ♀♀	76, 77	17, 18	—	59	mm
1 o?	84	20	29	70	mm

(HW, MD)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet greyish brown.

1638. *Brachypteryx major albiventris* (Blanford)

Callene albiventris Blanford, 1867, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 833, pl. 39 (Palni Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 482, Vol. 2: 11

LOCAL NAMES. *Sandhyakkili* (Malayalam); *Kurun jettai kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1637, slaty blue above but with a pronounced bluish white band above the velvety black frontal line. Rufous brown of underparts replaced by slaty blue; centre of belly, vent and under tail-coverts greyish white. Sexes alike.

In interior of dark sholas may casually be confused with Whitebellied Blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapa pallipes* (1435), q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common resident. Western Tamil Nadu and southern Kerala from the Palni to the Ashambu hills; from *c.* 900 m to the highest summits. Haunts sholas and moist, densely wooded ravines in evergreen biotope.

GENERAL HABITS. Shy and retiring. Affects deep shade though not necessarily dense jungle. Mainly terrestrial; keeps singly or in pairs in undergrowth, rarely higher than about three metres above the ground. Most in evidence at dusk when it may be seen sitting on a bank by the roadside or hopping on to jungle paths, tail slightly cocked. On alarm, flies up into trees, soon descending again to resume feeding.

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Has a loud chattering, and at times a faint high whistle. Song usually heard at dusk, described as of a few notes, beautiful, sustained, thrush-like in quality but less loud, higher pitched and with a narrower range of variations.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June, chiefly in May after the rains have broken. *Nest*, a large, loose mass of green moss with a shallow cup lined with rootlets; placed in holes in roadside banks in sholas or hollows in trees, usually within a metre or so from the ground. *Eggs*, almost invariably 2, pale olive-brown, more or less completely covered with minute reddish brown freckling, in some eggs forming a ring or cap at the broad end. Average size of 14 eggs 23.9 \times 16.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Plumage of young spotted.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	78-83	15	29	63-65 mm
♀♀	73-78			

(Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris deep buff to red-buff. Bill black. Legs and feet dark horny brown to plumbeous black. Immature. Iris bright khaki brown. Bill brownish black; mouth pale pinkish grey. Legs, feet and claws horny brown.

1639. Lesser Shortwing. *Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis* Moore

Brachypteryx nipalensis 'Hodgson' = Moore 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. Mus. E. I. Co. 1: 397 (Nepal)

Brachypteryx leucophrys geokichla Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 41
(Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 489, Vol. 2: 19

Plate 88, fig. 3

LOCAL NAME. *Inrui-piji* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, dark slaty blue. A white supercilium, often concealed. *Below*, throat and centre of belly white. A breast band and flanks smoky grey.

Female. *Above*, rusty olive-brown. A white, usually concealed supercilium. *Below*, throat and belly white. A breast band and flanks rusty brown.

Many males appear to retain the brown plumage similar to that of the female.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements; scarce in western Himalayas, more common south of the Brahmaputra. Eastern Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, the hills of Meghalaya south to the Mizo Hills (Koelz), Nagaland and Manipur. In the Himalayas from *c.* 1500 to 3900 m, south of the Brahmaputra from *c.* 900 m to the highest summits. Reaches the foothills in winter. Affects dense undergrowth in humid forest and secondary growth, especially in the vicinity of streams and in damp, shady glens.

Extralimital. Burma and western Yunnan. The species extends to Sichuan, Fujian, the Indochinese countries, the Malay Peninsula and the Sunda Islands to Timor.

GENERAL HABITS. Mainly terrestrial. Keeps singly or in pairs in low undergrowth, in the same habitat as *Tesia cyaniventer* (1471). Forages on the ground, running about among the dead leaves and decaying tree-trunks, tail carried erect. Quiet and unobtrusive; usually undetected unless singing.

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A rather short and pleasant song recalling that of *B. montana* (1640) without the characteristic robin-like ending. Alarm, a loud single piping note ending with a *teck-teck-teck* (Heinrich).

BREEDING. *Season*, early April to late July. *Nest*, an oval ball with the entrance high up on one side, compactly built with bamboo and other leaves, and skeleton leaves, bound together with long roots and green moss, lined with a first layer of rootlets or fine fern stems and an inner layer of skeleton leaves mixed with a few scraps of grass, bark and fibre. It is wedged in among orchid clumps, twigs in low thick bushes, or among the moss growing on tree-trunks or rocks—in dense damp forest with plenty of undergrowth. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, pale olive-green, sea-green or, rarely, pale olive-brown, almost completely covered with tiny, light reddish brown specks and freckles. Average size of 60 eggs 19.5 × 14.6 mm (Baker). Building of nest and incubation by both sexes. Incubation period unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Males often breed in brown female-like dress and some may possibly never acquire blue plumage; this needs determining.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58–63	<i>c.</i> 15	<i>c.</i> 26	{ (1) 38 mm (1) 31 mm
♀♀	55–61			

(Wing by Koelz, Stevens and Stres.; rest MD)

Weight (Sept.) 1 ♂ imm. 19; 1 ♀ 22g—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, lower mandible yellowish. Legs and feet fleshy white to purplish fleshy.

1640. **Whitebrowed Shortwing.** *Brachypteryx montana cruralis* (Blyth)

Calliope? cruralis Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 929, 933
(Darjeeling)

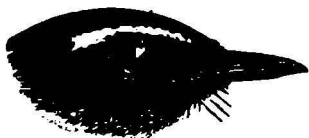
Cf. Roonwal, M. L. & Nath, B., 1947, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 45: 321-8
Baker, FBI No. 488, Vol. 2: 17

Plate 88, fig. 5

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). Entirely dark slaty blue, ashy on belly; lores velvety black; a long white supercilium.



× *c.* 1

Female. *Above*, dark olive-brown; lores and eye-ring rusty. *Below*, paler olive-brown, fulvous on belly, rufescent on under tail-coverts.

Many males breed in brown female-like plumage; they may be told from the female by the white supercilium.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, fairly common. The Himalayas from Garhwal (JBNHS 11: 471) east through Nepal (where very common), Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, the hills of Meghalaya south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland? and Manipur (*Rec. Indian Mus.* 46: 135). Breeds between 2500 and 3660 m (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985); recorded in winter between 300 and 2400 m. Affects damp, shady forest of oak and rhododendron with undergrowth of bracken etc., and dense brushwood in ravines or in the vicinity of streams.

Extralimital. Burma, Yunnan and Sichuan. The species ranges east to Fujian, Taiwan and the Philippines, south to Borneo and the Sunda Islands to Flores.

GENERAL HABITS. Mainly terrestrial. Solitary, skulking, shy and difficult to observe. Keeps in low bushes or among the heads of saplings and bamboos, or on the ground where it hops rapidly, pausing for a moment, then continuing—behaving much like a robin.

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a quick *tek* accompanied by a flick of the wings. Alarm, a robin-like *tt-tt-tt-tt*. Song, variously described as 'a broken succession of very soft, very high-pitched notes in no recognizable pattern—just a broken, inconsequential rambling *seee . . . sree . . . sree-ee* each note usually rising' (Lister); 'characterized by its compass of high and low notes, with odd sucking and popping noises thrown in' (Smythies); 'a pretty, short song of a few notes which, however, end up harshly' (Osmaston); 'a gentle merry little warble which might be syllabified as *hey did-dle did-dle the cat an'* (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, domed, made of moss and lined with rootlets, usually incorporated into the moss growing on rocks or tree-trunks; in most cases the lateral entrance-hole is parallel to the face of the rock or trunk concealed from view, giving effective camouflage to the nest. *Eggs*, normally 3, white. Average size of 31 eggs 22.7 × 16 mm (Baker). Sometimes brood-parasitized by *Cuculus poliocephalus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Many males breed in brown female-like dress and may not acquire a blue plumage. They are, however, recognized by the white supercilium which the females lack. See Biswas, JBNHS 58: 653-4.

Young, head dark brown with pale centres to the feathers; back dark brown, rump tinged with yellowish, upper tail-coverts with a rufous wash. Throat and breast paler, each feather with a yellowish brown centre; belly yellowish brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	64-72	15-16	31-34	42-48 mm
♀♀	64-68	15-16	29-31	43-47 mm

(BB, Roonwal & Nath, SA)

Wing of 18 ♂♂ in brown plumage 64-67 mm; 24 ♂♂ in blue plumage 66-73 mm; 13 ♀♀ 63-70 mm (Kinnear).

Weight 3 ♂♂ 17-23 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill blackish. Legs, feet and claws horny brown.

Genus ERYTHROPYGIA A. Smith

Erythropygia A. Smith, 1836, Rep. Exp. C. Africa: 46. Type, by subsequent designation (Sharpe, 1883), *Erythropygia pectoralis* Smith = *Sylvia leucophrys* Vieillot
Agrobates Swainson, 1836, Classif. Bds. 2: 241.
 Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia galactotes* Temminck

1641. **Rufous Chat. *Erythropygia galactotes familiaris* (Ménétrières)**

Sylvia familiaris Ménétrières, 1832, Cat. Rais. Caucase: 32

(Kur, southern Caucasus)

Baker, FBI no. 794, Vol. 2: 386

Plate 89, fig. 1

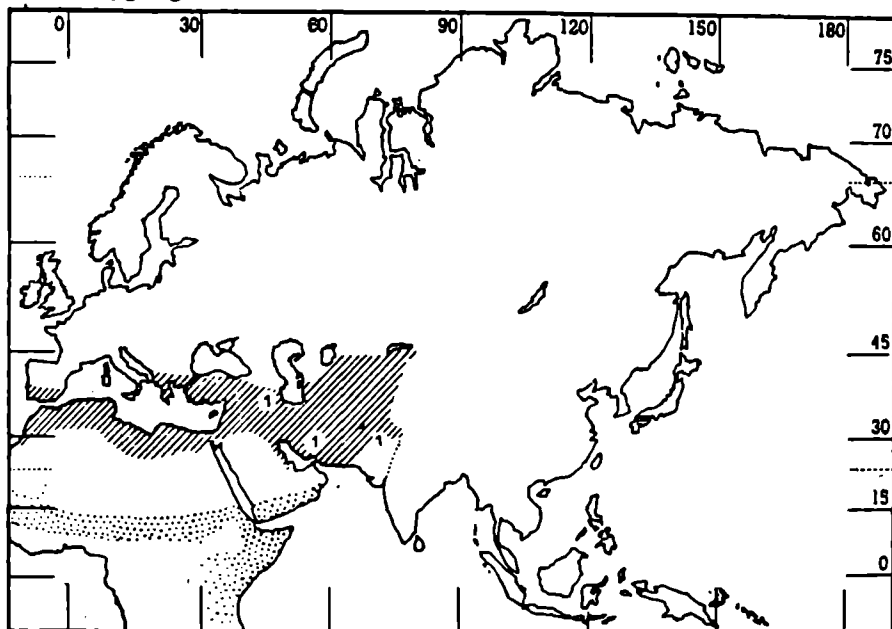
LOCAL NAMES. *Sürkh dümäk* (Baluchi); *Rākhodi peeth* (Gujarati).

SIZE. Bulbul -; length *c.* 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, sandy brown; a prominent whitish supercilium and a dark line through eye. Tail rufous with a dark brown subterminal band and broad white tips. *Below*, dull creamy white, breast more or less tinged with pale brown. Sexes alike.

Confusingly like the Pale Brown and Rufous shrikes (*Lanius c. isabellinus*, 943, *L. c. phoenicuroides*, 942) on the wing, but its small size with the black-and-white-tipped rufous tail, spread out in flight and cocked upon alighting, are diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Mostly an early autumn passage migrant *en route* to its winter quarters in Arabia and Africa. Pakistan east to Punjab (Jhang district) and northwestern India to Rajasthan (Jodhpur), N. Gujarat (Mt Abu, Deesa), Kutch and Kathiawar peninsula (Dwarka, Jasdán). Solos on Delhi Ridge, 3/21 August 1972 (Gaston, JBNHS 75: 124). Has strayed once to Sri Lanka in September (*Spolia Zeylanica* 30, pt. 2: 247-9, 1965). April records are restricted to Baluchistan and N.W.F.P. Breeds locally in the extreme border regions of Baluchistan (Surkhab Valley,

Erythropygia galactotes

Distributional ranges



Breeding, 1



Winter

1 *E. g. familiaris* (1641). Other subspecies unnumbered.Dotted line : normal autumn extension (passage)
through India and Pakistan.

c. 30°35'N., 67°20'E., 45 km north of Quetta City—T. J. Roberts, JBNHS 77:18). Affects dry scrub jungle, tamarisks and stony, broken country.

Extralimital. Extends to Lake Balkhash, Aral Sea and the Caucasus Mts. The species ranges west to Spain, Morocco, the Saharan savanna belt, and Ethiopia. Winters in southern Arabia and in the dry savannas of eastern Africa and southern Sahara.

MIGRATION. Recorded on breeding grounds from April to September. Autumn passage takes place mostly in September (first date 3 August, last date 11 October). Post-breeding dispersal may start in July. Spring passage in April and early May evidently by a different route almost entirely bypassing India. There is a record from Nasirabad (Baluchistan) on 1 December and one from Quetta on 1 February suggesting that a few individuals may occasionally spend the winter in this area.

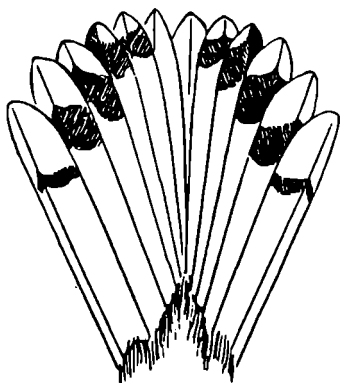
GENERAL HABITS. A confiding bird. Usually seen singly, running along the ground, hopping on to stones etc. with tail erect and wings partly drooping; tail fanned out and flicked up from time to time, sometimes almost touching back of head. Often perches on bushes, darting to the ground to take an insect. Resembles Indian Robin in many of its habits and behaviour.

FOOD. Insects (grasshoppers, caterpillars, beetles and butterflies recorded).

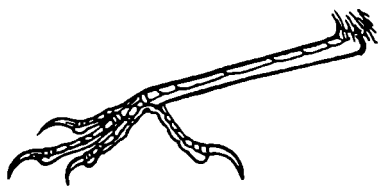
VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note given as *witch, witch* (Whitehead). A sweet, brief song with 3 or 4 phrases in a rising and falling scale, always given

conspicuously seated atop a bush and lasting 2 or 3 seconds; often repeated for a minute. At the end of the song, soon resumes feeding and flies up to another bush to continue singing, thus systematically travelling round the territory (Roberts, JBNHS 77: 18).

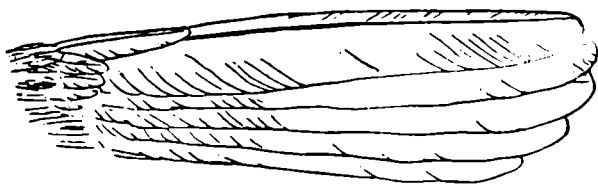
BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, a rather large, loose, cup-shaped structure made of fine twigs with an inner layer of shredded grass stalks, lined with vegetable down and small feathers; may possibly use old nests of *Pycnonotus leucogenys* and *Turdoides caudatus* (cf. JBNHS 23: 365 and Baker, *Nidification* 2: 351). Nest usually placed in bushes within a metre from the ground. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, very pale grey profusely covered with greyish brown specks, blotches and spots, generally more numerous at the large end. Average size of 70 eggs 20.9 × 15.4 mm (Baker). Building of nest by both sexes, incubation by female, fed on nest by male (Dementiev). The birds get very excited when an intruder discovers the nest, following him closely while uttering their alarm-note, sometimes hovering in the air within a few feet.



Tail, × c. $\frac{1}{2}$ (After Hartert)



Foot, × c. 1



Wing, × c. 1

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

Juvenile resembles adult but has broad, pale edges to tertials and wing-coverts, and very thin brownish edges to breast-feathers. Postnuptial moult in July and August.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	85-90	16-18	24-27	61-67 mm
♀♀	85-87	15-16	24-25	63-66 mm
				(SA)

Weight 11 ♂♀ 19-27 (av. 21.7) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill brown above, paler below. Legs and feet flesh with a tinge of grey.

Genus ERITHACUS Cuvier

Erithacus Cuvier, 1800, Leçons d'Anat. Comp. I, tab. 2. Type, by monotypy, *Motacilla Rubecula* Linnaeus

Luscinia Forster, 1817, Synopt. Cat. Brit. Bds.: 14. Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia luscinia* = *Luscinia megarhynchos* Brehm

Cyanosylvia Brehm, 1828, Isis, col. 920. Type, by monotypy, *Motacilla suecica* Linnaeus

Calliope Gould, 1836, Bds. Europe 2, pl. 118. Type, by tautonymy, *C. lathamii* = *Motacilla calliope* Pallas

Larivora Hodgson, 1837, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 6: 102. Type, by original designation, *Motacilla cyane* Pallas

Tarsiger Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 28. Type, by monotypy, *Tarsiger chrysaeus* Hodgson

Ianthia Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 132, new name for *Nemura* Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 27. Type, by original designation, *Nemura rufilatus* Hodgson, nec *Nemura* Latreille, 1789

Small, sparrow-size Turdidæ with rather long tarsus. Bill slender, rictal bristles very short. First primary (as.) longer than primary coverts. Juveniles always spotted.

Key to the Species

		Page
I	Plumage plain brown <i>E. megarhynchos</i> ♂♀	217
Males		
II	Plumage partly blue, red or yellow	
A	Rump yellow <i>E. chrysaeus</i>	237
B	No yellow on rump	
a	Throat bright scarlet	
1	Breast black <i>E. pectoralis</i>	225
2	Breast pale brown <i>E. calliope</i>	218
b	No scarlet on throat	
3	Base of tail white <i>E. pectardens</i>	232
4	Base of tail rufous <i>E. suecicus</i>	220
5	No rufous or white in tail	
i	Underparts white <i>E. cyane</i>	233
ii	Underparts with some rufous or orange	
o	A white supercilium	
a'	Underparts rufous, centre of belly white <i>E. brunneus</i>	229
b'	Underparts almost entirely yellowish rufous <i>E. indicus</i>	239
oo	A blue supercilium	
c'	Centre of throat rufous <i>E. hyperythrus</i>	241
d'	Centre of throat white <i>E. cyanurus</i>	234
Females		
A	Tips of tail white <i>E. pectoralis</i>	225

B	Underparts ochre-yellow	<i>E. chrysaeus</i>	237
C	A dark collar on breast	<i>E. suecicus</i>	220
D	Underparts scaly	<i>E. cyane</i>	233
E	Underparts sullied white, flanks orange	<i>E. cyanurus</i>	234
F	Not as above		
1	Some bluish or slaty on rump	<i>E. hyperythrus</i>	241
2	No bluish on upperparts		
a	A white supercilium		
1	Throat whitish	<i>E. calliope</i>	218
2	Throat rufous-ochre	<i>E. indicus</i>	239
b	No white supercilium		
3	Throat rich buff as rest of underparts	<i>E. pectardens</i>	232
4	Throat white or white with dusky specks. Under tail-coverts white	<i>E. brunneus</i>	229

1642. **Nightingale.** *Erithacus megarhynchos hafizi* (Severtzov)

Luscinia Hafizi Severtzov, 1872, Vertik. Turkest. Zhivotn. 8: 120
(Turkestan)

Luscinia Golzii Cabanis, 1873, Jour. f. Orn.: 79 (Turkestan)

Baker, FBI No. 540, Vol. 2: 87

Plate 88, fig. 6

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlbūl* (Iran). The *būlbūl* of Persian poetry and song.

SIZE. Bulbul —; *c.* 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, uniformly brown, tail more rufous. A pale eye-ring. *Below*, throat, belly and under tail-coverts whitish. Sides of neck, breast and flanks pale brown. Sexes alike.

Resembles shortwings in carriage and movements.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Occasional visitor during migration: Western Baluchistan (Kacha and Robat in April—Christison, JBNHS 43: 481). Quetta once in October, once in April; also obtained there in February (JBNHS 31: 709). Has strayed to the Oudh terai in October (SF 4: 500). Affects bushes and gardens.

Extralimital. Breeds in Russian Turkestan, east to the Caspian Sea and south to Afghanistan and Iran. The species ranges west through Asia Minor to England, Spain and Morocco.

MIGRATION takes place mostly in April and early September.

GENERAL HABITS. Very secretive. Haunts low bushes, usually within a couple of metres from the ground. Feeds on the ground, hopping with tail partly erect and flicked from time to time.

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very silent during migration. On breeding grounds utters a soft but loud *hweet* and a croaking *krrrr* in addition to its magnificent song. For description of the song see Witherby, 2: 188.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. Postnuptial moult takes place from mid-July to mid-August.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail
♂♂	87-95	82-88 mm
♀♀	86-93	

(Dementiev)

Bill, from skull (one) 18 mm; tarsus 22 mm

Weight 4 ♂♂ 23-26.5 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel. Bill dark brown, paler below. Legs and feet light brown.

1643. **Rubythroat. *Erithacus calliope* (Pallas)**

Motacilla Calliope Pallas, 1776, Reise Russ. Reichs 3: 697 (Yenisei)

Baker, FBI No. 542, Vol. 2: 91

Plate 88, fig. 7

LOCAL NAMES. *Gangula* (Nepal); *Gunpigora* (Bengal).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, olive-brown, no white in tail. Lores black; a conspicuous white supercilium. *Below*, chin and throat scarlet bordered with a black line on sides of chin; a broad white malar stripe. Breast and flanks pale buffish brown; belly whitish.

Female like male, also with white supercilium, but throat white, sometimes faintly tinged with pink, without any black. Belly and under tail-coverts buff.

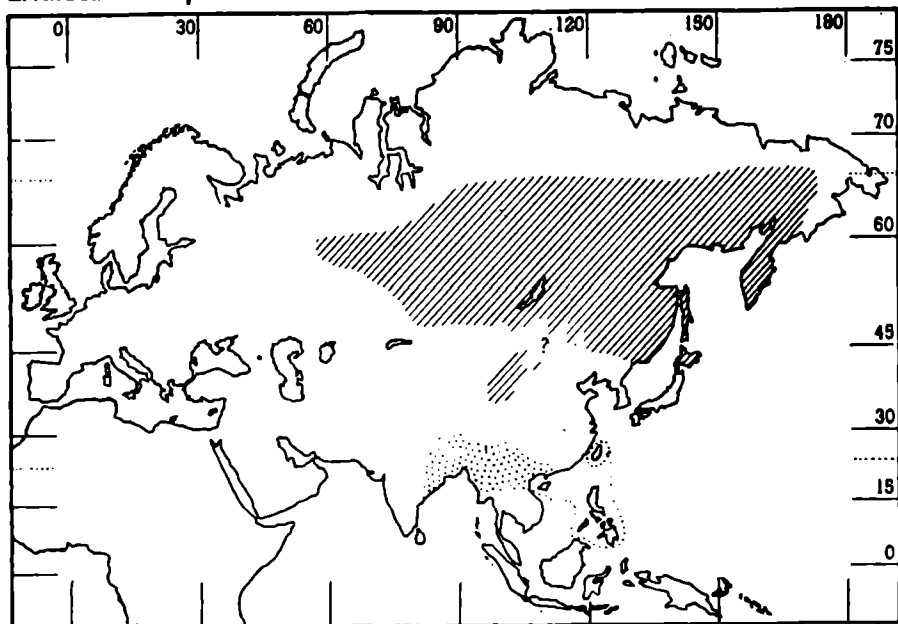
Male distinguished from Himalayan Rubythroat (1647) by the absence of black on breast. Female very similar to nightingale (1642) distinguished only by white supercilium; female Himalayan Rubythroat has a darker grey, not fulvous brown breast, contrasting with white belly and white-tipped tail.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon winter visitor. Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, all parts of Bangladesh and south to the Chittagong region, and eastern India from the Bhutan foothills, Bengal duars, Sikkim and Nepal [to west-central Nepal (Rand & Fleming, 1957)] and up to *c.* 1500 m (Diesselhorst, 1968) south through Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, eastern Madhya Pradesh and northeastern Andhra Pradesh (Godavari delta). Within this area, recorded as fairly common only in Hailakandi and Visakhapatnam districts. West of this range, isolated examples recorded only in the Satpurus (date ?, SF 2: 413), Delhi (November, JBNHS 47: 280) and Bharatpur, Rajasthan (September, *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 8(8): 7, 1967; also JBNHS 86: 246). Since then found to be a scarce but fairly regular visitor (on passage?) to Bharatpur, between September and December. Affects dense scrub in the vicinity of water, hedges near villages, underbrush along sides of country roads, long grass, sugarcane or reeds, and sometimes tea gardens.

Extralimital. Breeds in Siberia from the Ural Mts to Anadyr, Kamchatka and Hakkaido. Winters also through the northern Indochinese countries and southern China to Taiwan and the Philippines.

MIGRATION. Noted in winter quarters from 1 October until the last week of April. On migration (?) recorded at Dehra Dun (Seebohm coll.), Simla 26

Erithacus calliope



Distributional range

 Breeding

 Winter

September (*Ibis* 1867: 453) and Sikkim, 4500 m on 19 September (Stevens). A strayed bird was recorded on board a ship 'a little south of Bombay' in November (SF 9: 405).

GENERAL HABITS. Usually found singly. Feeds mostly on the ground, but also among low bushes and reeds. Has a habit of flicking its cocked and semi-expanded tail over the back. Carriage and movements—running about rapidly in short spurts—also similar to those of the Himalayan Rubythroat (1647) and the Bluethroat (1645), qq.v.

FOOD. Insects and their larvae.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a loud rattling. Call-note a harsh *ké* or *ché* rather like Jungle Babbler's, sometimes followed by pleasant snatches of song. 'A plaintive whistling noise' given by male (*Ibis* 1894: 49) may refer to this attempt at song in the winter quarters.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species. First-winter birds are distinguished by ochraceous tips to greater coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	71-80	15-18	26-31	58-61 mm

(HW, BB, SA, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 1 ♂ 23 g, 2 ♀♀ 18, 18.5 g (SDR); 1 o? (Dec.) 19.5 g (BB); 1 ♂ (March) 21.5 g (RAP); 1 ♀ (March) 20.1 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill light brown to dark brown, paler at base. Legs and feet pale plumbeous or horny brown; claws darker.

ERITHACUS SVECICUS (Linnaeus): BLUETHROAT

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Plastron darker blue	
1 Star smaller, bill longer (av. 17.5 mm) <i>E. s. abbotti</i>	223
2 Star larger, bill shorter (av. 16 mm) <i>E. s. svecicus</i>	220
B Plastron paler blue	
3 Darkest of all races <i>E. s. saturator</i>	224
4 palest of all races <i>E. s. pallidogularis</i>	221

1644. *Erithacus svecicus svecicus* (Linnaeus)

Motacilla svecica Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1: 187 (Sweden)

Cyanecula svecica robusta Buturlin, 1907, Psov. Rush. Okh., No. 6
(Kolyma Delta)

Luscinia svecica weigoldi Kleinschmidt, 1924, Abh. Ber. Mus. Dresden 16 (2): 43
(Bago, Northern Chihli)

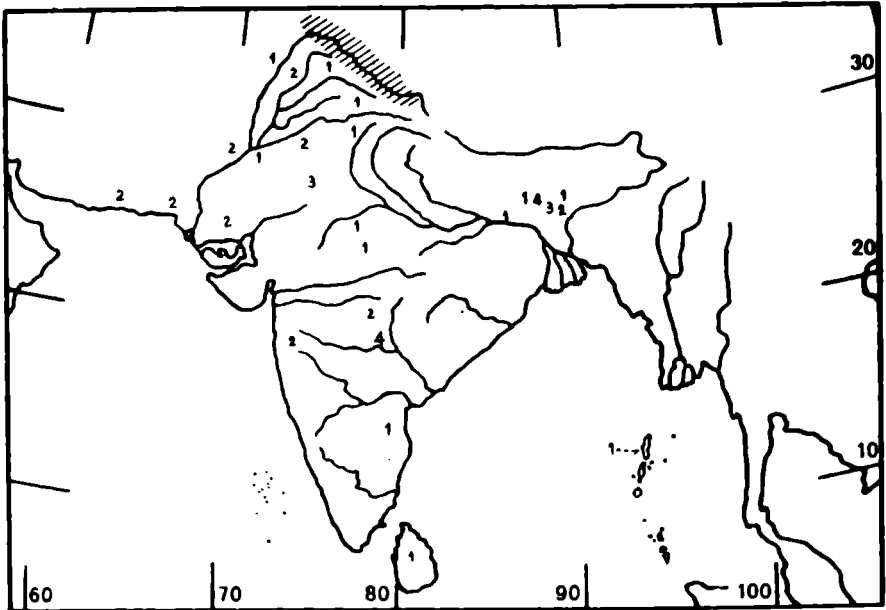
Baker, FBI Nos. 536 and 538, Vol. 2: 83 and 85

Plate 88, fig. 9

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1645.

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1645, q.v.

Erithacus svecicus

Breeding (*abbotti*)

Numerals, winter specimens identified

1 *svecicus* (1644). 2 *pallidogularis* (1645). 3 *abbotti* (1646). 4 *saturator* (1646a).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, locally common, scarce south of lat. 20°N. Pakistan and India from the Himalayan foothills south to Sri Lanka (cf. Phillips, W. W. A., *Spolia Zeylanica* 28: 190) and Andaman Islands (cf. Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 591), and east to Assam (Stevens, JBNHS 23: 260). Given for all parts of Bangladesh as *abbotti* by Rashid, but subspecific identification virtually impossible in winter and these are probably *svecicus* or *saturator* since *abbotti* and *pallidogularis* appear to winter farther west. Affects sugarcane, cotton fields, grass jungle, reeds, bushes near water, gardens and fallow fields.

Extralimital. Breeds in northern Eurasia from Scandinavia to Chukotskiy Peninsula and western Alaska. Winters in North Africa, Iraq, Iran, the Indochinese countries and southern China.

MIGRATION. On spring and autumn passage throughout the Himalayas, mostly in April and September.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1645.

BREEDING. *Extralimital.*

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. For details of plumages see Dementiev, translation Vol. 6, p. 696.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tail
76 ♂♂	68-79 (av. 72.8)	(13) 11-12 (av. 11.38)	} 55-58 mm
10 ♀♀	64-73 (av. 69.4)	(3) 11-11.4	

(Dementiev)

Weight 13 ♂♂ 13.4-22.8 (av. 16.9) g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black or brown; mouth bright yellow. Legs and feet blackish brown; soles yellow.

1645. *Erithacus svecicus pallidogularis* (Zarudny)

C. (yanecula) suecica var. *pallidogularis* Zarudny, 1897, Mater k. poznaniu Fauny i Flory Ross. Imp. 3: 186 (Orenburg)

Cyanecula discessa Madarász, 1902, Termész. Füzetek 25: 535 (Transcaspia)

Cyanecula suecica aralensis Zarudny, 1916, Izvest. Turkest. Otd. Russk. Geogr. Obsht. 12: 71 (delta of Syr-Darya)

Cyanosylvia suecica kobdensis Tugarinov, 1929, Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Sci., Leningrad, 29 (1928): 9 (Uliassutai)

Cyanosylvia suecica kashgariensis Tugarinov, 1929, *ibid.*: 10 (Yarkand-Darya)

Baker, FBI No. 537, Vol. 2: 85

LOCAL NAMES. *Nyul hôt* (Kashmir); *Nil kánthi*, *Husaini pidda* (Hindi); *Dũmbāk* (Sind); *Gunpigera*, *Gurpeorah* (Bengali).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, brown; sides of tail rufous at base. A long, buffish supercilium. *Below*, throat and breast blue with a rufous, white, or rufous-and-white spot (or 'star') in the centre; plastron

edged with black on breast and a broader rufous band. Centre of belly whitish; flanks and under tail-coverts buffish.

Female like male but without any blue, this colour replaced by buffish white and brown streaks on sides of throat. Rufous spot and breast-band much reduced. First-winter female whiter below with large, dark brown spots and streaks on breast and sides of throat.

In both sexes black-tipped orange-chestnut tail conspicuous in flight and when spread out and cocked.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common winter visitor. Pakistan from N.W.F.P. to Sind (where it is the prevailing race), central and coastal Makran, and India south at least to Bombay, Londa (Koelz, JBNHS 43: 14, subspecies not determined) and Nagpur, and east to the Bhutan foothills and Jalpaiguri duars. Specimens taken in Bihar (Darbhanga), Cachar (Assam) and Kanpur (U.P.) in Jan./Mar./Oct. in BNHS collection. An abundant passage migrant in the western Himalayas west of Nepal; recorded as high as 4800 m (Henderson, 1873, *Lahore to Yarkand* p. 214, cf. Hellmayr, 1929: 115). Affects reeds, clumps of grass, tamarisk and other bushes near water, bushes around well-watered cultivation, and fields of maize, corn, sugarcane, etc. Also dry tidal mudflats on the sea coast with salt-marsh vegetation.

Extralimital. Breeds from the southern Urals and Transcaspiia to Kirghizstan and Tadzhikistan. Winters west to Iran.

MIGRATION. First autumn migrants arrive in Baltistan and Himalayan foothills in early September (first dates 4 and 7 Sept.); migrants already noticed in the last week of August in Kohat (ssp.?). In Kashmir Valley passage is at its heaviest in the second part of September and early October. Northward movement begins in early March (Chagai, 4 March) and lasts until mid-May (Himalayan foothills, HW) and end of May (Kohat, Whitehead). Most birds however have left the Peninsula by the first week of April. These data certainly include the other subspecies, *svecicus*, *saturation* and *abbotti*, as well. One ♂ (ssp.?) ringed with BNHS ring A-189896 on 24.x.1983 at Bharatpur, Rajasthan (27°15'N., 77°30'E.) was recovered on 6.v.1984 at Tyumen USSR (57°11'N., 65°29'E.).

GENERAL HABITS. Mainly terrestrial: skulking, shy and unobtrusive, thus often escaping observation. Keeps singly, like other robins and chats, feeding on damp ground under bushes with tail cocked and spread out, stopping every now and again to pick up a morsel. When alarmed or suspicious, slinks swiftly to cover with quick mincing steps, head lowered furtively, body dipped forward and tail cocked over back, sometimes nearly doubled over, seeming then as if the bird would topple heels over head; erects itself every couple of metres or so to have another look at the intruder before the next spurt. When flushed, usually dives behind another bush almost immediately, giving no more than a fleeting glimpse of the expanded rufous tail as the only clue to its identity. Roosts with swallows, wagtails, etc. in reedbeds and bushes in or near water.

FOOD. Insects: beetles, ants, caterpillars, cutworms, etc.

VOICE and CALLS. As in 1646.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *svecicus* by paler blue colour of plastron. Upperparts often paler and somewhat greyer. Differs from *abbotti* in being paler above and having less black at lower end of blue plastron.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	70-75	15-16	25-27	55-58 mm
♀♀	70-74	15-16	—	— mm
				(CBT, HW)

Wing 100 ♂♂ 67-75 (av. 70.2); 17 ♀♀ 67-73 (av. 70.2) mm (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill horny brown; gape yellow; mouth bright lemon-yellow. Legs, feet and claws horny brown; soles yellow.

1646. *Erithacus svecicus abbotti* (Richmond)

Cyanecula abbotti Richmond, 1896, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 18: 484

(Nubra Valley, Ladakh)

Baker, FBI No. 539, Vol. 2: 86

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1645.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1645, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor, locally common. Gilgit, Baltistan, Ladakh, northern Kashmir (Pashgam, Zaskar Range, Liddar Valley) and Spiti (Koelz, *Ibis* 1937: 91), from 2600 to 3600 m. Affects bushes on swampy ground, especially patches of *Hippophae* and *Lonicera* in river beds and by streams. Winter range very little known: recorded in winter in Gujarat (Sálim Ali, JBNHS 52: 767), and at Nasirabad (Rajasthan) and Tista Bridge (northern Bengal) [Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 591]. Habitat in winter as in 1645.

MIGRATION. Identified on passage through Kashmir in early May.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1645. For display see below.

VOICE and CALLS. Normal call-note a harsh *chur-r* or *chuck*, *chuck* like Blyth's Reed Warbler. Alarm-note *tick tick*. Song in breeding season variable, reminiscent of the nightingale's but shorter, less rich; usually uttered from the topmost twig of a bush with tail expanded. Occasionally flies up in the air and sings on the wing while descending, in the manner of a pipit. Song may be heard in winter quarters in March-April especially from first-year males in sub-adult plumage.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a deep cup of grass, rootlets and leaves lined with finer grass and fibres; placed on the ground, well concealed in grass at the base of a bush. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 3 or 5, pale olive-green, either plain or lightly suffused with pale rufous markings, especially at the broad end. Average size of 22 eggs 19.9 × 14.8 mm and of 20 eggs 19.1 × 14.3 mm (Osmaston); of 36 eggs 19.1 × 14.2 mm (Baker). Other particulars of breeding biology not recorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *pallidogularis* in being darker brownish above, in having the blue of plastron darker and the star smaller; the latter may vary from white to rufous-and-white or entirely rufous. Birds with white star appear to predominate (Hellmayr, 1929; Osmaston, *Ibis* 1925: 683). Bill averaging longer (17.5 mm—Vaurie) than in other races occurring in our territory (av. 16 mm). For details of plumage see Richmond, 1895, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 18: 484.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	71-72	—	27-28	56-57 mm (Richmond)
♂♀	72-74	16.7-17.5	—	— mm (Hartert)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black. Legs and feet dark brown.

1646a. *Erithacus svecicus saturator* (Sushkin)

Cyanecula svecica saturator Sushkin, 1925, List Distrib. Birds Russian Altai, p. 77 (Djoievo, near Minusinsk)

Cyanecula svecica altaica Sushkin, 1925, *ibid.* p. 77 (Kosh Agach, Altai)

Cyanosylvia svecica tianshanica Tugarinov, 1929, *Annuaire Mus. Zool. Acad. Sci. URSS* 29 (1928), p. 9 (Baim Gol, Tien Shan)

Cyanosylvia svecica przewalskii Tugarinov, 1929, *ibid.* p. 11 (Zaganbulyk, Ala Shan Range)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1645, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor. Recorded from Siliguri, northern Bengal (Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 592) and Asifabad, Andhra Pradesh (Sálim Ali, Hyderabad Survey). Winter specimens from Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra and Assam (Cachar) in BNHS collection. Noted on passage in southeastern Tibet (Ludlow & Kinnear, *Ibis* 1937: 271). Habitat probably as in 1645.

Extralimital. Breeds in central Asia from the Pamirs and Tien Shan north to the Sayan Mts and northern Mongolia, and east to eastern Tibet.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1645.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *svecicus* but more smoky, browner or more fulvescent above; plastron and star as in *pallidogularis*, but upperparts darker even than *abbotti*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)
5 ♂♂ (Tekkes area)	69-71	15.5-17 mm
12 ♂♂ (Tarim basin)	71-76	16.5-17 mm
		(one 18)
2 ♂♂ (Gyantse, passage)	73, 76	— mm
3 ♀♀ " "	71-73	— mm
		(Kinnear)

Hyderabad Survey Sp. No. 455 ♂ Wing 77 mm (SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1646.

ERITHACUS PECTORALIS (Gould): HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	A white malar streak	<i>E. p. tschebaiewi</i> 228
B	No malar streak	
i	Darker slate above	<i>E. p. confusus</i> 227
ii	Paler, brownish slate above.....	<i>E. p. pectoralis</i> 225

1647. *Erithacus pectoralis pectoralis* (Gould)

Calliope pectoralis Gould, 1837, Icones Avium, pl. 4, text

(Himalayas = western Himalayas *vide* Hartert, 1909, Vög. pal. Fauna 1: 739)

Baker, FBI No. 543, Vol. 2: 92

Plate 88, fig. 8

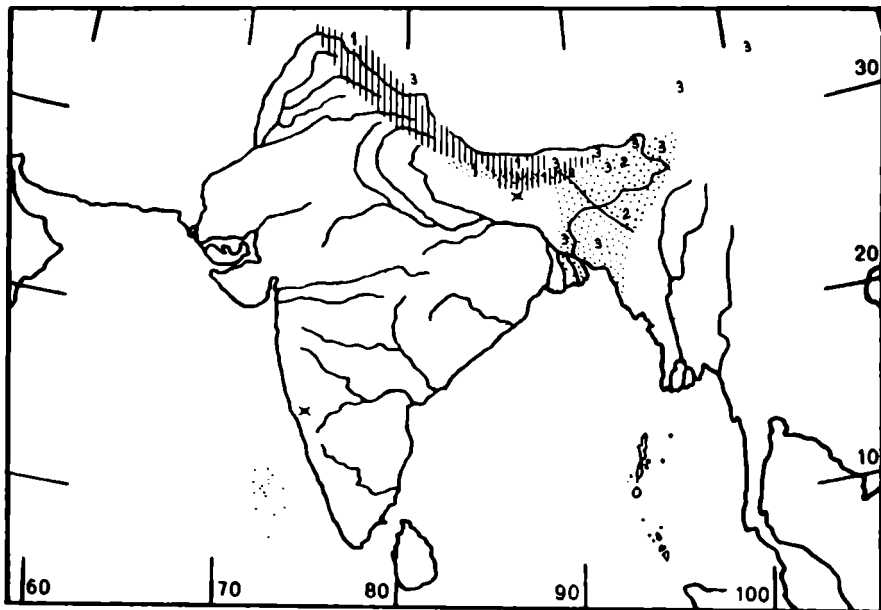
LOCAL NAMES. *Gangula* (Nepal); *Yāquat hōt* (Kashmir).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, brownish slaty; forehead and supercilium white. Wings brown; tail blackish brown with white base and tips. *Below*, chin and throat scarlet; sides of throat and breast jet black; belly and under tail-coverts white.

Female. *Above*, grey-brown; a short supercilium and eye-ring whitish.

Erithacus pectoralis



Distributional ranges



Breeding



Winter



Isolated winter records, 1

1 *pectoralis* (1647). 2 *confusus* (1648). 3 *tschebaiewi* (1649).

Tail blackish brown with white tips. *Below*, breast smoky grey fading to whitish lower down. For distinction from the Siberian species *E. calliope*, see 1643.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, breeding mostly in sub-alpine scrub zone, subject to altitudinal migration in winter. Fairly common. Baltistan, Gilgit, Kaghan Valley, Kashmir, Pir Panjal to upper Suru Valley, Kishtwar, Zaskar, Rhotang range, east to Simla, Kumaon and central Nepal (Lowndes, JBNHS 53: 32; Desfayes, Thare Pati 3300 m, sight record of breeding bird). Recorded at 4500 m in Nepal in winter by Rand & Fleming. Breeds between 2600 m [Kaghan Valley, *vide* Whitehead, and Gilgit (adult and juv. obtained at 2700 and 2800 m in July by Biddulph)] and 4500 m. Affects dwarf rhododendron, juniper and other scrub, beds of broken rocks, scree-fans and grassy hillsides, mostly above timber-line, but also high humid rhododendron forest (Nepal). Winter data very scanty: recorded in Chitral main valley, regular in Dehra Dun (BBO), uncommon in Nepal from *c.* 450 to 1500 m (Proud; Fleming & Traylor 1968; Rand & Fleming 1957; Scully). Two records from the Peninsula: Sultanpur, U.P. (Hume coll.) and Londa, Karnataka (Koelz, JBNHS 43: 14). In this season frequents dense scrub, hedgerows and cultivation affording sufficient cover; also marshy places.

Extralimital. Breeds also in Russian Turkestan north to Ala Tau, south to the Manasarovar region, W. Tibet (Sálím Ali, JBNHS 46: 299). For an excellent account of the breeding biology in the Tien Shan see Gavrílov, E. I. & Kovshar, A. F., 1970, JBNHS 67: 14–25.

MIGRATION. Recorded on breeding grounds from mid April until the end of September. Passage noted at mid elevations from Chitral to central Nepal Valley from early March till the third week of April, and in late September and October.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary outside the breeding season, Usually very secretive. Feeds on the ground; ventures into the open but darts to cover on the slightest alarm. In the breeding season commonly perches in exposed situations to sing. Stance while singing upright, with tail loosely depressed (normally not cocked) and wings partly drooped. Otherwise actions and behaviour very similar to Bluethroat and typically robin-like: hops on longish legs or runs swiftly in spurts with tail erect and flicked up from time to time, wings drooping at sides. For display, see 1649.

FOOD. Chiefly insects and caterpillars; also spiders and molluscs. Lizards fed to young recorded.

VOICE and CALLS. A characteristic, loud, shrill but attractive song likened to an accentor's or Pied Bushchat's, of three or four seconds' duration; usually given from the top of a shrub or prominent rock. Singing commences at early dawn and continues well into the dusk. Song repeated almost continuously—to point of monotony—for half to one hour at a time, the scarlet throat-patch scintillating with the pulsations and particularly eye-catching in poor light (SA). See also 1648. Call-note, a harsh *ké* like *Turdoides* (SA). Alarm-note near nest, *it . . . it . . .* similar to Black Redstart's (Desfayes).

BREEDING. *Season*, end of May to beginning of August. Double-brooded. *Nest*, usually domed with a large entrance on the side near the top, 'rather like a coconut with a good slice taken diagonally off a top quarter' (Bates &

Lowther); sometimes a very deep cup in which the tail of the sitting bird nearly touches its head. The material consists entirely of dry grass with a lining of finer grass. Site: well concealed under shrubs, in a tuft of rank herbage among rocks and grass, or in patches of furze or juniper usually near their outer edge, and generally within *c.* 60 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 3, blue-green with a faint ring of reddish freckles at the large end. Average size of 100 eggs 21.6 × 15.4 mm (Baker); of 9 eggs 21 × 15.3 mm (BBO). Incubation chiefly by female; period undetermined. Both parents feed the young. Commonly brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *tschebaiewi* by lack of the white malar stripe. See also 1649. For distinction from *confusus* see 1648. Males in female-like plumage can be told by white base of tail. First-winter birds distinguished by pale tips to greater coverts and tertials, the male further by rusty-tinged tips of rectrices. Young spotted; males with white base to tail. For details of plumages see Baker, loc. cit. Postjuvénal moult of body-feathers, lesser, median and inner greater coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	68–78	<i>c.</i> 30	56–64 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull 18 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black. Legs and feet black or brownish black.

1648. *Erithacus pectoralis confusus* (Hartert)

Luscinia pectoralis confusa Hartert, 1909, Vög. pal. Fauna 1: 740 (Sikkim)
Baker, FBI No. 544, Vol. 2: 93

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1647, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common summer (breeding) visitor. Eastern Nepal (Biswas, 1961; Diesselhorst, 1968) and Sikkim. Ludlow's Bhutan record, *Ibis* 1937: 272, is questioned by the author himself, *ibid.* 1944: 186. Intergrades with *pectoralis* in central Nepal. Breeds between 3600 and 4900 m. Affects dwarf scrub well above timber-line, especially the bare screes and boulder-strewn slopes in the alpine zone. Winters from the foothills of Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (Hume, SF 11: 199) south through northern Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Manipur (Baker, FBI), and the hills of Bangladesh south to the Chittagong ranges (Rashid); also lower Bengal (JBNHS 83: 669). In this season affects dense scrub and long grass jungle.

MIGRATION. Little known. Periods apparently as in 1647.

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1647. Behaviour very Bluethroat-like. For display see 1649, under Voice and Calls.

FOOD. Mostly insects, some caterpillars and (once) grit (GD).

VOICE and CALLS. Song consists of some pure whistled notes mixed with many harsh ones, rather similar to that of the Bluethroat but not so rich, at times reminding one of the European Hedge Sparrow or of *Prunella strophiata* [1782] (Diesselhorst). For other calls see 1647 and 1649.

BREEDING. *Season*, June to August; in the latter month mostly late broods; fledglings being fed by parents observed in early September. It is not certain if all females have a second brood. *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1647. Only females have an incubation patch (Diesselhorst).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male, like *pectoralis* but grey of upperparts darker in summer, a deep blackish slate; white on forehead wider. In autumn, fringes of upperparts darker compared with *pectoralis*.

Female, not always certainly distinguishable from *pectoralis*; in summer ear-coverts, sides of throat, and breast darker grey and contrasting more with white of throat and belly.

Juvenile, dark warmer brown above; the spotting below heavier and darker than in *pectoralis*. (For distinction from *tschebaiewi* see 1649.) Juvenal plumage is worn for at least a month after the young has become full-fledged. Postnuptial moult takes place in September.

MEASUREMENTS As in 1647.

Weight 9 ♂♂ (July–Sept.) 21.5–25.2; 4 ♀♀ (July–Sept.) 21.7–23.7; 8 juv. (Aug.–Sept.) 22–24.7 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1647.

1649. *Erithacus pectoralis tschebaiewi* (Przevalski)

Calliope Tschebaiewi Przevalski, 1876, Mongol. i Str. Tangut 2: 44 (Kansu)
Baker, FBI No. 545, Vol. 2: 94

LOCAL NAME. *Dao gulugajao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1648 but with a conspicuous white moustache in male and an indication of same in female.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor, locally common. Breeds in Tibet, south to extreme eastern Ladakh [between Ralma and Tsaka La (Osmaston, JBNHS 31: 984 and *Ibis* 1925: 685)], northern Bhutan and northern Arunachal Pradesh both north and south of the main range (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1937: 272, 1944: 186 and 1951: 560). Breeds between 3900 and 4500 m. Affects juniper and rhododendron scrub and especially Tibetan furze (*Caragana*), often near streams. Winters from the foothills of eastern Nepal (Fleming & Traylor, *Fieldiana* 35: 545), northern Bengal, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh to the Mishmi hills, south through Assam and Bangladesh (Rashid). Arrives in September (first date 6 Sept.), leaves in March–April (last date 24 April) [Stevens]. In this season affects marshes and dense scrub.

Extralimital. Tibet, Sikang, Kansu, Sichuan and northern Yunnan. Not known to winter in Burma though presumably does so.

MIGRATION takes place mostly in April and October. Recorded on passage in April in Kashmir (Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 589), Nepal (Fleming & Traylor, *Fieldiana* 35: 545) and Sikkim (Mandelli).

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1648.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note given as a long-drawn *süü süü* (Schäfer); see also 1647. Male sings from a prominent twig, shifting its body in every direction when excited and flying in ecstasy from bush-top to bush-top.

During display, head is held high, neck and red throat-patch puffed out, wings drooping at sides, tail fanned and held at a 45° angle, thus flashing its white base (Schäfer); cf. 1647.

BREEDING. As in 1648.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male distinguished from *pectoralis* and *confusus* by the broad white moustache; white at base of tail less extensive. White over base of bill not wider than supercilium as in *pectoralis*, but less wide than in *confusus*.

Female may also show white moustache, and some have crimson chin; whitish supercilium always present (sometimes almost absent in *confusus*) but not every specimen can be differentiated. Young (juvenile) very distinct: Upperparts blackish brown, with cream spots and streaks (in *confusus* warm brown, in *pectoralis* greyish brown, with ochraceous spots and streaks); underparts very heavily spangled, as in *confusus*, and darker still (Ticehurst, *Ibis* 1940: 330). Colour of young, however, is variable as noted by Diesselhorst (1968: 289) for *confusus*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus (from skull)	Tail
♂♀	73–81	33	58–66 mm (Baker)
♂♂	74–83	—	— mm
♀♀	68–71	—	— mm (HW)

Bill from skull 15–17 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1648.

1650, 1651.¹ **Blue Chat.** *Erithacus brunneus brunneus* (Hodgson)

Larivivora brunnea Hodgson, 1837, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 6: 102 (Nepal)

Larivivora wickhami Baker, 1916, Novit. Zool. 23: 298 (Chin Hills)
(Tekhubama, Naga Hills)

Larivivora brunnea angamea Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 41
Baker, FBI No. 484, Vol. 2: 14

Plate 88, fig. 11

LOCAL NAME. *Manzhil pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, slaty blue. A conspicuous white supercilium; lores and cheeks black. *Below*, throat, breast and flanks bright chestnut or ochraceous; throat bordered with black. Centre of belly and under tail-coverts white.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown. *Below*, whitish washed with ochraceous on breast and flanks. Young dark brown with buff spots.

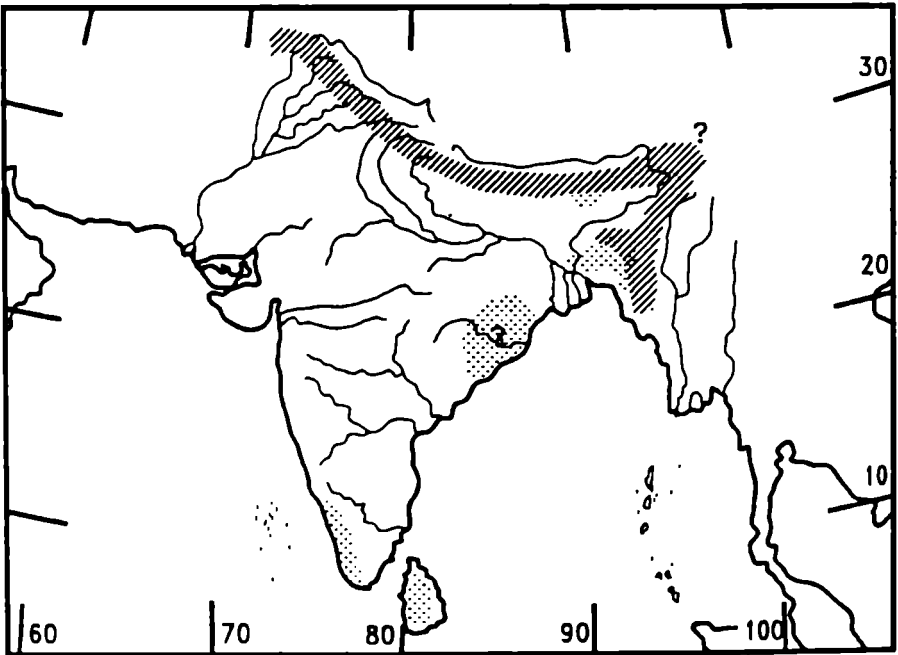
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common summer (breeding) visitor, scarce east of Nepal. The Himalayas from N.W.F.P. (Safed Koh), where scarce, east to Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh (Tsangpo gorge—Ludlow, *Ibis* 1951: 558), Nagaland (Koelz, loc. cit.), Manipur?, Assam in the Cachar and

¹ *L. wickhami* was described from a single unsexed specimen which could be a male in 'retarded' plumage, or an old female. We follow Stresemann (*Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin* 24: 227, 1940) in considering it a synonym of *brunneus*.

Meghalaya in the Khasi hills, where very rare (Baker, JBNHS 8: 200 and 17: 788). Breeds between 1600 and 3300 m. Affects dense undergrowth of rhododendron, ringal bamboo, *Berberis* and other bushes in open oak or conifer forest. Winters in Sri Lanka (especially in the hills up to 2100 m), in the hills of southwestern India (western Karnataka from Londa south to the Ashambu hills of Kerala), believed, E. Ghats, Andhra Pradesh (Trevor Price, JBNHS 76: 417; Ripley, *ibid.* 85:100). In the hills of Assam and Bangladesh and, occasionally at least, in the eastern Himalayan foothills [Pokhara, Nepal (Paul Hendricks, JBNHS 79: 251), Sikkim, Darjeeling (Stevens, Mackintosh)]. Assam population apparently resident. In winter frequents almost exclusively evergreen forest; partial to *Rubus*, *Pandanus* and *Calamus* brakes along shady forest streams and in dank ravines; also cardamom and coffee plantation.

Extralimital. Extends to Burma (Chin Hills), northwestern Yunnan, Sichuan and southwestern Kansu.

Erithacus brunneus



Breeding



Known winter range

MIGRATION. Arrives on breeding grounds in May, leaves in September; downward movement begins in August. Passage in the foothills lasts till the beginning of October; passage in the Peninsula mostly in October. Arrives in winter quarters in southern India and Sri Lanka, passing through Point Calimere in October/November (Sugathan, JBNHS 79: 569), remains until April, a few individuals until May. Northward movement chiefly in April. Migration follows mostly in the forest-clad Western Ghats, during which time obtained in Bhimashankar and Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

GENERAL HABITS. Terrestrial, forest-haunting and unobtrusive. Keeps singly, skulking in heavy undergrowth among the tangled stems and lowest branches, dropping to the ground and hopping along swiftly to snatch an insect, and back again. Flirts its tail like a redstart and spreads and jerks it up from time to time, with occasional flicks of the wings. When disturbed flies up into a low tree but descends almost immediately; otherwise seldom shows itself except in the breeding season when males come up to exposed bush-tops etc. to sing.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-notes a grating *tuck-tuck* and a high-pitched *tsee* when near nest, punctuated by *chr-r*. Song consists of a few introductory notes, at first soft then growing louder, followed by a rapid trill or jumble of notes; rendered as *jerri-jerri-jerri quick-quick-quick-quick* (Magrath). Also described as commencing with a loud *peep*, slowly and deliberately repeated 3 or 4 times in ascending scale, followed by an explosive trill of 4 or 5 quick-repeated sweet notes ending abruptly. Usually sings in the undergrowth or in the crowns of rhododendrons or pines; often from an exposed situation such as the top branches of a fir. Song period, mid April till mid July with a resumption in August and September; may sometimes also be heard in winter quarters until December, but bird very silent thereafter.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a cup of moss, dry grass, dead leaves and lichen, lined with fur, hair, fine rootlets and often a few feathers; placed on the ground, generally on a bank, well concealed between roots, in a cavity among stones, etc. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 3 (once 5), blue, unspotted. Average size of 5 eggs 20.4 × 14.8 mm (Osmaston); of 50 eggs 20 × 14.6 mm (Baker). Incubation apparently by female alone; nest-feeding by both sexes. Incubation period undetermined. Often brood-parasitized by *Cuculus microp-terus*. For details of breeding in captivity see *Avicultural Magazine* 75: 265–70, 1969.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumages Whistler, *JBNHS* 38: 283. Postnuptial moult complete, in August and September; summer and winter plumages alike, no spring moult. Young spotted. Postjuvinal moult of body-feathers, presumably about August–September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	72–80	15–17	c. 26	{ 45–53 mm { 44–50 mm
♀♀	71–76			

(BB, HW, Koelz)

Weight 3 ♂♂ (May) 16.5–18; 3 ♀♀ (May) 17.5–20 g—GD. 4 ♂♀ (Oct., on passage) 14–19 g—SA. 4 ♂♂ 15.8, 16, 16.5, 18.5; 2 ♀♀ 17; 2 oo? 14, 16 g (Oct.)—SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black in summer, horny brown above and fleshy below in winter. Legs and feet brownish flesh.

1652. **Firethroat.** *Erithacus pectardens* (David)

C.(alliope) pectardens David, 1871, Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris,
Bull. Cat. no. 167 *nom. nud.*

Calliope pectardens David, in David et Oustalet, 1877, Ois. de la Chine 1: 236
(Moupin = Paohing, eastern Sikang)

Luscinia Davidi Oustalet, 1892, Bull. Mus. Paris: 222 (Tatsienlu)

Luscinia daulias Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 12
(Phulbari, Garo Hills)

Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 88, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, bluish slaty. Forehead, lores, round the eye, cheeks and sides of throat black; a whitish patch on sides of neck. Upper tail-coverts black; tail blackish brown, inner rectrices (except central) white at base. *Below*, chin, throat and breast flame-coloured widely bordered with black on sides. Belly white washed with buff, flanks brownish buff.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown. *Below*, throat pale ochraceous. Sides of head, neck, breast and flanks ochraceous brown. Belly white more or less washed with ochraceous; under tail-coverts ochraceous.

Male, first-year. *Above*, like adult male. *Below*, like female but paler, less ochraceous; no black.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare winter visitor; presumably regular but overlooked. One record: Garo Hills, 18 January 1950 (Koelz, loc. cit.) Affects dense bushes.

Extralimital. Breeds from Chumbi Valley (Brit. Mus. coll.), southeastern Tibet (Ludlow. *Ibis* 1944: 187 and 1951: 560) and northwestern Yunnan north through Sichuan to southwestern Kansu and Shaanxi, from *c.* 2800 m (Tibet) to 3700 m (Sichuan). On breeding grounds affects dense thickets of bamboo, rose and barberry in valley bottoms. May be expected to breed in northern Arunachal Pradesh.

GENERAL HABITS. An affiant skulker; keeps to the densest thickets. Behaves more like a blue chat than a rubythroat.

FOOD. Probably insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note resembles that of *Erithacus cyanurus* [1655] (Ludlow). Song unknown.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young spotted; differs from that of *E. pectoralis* in the more uniform and darker colour of upperparts and absence of white tip to tail. For distinction from *E. obscurus* (extralimital) see Goodwin, D. & Vaurie, C., 1956, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 76: 141-3, and Ripley, S. D., 1957, *Postilla* 37: 1-3.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
12 ♂♂	69-73	16-17	26-28	48-53 mm
			(Goodwin & Vaurie)	
10 ♂♂	64-71	15-17	—	53-58 mm
				(SDR)

		(from gape)		
1 ♂	70	16	28	72 [?] mm
				(Koelz)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris black or brown (ad. ♂), grey (1st year ♂), brown (juv. in spotted plumage) [J. F. Rock]. Bill (dry skin) blackish (♂), dark brown (♀).

1653. **Siberian Blue Chat. *Erithacus cyane cyane*** (Pallas)

Motacilla Cyane Pallas, 1776, Reise Russ. Reichs 3: 697

(Dauria, southeastern Transbaikalia)

Baker, FBI No. 483, Vol. 2: 12

Plate 88, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, slaty blue. Lores and cheeks black. *Below*, white bordered with black on sides of throat, bluish slate on flanks. Pale flesh-coloured longish legs noticeable.



× c. 1

Female. *Above*, olive-brown, tinged with rufous on upper tail-coverts and tail. A pale buff eye-ring. *Below*, throat and centre of belly white; sides of throat, breast and flanks tinged with buff and scalloped with pale brown.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A straggler in winter and during migration. Haldibari duars, Bengal, 18 February 1932 (Inglis coll., Brit. Mus.); Manipur, a party in April (Hume).¹ A female obtained by Dr Sálím Ali at Chirria Tapu, S. Andamans on 2 February 1980 is in BNHS collection.

Extralimital. Breeds in southern Siberia from the Altai to Amurland, Japan and northern China. Winters in Burma, Thailand, the Indochinese countries, southern China, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines.

MIGRATION. Recorded in Burma from October to April.

GENERAL HABITS. Mainly terrestrial. Found singly or in pairs, perhaps in small parties when migrating. Very secretive. Hops about on the ground in dense cover, quivering the tail up and down in a peculiar way.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note a rapid *chuck-chuck-chuck*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of moults and plumages. (Dementiev).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail	
10 ♂♂	70-76 } 68, 71 }	16-17	47-50	mm
2 ♀♀				

Tarsus 25 mm

(Weight 2 ♂♂ 14, 16 g (Dementiev).

(Dementiev)

¹ A specimen in the Pinwill coll. (Brit. Mus.) is labelled Simla but 'Simla is written in such a way that it evidently was not written at the time though it is Pinwill's writing' (Whistler's MS.). An observation by Magrath in Hazara in June (JBNHS 18: 197) certainly pertains to *Muscicapa leucmelanura*, as does one from Narkanda, c. 35 km NE. of Simla (von Pelzeln, *Ibis* 1868: 310).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish horny; gape and lower mandible bluish or livid white, dusky at extreme tip. Legs and feet pale fleshy white (Hume).

ERITHACUS CYANURUS (Pallas): REDFLANKED BUSH ROBIN

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Supercilium white.....	<i>E. c. cyanurus</i> 237
B	Supercilium blue with a varying amount of white	
1	Paler	<i>E. c. pallidior</i> 234
2	Darker	<i>E. c. rufilatus</i> 236

1654. *Erithacus cyanurus pallidior* (Baker)

Ianthia cyanura pallidiora Baker, 1924, Fauna Brit. India, Bds. 2: 101 (Simla)
Baker, FBI No. 550, Vol. 2: 101

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, dark blue. Forehead, supercilium, shoulder-patch and rump sky blue. *Below*, centre of throat, breast and belly sullied white. Sides of throat dark blue; flanks orange-ochraceous.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown, bluish on rump and tail. A pale eye-ring. *Below*, as male but sides of throat grey-brown; flanks orange.

First-year male similar to female.

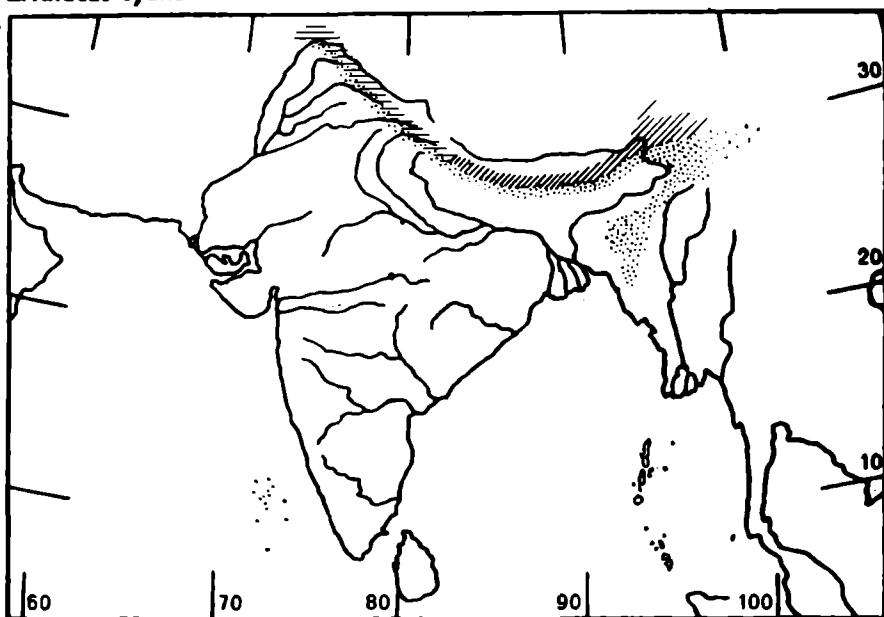
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common altitudinal migrant. The western Himalayas from Safed Koh, Swat and Gilgit to Garhwal; very common in Kashmir. Breeds between 3200 and 4600 m; winters between *c.* 2600 and 1200 m, occasionally down to *c.* 750 m. Affects undergrowth in open forest of oak, pine, fir, birch or rhododendron, and thickets of barberry, *Viburnum*, etc. along edges of heavy forest. In winter frequently to be seen on roadside wire fences in quiet wooded hill-stations.

MIGRATION. Vertical movements very leisurely. Downward movement noted in September at 1800–2400 m but arrives at lower elevations (*c.* 1200 m) only in November. Upward movement begins early in March, few birds being seen at winter levels in April.

GENERAL HABITS. As a rule very shy and secretive. Hunts in shrubbery and low trees as well as on the ground, catching insects while hopping about like a robin or by launching sorties in the air after them. 'Very flycatcher-like in its movements' (Stanford). Strongly reminiscent also of Pied Bush Chat perching fairly upright on a low branch, flying down to the ground momentarily to pick up a morsel and back again to another perch. Constantly twitches wings and flicks tail open and shut, also very like bush chat. Male has been observed to 'freeze' on its perch with beak pointing upwards, and remain so all the time the observer was searching for the nest, although only three or four metres away (HW).

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-notes given as a throaty *prot* or *tok* and a mournful *pheeou* (Whitehead, HW); also a frog-like grating *kek-kek* monoto-

Erithacus cyanurus

Distributional ranges

 *pallidior* (1654).
  *rufilatus* (1655).
  Winter

nously repeated (Roberts). Agitated notes, as when nest precincts intruded, a sharp *kek, kek* sometimes followed by a whistled *trweet* (SA). Song short, of three or four notes, the first and last on the same tone, the middle ones lower (BBO); has been rendered as *pray did he then?* Song always followed by an abrasive sound as if paper is being torn (P. Jones, JBNHS 76: 45). See also 1655.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a cup of moss, grass, rootlets and dead leaves lined with soft grass, hair (often musk deer's) or wool; placed in holes in banks or very steep slopes, among roots of fallen trees, or sometimes in hollows in decayed stumps. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, generally 4, white, usually freckled at the larger end with pink. Average size of 60 eggs 17.8×13.5 mm (Baker). Once brood-parasitized by a cuckoo 'apparently *saturatus*' (Davidson, *Ibis* 1898: 24). Incubation by female, fed by male. Period unrecorded. Tending of young by both parents.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Differs from *rufilatus* in being paler. Blue of back may vary from cyan to deep purplish blue; amount of white in blue supercilium variable, usually present, sometimes lacking. Males often breed in female dress but differ by darker colour, darker blue upper tail-coverts and more olive-grey, less buffy on sides of throat. In Kashmir blue males noted as being the exception (Davidson, *Ibis* 1898: 24). Plumage of young spotted.

MEASUREMENTS As in 1655.

Weight 5 ♂♂ (Nov.) 13.3–15.3; 1 ♀ (Nov.) 14 g (RAP). 11 ♂ ♀ (Apr.–May) 11–14 (av. 12.8) g—SA.

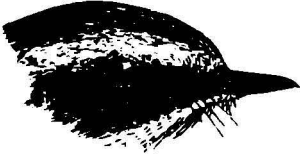
COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill and feet black (Abbott).

1655. *Erithacus cyanurus rufilatus* (Hodgson)

N.(emura) rufilatus Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 27
(central and northern regions of hills, Nepal)
Baker, FBI No. 549, Vol. 2: 99

LOCAL NAME. *Manzhil-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).



$\times c. 1$

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1654, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common altitudinal migrant. From western Nepal east through Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Breeds between 3000 and 4400 m, optimum zone 3500–4000 m. Affects forest of spruce, pine or birch with scanty undergrowth, or dense rhododendron bushes in open forest; avoids pure deciduous stands, and scrub above timber-line. Winters at lower altitudes down to the foothills, and occasionally as high as 3800 m (November—Meinertzhagen); optimum zone 1500–2100 m. Also recorded in winter south of the Brahmaputra in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, Cachar Hills of Assam and Manipur (possibly visitors from western China breeding grounds?).

Extralimital. Breeds in the mountains of western China north to Kansu and Shaanxi. Winters south to the northern Indochinese countries.

MIGRATION. In winter quarters from November to April (in the Chin Hills till early May).

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1654.

FOOD. Insects and caterpillars (GD).

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-notes *huid huid* and *tack tack* (Schäfer). A short song rendered as *tü trri tü trri* or *tsy türr türr* (GD). See 1654 for further details. Song period, mid-April till end of June (Proud). Song intensity diminishes rapidly after egg-laying, hardly any song being heard in the third week of June (GD).

BREEDING. As in 1654.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *pallidior* in being darker. Only a small percentage of breeding males are in blue plumage, most of them being in brown plumage (yet recognizable by blue rump) [GD]. Blue plumage apparently not acquired before two years old. Young spotted; postjuvenile plumage similar to that of adult female.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	78–87	13–15	24–27	65–70 mm
♀♀	76–83	13–16	24–27	56–65 mm

(Mayr, BB, NBK, Stres.)

Weight 8 ♂♂ (Nov.–Dec.) 13.6–15.5; 10 ♀♀ (Nov.–Dec.) 12–14.6 g (RAP, SDR).
9 ♂♂ (breeding) 12.2–16; 2 ♀♀ (breeding) 14.2, 16.7 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill horny brown or black. Legs, feet and claws blackish brown; soles whitish.

1656. *Erithacus cyanurus cyanurus* (Pallas)

Motacilla Cyanurus Pallas, 1773, Reise Russ. Reichs 2: 709 (Yenisei)

Baker, FBI No. 548, Vol. 2: 98

Plate 88, fig. 14

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1654 but supercilium white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Accidental winter visitor. One record: North Cachar (Baker, loc. cit.).

Extralimital. Breeds in Siberia west to Finland, east to Kamchatka and Japan. Winters mostly in southern China, Taiwan and the northern Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1654.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from the Himalayan races by its white supercilium (*v.* blue) and cream-coloured underparts (*v.* greyish white).

Female differs in being browner above, cream-coloured below and having the lores paler (Scully).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail	
♂♂	74-80 } 70-78 }	<i>c.</i> 13	55-60	mm
♀♀				
			(Dementiev)	

Weight 10 ♂♂ 12.2-12.5; 6 ♀♀ 12-17.8 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet light brown.

ERITHACUS CHRYSAEUS (Hodgson): GOLDEN BUSH ROBIN

Key to the Subspecies

Paler	<i>E. c. whistleri</i>
Darker	<i>E. c. chrysaeus</i>

1657. *Erithacus chrysaeus whistleri* (Ticehurst)

Tarsiger chrysaeus whistleri Ticehurst, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 42: 121 (Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 547, Vol. 2: 97

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1658, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, uncommon. The western Himalayas from Hazara¹ to Garhwal. Breeds between 3000 and 3600 m; winters (early November till end of March) from *c.* 1800 m down to the foothills (rarely); optimum zone 1200-1500 m. In summer affects dwarf rhododendron and juniper near and above timber-line; in winter frequents thickets, undergrowth, gardens and tea plantations.

¹ Doubtful. No summer record from Murree Hills since Rattray's in JBNHS 16; 1906 (Roberts, JBNHS 81: 403).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1658.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, cup-shaped, made mostly of moss with a few dead leaves and grass, lined with fine grass, hair or wool and occasionally a few feathers; placed in a hole or niche in a bank or sloping hillside, well concealed by grass and bushes. A nest has been found in a hole of a tree about 130 cm above the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, sometimes 3, pale verditer blue, unspotted. Average size of 12 eggs 20.5 × 11.6 mm (Baker). Brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus* and *C. micropterus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male like *chrysaeus* but paler olive above with few or no black bases to feathers of back. Orange colour paler.

Female like *chrysaeus* but greener above; upper tail-coverts and olive of tail greener. Underparts paler.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1658.

1658. *Erithacus chrysaeus chrysaeus* (Hodgson)

Tarsiger chrysaeus Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 28 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 546, Vol. 2: 95

Plate 88, fig. 15

LOCAL NAME. *Manzhil-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, crown and upper back olive-brown. A yellow supercilium and a black band from lores through eyes and cheeks. Scapulars, sides of back and rump orange. Wings olive-brown. Tail orange, central rectrices and terminal band black. *Below*, entirely orange with narrow, dusky, crescent-shaped markings, sometimes obsolete or absent.

Female. *Above*, olive. An ill-defined yellowish olive supercilium and a buff eye-ring. Whole underparts ochre-yellow.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, moderately common. Kumaon (where intergrading with *whistleri*), Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 188), thence south through Nagaland, Manipur, Cachar hills in Assam and Khasi hills in Meghalaya (scarce south of the Brahmaputra). Breeds between 3000 and 4600 m, optimum zone 3600–4200 m, above c. 1800 m south of the Brahmaputra. Winters from c. 3000 m down to the foothills (rarely), mostly between 1400 and 2000 m. Affects dense rhododendron in open conifer forest (Arunachal Pradesh), rhododendron, juniper and birch above timber-line, boulder-strewn slopes with sparse scrub growth, dwarf barberry thickets among boulders and screes, and occasionally scrubless screes in the alpine zone (central Nepal). Partial to the proximity of boulders. In winter affects dense undergrowth in evergreen forest.

Extralimital. Ranges east to northern Yunnan, north to Shaanxi.

GENERAL HABITS. A typical robin in actions and behaviour. Keeps solitary or in pairs according to season. Hops about quietly under thickets in search of food, jerking up tail and drooping wings, its presence within usually betrayed by its croaking alarm-note. As a rule very secretive when dense cover available; easier to observe on opener ground such as screes and dwarf

scrub when male often perches on boulders and bush-tops like a redstart.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a peculiar soft croak *trrr* which once known cannot escape notice; also *fit fit* (GD) and a wren-like *chick* (SDR). Also has a scolding *chirik-chirik* like *Pnoepyga* and some other small babblers. The croaking sometimes of several syllables 'like the subdued grinding of a few stones of an old-fashioned watchman's rattle' (HW). Said to have a 'beautiful song' in breeding season; the same (presumably) as rendered *tse, tse, tse, tse, tse, tse, chur-r-r* by Fleming.

BREEDING. As in 1657. Average size of 21 eggs 19.7 × 14.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young spotted. Postnuptial moult apparently in September–October.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	64–73	15–16	29–32	51–57 mm
♀♀	60–68	14–16	28–33	48–54 mm

(BB, SA, NBK, Stres.)

Weight 12 ♂♂ (July) 11.9–15.7; 5 ♀♀ (July) 13.4–16.4 g (GD, RAP). 1 ♂ (Feb.) 12, 4 ♂♂ (Oct.–Nov.) 13.5–14; 3 ♀♀ (Feb.–Mar.) 12.5–14, 1 ♀ (Oct.) 13 g (SDR, BB, SA). 2 oo? (Oct.) 14, 15 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brown, commissure and lower mandible yellow. Legs and feet pale fleshy, fleshy yellow or olive-yellow.

1659. Whitebrowed Bush Robin. *Erithacus indicus indicus* (Vieillot)

Sylvia indica Vieillot, 1817, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, nouv. éd., 11: 267

(India, *ex* Sonnerat = Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 551, Vol. 2: 102

Plate 88, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

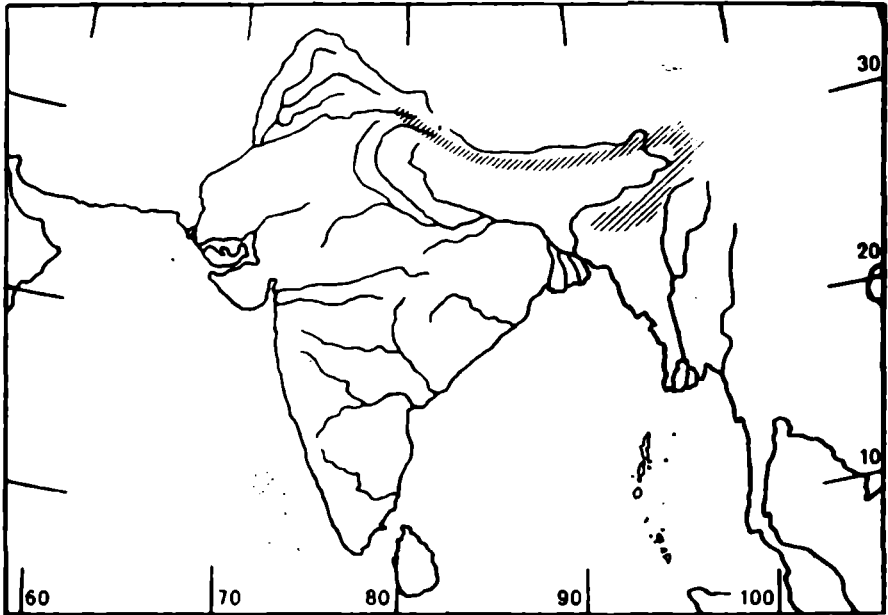
SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).


FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, slaty blue. A very conspicuous white supercilium. *Below*, orange-ochraceous. Male often breeds in brown female-like dress.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown. A partially concealed white supercilium and a pale eye-ring. *Below*, dull rufous-ochre, paler on belly.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements; locally common. The Himalayas from Garhwal to Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 188), and south of the Brahmaputra in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya (Baker) and Nagaland (Ripley, JBNHS 50: 489). Breeds between *c.* 3000 and 4200 m; winters from *c.* 3700 m down (uncommonly to the foothills), mostly between 2000 and 3000 m. Affects mixed subalpine forest of birch, fir, rhododendron and bamboo. In the Khasi Hills, inhabits steep ravines running through open pine, oak and rhododendron forest. In winter frequents undergrowth of seedlings and bracken etc. in heavy forest, usually near damp areas.

Extralimital. The species extends to northern Yunnan, Sichuan and Taiwan.

Erithacus indicus

 Breeding range *E. i. indicus* (1659).

GENERAL HABITS. Chiefly terrestrial; typically robin-like. Found singly in dense undergrowth, feeding on the ground or sometimes making sallies for insects from bushes or trees, or searching the leaves. Usually confiding and not difficult to watch if observer keeps still. Flicks tail.

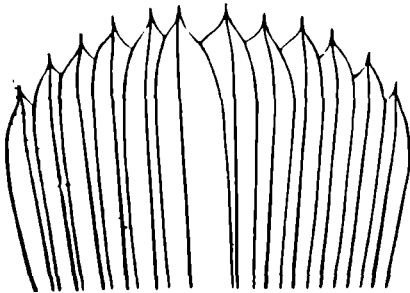
Display. Male perched on a rock or bush, dropped his quivering wings to his feet; after quick bow, wings were slightly raised and quivered faster than before, whilst his tail was expanded and jerked several times up and down. This display was sometimes accompanied by a few dancing steps; after a few minutes feeding would be resumed or an advance made to the female (Baker).

FOOD. Insects and grubs.

VOICE and CALLS. A croaking *trrr* which, once known, attracts attention.

Call-note a sweet *tuit-tuit* answered by a sharper note. Song, a rapid repetition of this note on an ascending and descending scale (Baker). Song period mid April till early July (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June in Khasi Hills, probably, beginning later and extending into July in the Himalayas (males with enlarged gonads in July—GD). *Nest*, a cup of soft grass and a little dry moss lined with rootlets, placed in hollows in banks. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, white, usually freckled with pale pink at



Tail, $\times c. 1$

the larger end; indistinguishable from those of *E. cyanurus*. Average size of 17 eggs 17.7×13.6 mm (Baker). Incubation by both sexes; period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young spotted.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	79-84	(1) 14	(1) 28	64-72 mm
♀♀	73-79	—	—	— mm

(Baker, SA, Stevens, Stres.)

Bill from skull (1 ♂) 16; tarsus 30 mm (MD)

Weight 2 ♂♂ (July) 14.4, 14.6 g (GD). 2 ♂♂ (July) 13.2, 15.5; 1 ♀ (July) 15.2 g (RAP). 1 ♂ (Nov.) 14.5 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black or brownish black. Legs and feet greyish brown.

1660. Rufousbellied Bush Robin. *Erithacus hyperythrus* (Blyth)

Ianthia hyperythra Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 132
(Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 552, Vol. 2: 103

Plate 88, fig. 17

LOCAL NAMES. *Aching-yon*, *Tsen-tsen-gai* (Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm ($4\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, deep purplish blue. Forehead, supercilium, shoulders and lower rump bright ultramarine blue. *Below*, ochraceous or bright chestnut. Vent and under tail-coverts white.

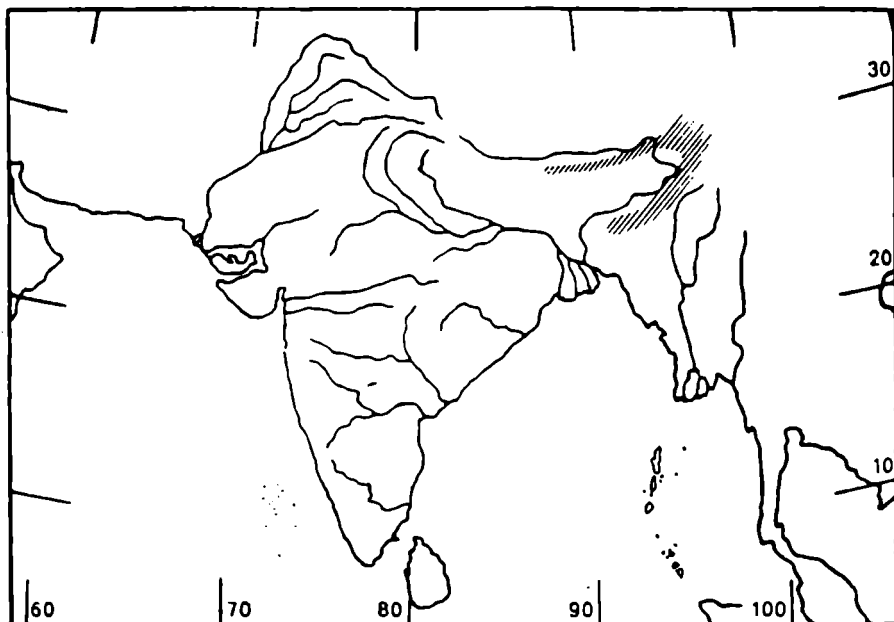
Female. *Above*, dark olive-brown. Rump and upper tail-coverts slaty blue. Tail blackish edged with deep blue. *Below*, rich ochraceous, browner on breast, brightest at sides of belly. Centre of belly and under tail-coverts white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant, very scarce. Nepal from about west side of the Gandak-Kosi watershed (Redman, N. J. *et al.*, JBNHS 81: 52), Sikkim, Bhutan (SA) and Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 188; Baker, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 8: 277). Breeds between *c.* 3400 and 3800 m; winters (September to March) from *c.* 3500 m down to the foothills. South of the Brahmaputra, recorded (winter only?) from Margherita, north Cachar in Assam and Meghalaya in the Khasi Hills. In summer inhabits the dwarf rhododendron zone; in winter affects bushes in rather open spaces at the edge of forest, along trails and especially along streams in forest.

Extralimital. Ranges east to northern Yunnan and southwestern Sichuan.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. Typical robin; found singly, flitting from bush to bush, flicking its tail, sometimes catching insects on the wing. Rather confiding.

FOOD. Insects.

Erithacus hyperythrus

 Distributional range

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. A pair feeding nest young on 24/25 May. Nest in a shady wooded ravine, placed on or close to the ground (Redman, N. J., *et al.*, loc. cit.)

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young, sooty brown above with small whitish streaks. Wings and coverts olive-brown tinged blue on outer webs. Chin and throat pale buff; rest of underparts pale buff with dark edges, producing a spangled appearance.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	79–83	c. 10	c. 25	54–56 mm
♀♀	75–79	c. 10	c. 24	c. 52–55 mm (Baker)
		(from skull)		
1 ♂	78	14	27	57 mm (SA)

Bill from skull (1 ♂) 15 mm; tarsus 25 mm (MD)

Weight 1 ♂ (March) 12 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet brown.

Genus **COPSYCHUS** Wagler

Copsychus Wagler, 1827, Syst. Av., *Gracula*: 306.

Type, by monotypy, *Gracula Saularis* Linnaeus

Notodela Lesson, 1830, Traité d'Orn.: 374. Type, by subsequent designation, Baker, 1930, Fauna Brit. India, Bds. 7: 112, 8: 622, *Turdus mindanensis* Gmelin
Kittacincla Gould, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 7, Apl. 9. Type, by original designation, *Turdus macrourus* Gmelin = *Muscicapa malabarica* Scopoli

Tarsus stout. Bill stout and straight, little more than half the head in length. Rictal bristles short. Tail graduated, equal to or longer than wing; outer rectrices white or partly white.

COPSYCHUS SAULARIS (Linnaeus): MAGPIE-ROBIN

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Female darker, male with or without greenish iridescence	
..... <i>C. s. ceylonensis</i>	246
B Female paler; male with purplish iridescence	
1 Grey of flanks more extensive <i>C. s. andamanensis</i>	247
2 Grey of flanks not extending to belly <i>C. s. saularis</i>	243

1661, 1663. ***Copsychus saularis saularis*** (Linnaeus)

Gracula Saularis Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. 1: 109 (Asia = Bengal)

Copsychus Saularis erimelas Oberholser, 1923, Smith, Misc. Coll. 76: 1-2

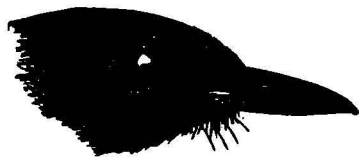
(Kaukarit, Houndra Branch, Tenasserim.¹)

Baker, FBI No. 558 (part), Vol. 2: 113

LOCAL NAMES. *Dhāiyāl Dhāiyār* (Hindi, Bengali); *Daiyād* (Gujarati); *Dominga* (Marathi); *Kabrô* (Bhil); *Kāli sooi chiriā* (M. P.); *Zannid-pho* (Lepcha); *Pedda nalanchi*, *Sarela-gadu* (Telugu); *Hatiúre* (Munda); *Deyālo* (Oraon).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A long-tailed black-and-white robin. Male (adult).



× *c.* 1

Above, glossy blue-black. Wings blackish brown with a prominent long white patch. Tail black with white outer rectrices, graduated. *Below*, throat and breast blue-black; rest of underparts white.

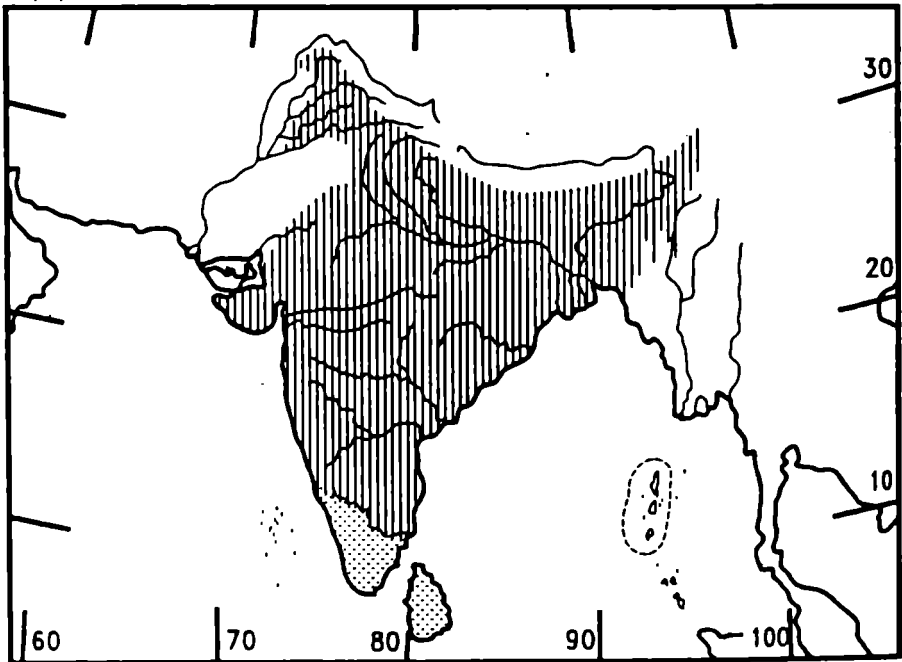
Female, like male but blue-black replaced by slaty above and grey on throat and breast.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread resident. Occurs sparsely in extreme NE. Pakistan in the foothills east of the Indus, and adjacent plains south to Shahpur, Lahore, being very scarce in southern Punjab with one doubtful sight record (Sálím Ali, 1941, JBNHS 42: 716) from Bahawalpur, and India from the Himalayan foothills and Nepal east to

¹ This race was described as having more black on the fourth rectrix. According to Biswas (*in litt.*) the extent of black on the fourth rectrix is very variable all over India.

Sikkim, Bhutan, Bengal, NE. India to Burma border, south to Bangladesh, west to Rajasthan and Kathiawar peninsula, and south to the Cauvery river (where it intergrades with *ceylonensis*). In the Himalayan foothills up to *c.* 1500 m (Murree Hills), *c.* 1600 m (Sikkim, Nepal), *c.* 2000 m (Simla, Dharmasala), *c.* 1900 m (Bhutan), or *c.* 1800 m in NE. India. Mostly a summer visitor (March–September) to higher elevations (as in Dharmasala and Sikkim); subject to local movements in arid northwestern India. By and large affects the neighbourhood of human habitations—gardens, orchards and village groves, etc.; also dry-deciduous forest, and open secondary jungle.

Copsychus saularis



▨▨▨▨▨ *saularis* (1661, 1663)

▨▨▨▨▨ *ceylonensis* (1662)

□ *andamanensis* (1664)

GENERAL HABITS. A familiar bird over most of India, usually seen near human habitations. Keeps singly or in pairs according to season. Feeds largely on the ground, hopping about in gardens, streets, lawns, etc., often perching on walls, gate-posts or roof-tops, holding itself erect, tail cocked and jerked upwards, wings slightly drooping at the sides. Usually fearless near habitations, but in non-breeding season becomes more quiet and secretive, skulking in undergrowth and brushwood. When feeding on ground commonly 'beats out' or stampedes lurking insects from crannies by suddenly flicking open its wings and tail. Flight undulating, tail flicked open at every dip, the white rectrices producing a curious flickering (stroboscopic) effect in the dim light of dusk when the bird is particularly active.

Display. During the breeding season male indulges in much ludicrous puffing out of chest, bill pointed stiffly skyward, and strutting and posturing in front of rivals; this accompanied by upward jerks of the fanned tail, cocked well over back till almost touching head. He becomes very pugnacious and vigorously defends his territory. Stoops diagonally down at intruder whether rival male or prospecting female, wings held open in a wide V above back and legs dangling—very like shrike pouncing on prey. At the end of a swoop shortly before alighting often fluffs out his plumage into a ball and almost floats down with a hovering wing-action. After chasing off the intruder the victor flies back to his own territory performing a 'victory roll', with body stiffly at an upward angle, head held high, and slow, deliberate wing-flaps.

FOOD. A wide variety of insects—ants, moths, grasshoppers, caterpillars, etc. (for some specific details see Mason & Lefroy, 1912). Also snails, earthworms, centipedes and small lizards and some vegetable matter; lizards are first immobilized by pecking at the pelvic region (JBNHS 79: 671). Flower nectar, e.g. of Silk Cotton (*Salmalia*) and Coral (*Erythrina*) trees.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a spirited, clear, rather thin and varied whistling, divided in short phrases repeated over and over again. Seems to have a new theme in a different combination each day though overall pattern of song individualistic and constant. Sings with wings partly drooping and tail depressed (not cocked or spread), more persistently in the morning and late afternoon, from some prominent exposed perch such as a tree- or roof-top, flag pole, fence post or radio aerial; occasionally mimicry of calls of other birds interlarded in the song. Local dialects clearly discernible in the song in different areas. May be heard throughout the year but main period of full song is March to August (Nepal), March to May (Andhra Pradesh). A secondary song heard mostly in October and November (probably of young males) is described as 'an endless, intricate tune with imitations of other species, audible only at close range'; also some 'bursts of loud, sharp *chee-which-which*. . . *chee-chee-witch-chee-chi*, very different from the tuneful song of the breeding season' (Neelakantan, JBNHS 52: 615–20). Call-note, a plaintive *swee-ee* or *swee-swee*; alarm or scolding note, a harsh *chr-r* (SA).

BREEDING. *Season*, overall February to August, mostly March to July with some local variation: March to June (western Maharashtra), March to July (M. P.), March–April (NE. Andhra), April to July (Bengal), May to August (Kathmandu Valley). Double-brooded. *Nest*, an untidy cup of grass, rootlets, leaves, twigs and a variety of odd materials: bits of rags, cotton, hair, etc., lined with similar material. Usually placed in holes in trees, banks, walls, in rain-water drain-pipes and under eaves of buildings, etc. Nestboxes freely appropriated. Generally built between 1 and 10 metres above the ground, sometimes higher (once in the crown of a palm some 18 m up). *Eggs*, 4 or 5, occasionally 3, exceptionally 6, pale green, profusely blotched with reddish brown with underlying marks of pale lavender and purple-grey. Unspotted eggs are occasionally found. Average size of 100 eggs 21.9 × 17.1 mm (Baker). Building, incubation and care of young by both sexes. Incubation period 12 or 13 days.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young: white parts as in adult. Upperparts dark brown with traces of fulvous. Throat and breast with typical turdine spotting. Postjuvinal and postnuptial moult complete. No spring moult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	94-106	21-23	27-31	79-95 mm
♀♀	91-97	20-22	27-30	79-88 mm

(HW, BB, Koeltz)

Weight 17 ♂♀ 31-40 (av. 35.6) g—SA. 2 ♂♂ (Oct.) 37.5, 42.5 g (GD). 1 ♂ (Oct.) 31.2 g (BB). 2 ♂♂ (Nov.,-Jan.) 38.2, 40.1; 2 ♀♀ (Jan.) 33.1, 35.8 g (RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black; mouth greyish pink or pale flesh. Legs and feet slaty brown or black; soles pale yellow.

1662. *Copsychus saularis ceylonensis* Sclater

Copsychus ceylonensis Sclater, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 186
(Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 560, Vol. 2: 115

LOCAL NAMES. *Mannattipeechi* (Malayalam); *Peddanalanchi*, *Sarela-gadu* (Telugu); *Gundoo-kavitchan*, *Vannāti-kūrūvi*, *Patkari-kūrūvi* (Tamil); *Polkichchā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1661, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident in the hills, scarcer in the plains. Southern India, roughly south of the Cauvery river, and Sri Lanka in all zones up to *c.* 1800 m. In the hills of southwestern India up to *c.* 1200 m (recorded at Kodaikanal, Palni Hills, *c.* 2200 m—JBNHS 53: 266). Affects the neighbourhood of human habitations—gardens, orchards, wooded compounds, plantations, etc.; also scrub jungle.

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1661. 'Both sexes constantly indulge in a curious gesture; the black and white tail is raised in a series of jerks until it is vertical, then suddenly depressed and spread, the wings being simultaneously expanded downwards.' In defence of territory, 'the males show off before rivals with puffed-out breast feathers, depressed tail, and many absurd, pompous struttings and hoppings while trying to out-sing each other. Occasionally fierce combats take place' (Henry).

FOOD. Insects, caterpillars, dragonflies, small lizards. One bird was seen attacking and killing a young mouse (Betts). Also some vegetable matter such as boiled rice, bread crumbs and kitchen scraps, and fruit.

VOICE and CALLS. Not different from 1661. Call-note, a shrill, loud, four-note chirp on a descending scale; alarm-notes, a scolding *chr* and a spitting sound (Henry).

BREEDING. *Season*, overall February to September with a peak in April and May in the hills, March and April in the low country. In Sri Lanka breeding begins in November but the chief months are March to May. Three successive broods have been recorded between April and August (S. India, Betts). *Nest and eggs* (*c.*/3) as in 1661. For further details see Phillips, 1939, *Ceylon Jour. Sci.* 21: 259-69. Average size of 50 eggs 23.1 × 17.3 mm (Phillips). Female said to do all the building. Young leave nest when *c.* 14 to 18 days old.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sularis* in that the female is darker above with more sheen; grey of breast darker.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	97-104	20-22	27-28	81-91 mm
♀♀	94-101	20-23	27-30	80-86 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 42 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black; mouth yellowish flesh to slaty ink. Legs, feet and claws brown.

1664. *Copsychus saularis andamanensis* Hume

Copsychus andamanensis Hume, 1874, Stray Feathers 2: 231 (Andamans)
Baker, FBI No. 561, Vol. 2: 116

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1661, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, not abundant. South and Middle Andaman Islands. Affects scrub jungle and villages.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1661.

BREEDING. As in 1661.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sularis* in having the grey on sides of lower abdomen extending towards the white centre; wing-quills darker; bill heavier in both sexes. Female with more sheen on upper plumage.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Probably as in 1661.

Weight 1 ♂ (Feb.) 35.1, 2 ♂♂ (April-May) 34.8, 39.3; 2 ♀♀ (April) 36.3, 37.5 g (RAP).

COPSYCHUS MALABARICUS (Scopoli): SHAMA

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Belly white..... <i>C. m. albiventris</i>	251
B	Belly rufous	
1	Female similar to male; rufous of belly paler..... <i>C. m. leggei</i>	249
2	Male black above, female grey above	
a	Tail averaging longer..... <i>C. m. malabaricus</i>	247
b	Tail averaging shorter..... <i>C. m. indicus</i>	249

1665. *Copsychus malabaricus malabaricus* (Scopoli)

Muscicapa malabarica Scopoli, 1786, Del. Flor. et Faun. Insubr. 2: 96
(Mahé, Malabar)

Baker, FBI No. 563 (part), Vol. 2: 118

LOCAL NAMES. *Shāmā* (Hindi); *Shyāmā* (Gujarati); *Shāmākkili* (Malayalam).

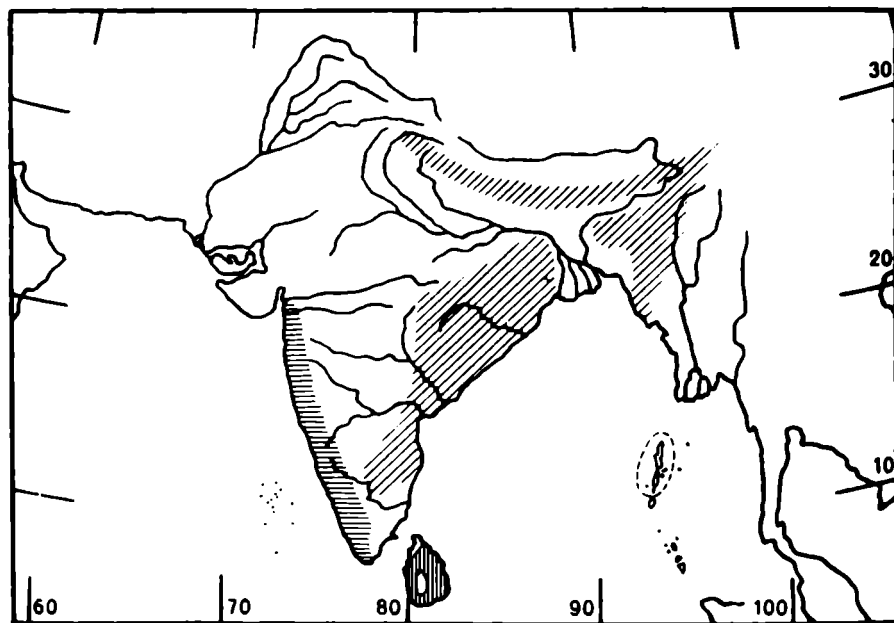
SIZE. Bulbul, with a long tail; length *c.* 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, head and back glossy black; rump white. Tail strongly graduated: outer rectrices largely white, conspicuous, especially in flight; central rectrices black and elongated. *Below*, throat and breast glossy black; belly and under tail-coverts rufous.

Female similar but black replaced by grey; underparts paler; tail shorter.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally distributed. The western Indian Peninsula from Gujarat (Surat Dangs) south along the Western Ghats complex (including Nilgiri, Palni and associated hills) to southern Kerala and Tamil Nadu south of the Cauvery river; plains level and up to *c.* 700 m. Affects dense secondary undergrowth and particularly bamboo facies in deciduous foothills forest.

Copsychus malabaricus



Distributional ranges

▬▬▬ *malabaricus* (1665).

▮▮▮ *legges* (1666).

▧▧▧ *indicus* (1667).

⋯⋯⋯ *albiventris* (1668).

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1667.

FOOD. Grasshoppers, grubs, caterpillars and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A magnificent song of several rich fluty notes alternated with long pauses, rather like that of *Muscicapa tickelliae* (1442) but louder, richer and more thrush-like. Casually confusable with song of Whitethroated Ground Thrush (1734). Song period: from February until well into the monsoon. Alarm: a loud note 'like the creaking of two branches rubbing together in the wind' (Betts).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June, occasionally until September. *Nest and eggs* as in 1667.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young. Upperparts and sides of head dark brown with fulvous spots, large on scapulars, small elsewhere; flight-feathers edged with fulvous. Throat and breast fulvous with dusky edges to feathers; belly creamy white.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	94-99	18-21	24-27	160-207 mm
♀♀	87-90	18-20	23-24	113-137 mm (SDR, HW)

Weight 4 ♂♀ 28-32 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black; mouth pale yellowish pink. Legs, feet and claws pale flesh.

1666. *Copsychus malabaricus leggei* (Whistler)

Kittacincla malabarica leggei Whistler, 1941, Ibis: 319 (Uragaha, Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 563 (part), Vol. 2: 118

LOCAL NAMES. *Wāl-polkichchā* (Sinhala); *Sōlai pādi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Bulbul, with a long tail; length *c.* 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1665 but female similar to male.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Sri Lanka in the low country and lower hills up to *c.* 900 m; fairly common in the Dry zone, rare and local in the Wet zone. Affects scrub and dense undergrowth in forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1667.

BREEDING. *Season*, January to July, chiefly April and May. *Nest and eggs* (c/3 or 4) as in 1667. For details see Phillips, 1939, *Ceylon Jour. Sci.* 21: 262.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the Indian races in having the lower plumage paler rufous in male. Female similar to male, i.e. with upperparts, throat and breast glossy black.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	89-98	19-22	25-27	140-181 mm
♀♀	85-88	19-20	25-26	114-130 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 32 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1665.

1667. *Copsychus malabaricus indicus* (Baker)

Kittacincla malabarica indica Baker, 1924, Fauna Brit. India, Birds 2: 118
(Bhutan duars)

Baker, FBI No. 563 (part), Vol. 2: 118

LOCAL NAMES. *Shāmā* (Hindi, Bengali); *Shāmā sorāi* (Assam); *Poda nalanchi, Tonka nalanchi* (Telugu); *Sōlai pādi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Bulbul, with a long tail; length *c.* 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1665, q.v. In poorly lit forest interior at dusk

the flickering white rump and outer tail-feathers as the bird flies about are diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, unevenly distributed. The Himalayan terai, duars and foothills in Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh; the foothills of Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Bangladesh south to the Chittagong region. Also northern Uttar Pradesh from c. 79°E. in Kumaon (Ramnagar, Osmaston, JBNHS 36: 427) eastward through Gonda and Gorakhpur districts; Bihar (Madhubani, Rajmahal hills, Lohardaga), eastern Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (Chanda, Balaghat, Raipur, Bastar districts), and the Eastern Ghats complex from Orissa south to the Cauvery river. Affects undergrowth in forest, especially bamboo or mixed bamboo forest, on low hills and broken ground.

Extralimital. The species ranges east through Burma, Thailand and the Indochinese countries to Hainan and south to Java and Borneo. Introduced on Kauai (Hawaii).

GENERAL HABITS. In effect the forest counterpart of the magpie-robin, otherwise almost identical with it in ecology and behaviour, q.v. Shyer and more retiring; normally not found near human habitations except at certain quiet well-wooded hill-stations, e. g. Matheran in Maharashtra. Distinctly crepuscular, hunting actively well into the dusk. Has a curious habit, chiefly in the breeding season, of striking the wings together as it flies across open ground, producing a clicking sound.

FOOD. Insects and their larvae.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, of spasmodic, rich melodious phrases, rendered as *oi-o-lee-nou* (Fleming), mostly given in the morning and at dusk. Assam birds said to whistle freely in longer runs like magpie-robin and with fewer pauses than those in SW. India (Betts). Main song period March to May. Call-notes, a musical *chir-chur* and *chur-chi-churr*. Alarm, a harsh scolding. See also 1665.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to August, chiefly May and June; in some dry areas, breeding correlated with monsoon as in Manbhum dist. (Bihar) where it does not begin before the rains have set in (June). *Nest*, a pad of rootlets and leaves placed in hollows in trees or bamboo, usually within a couple of metres of the ground; sometimes hidden in rubbish accumulated at the base of a bamboo clump. *Eggs*, normally 4, occasionally 5 or 3, pale bluish green densely marked all over with umber-brown. Average size of 64 eggs 22 × 17.2 mm (Baker). Nest-building and incubation apparently by female only. Incubation period undetermined. Both parents feed the young, who leave the nest about 12 or 13 days from hatching.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *malabaricus* in having, on average, a shorter tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	86-99	17-22	25-28	108-200 mm
♀♀	84-93	18-22	25-27	102-131 mm

(HW, SDR, SA, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 1 ♀ (August) 30 g (RAP). 4 ♀♀ 30-32 g (SA, BB). 1 ♂ 26 g; 4 ♀♀ 25.5, 28.5, 29, 30 g; ♂♂? 30-35 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1665.

Miscellaneous. This species is highly prized as a cage-bird for its rich voice, longevity and ready acclimatization to captivity. It is well known in aviaries outside as well as within its natural range.

1668. *Copsychus malabaricus albiventris* (Blyth)

Kittacincla albiventris Blyth, 1859, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 27: 269
(Andamans)

Baker, FBI No. 564, Vol. 2: 119

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul, with a long tail; length *c.* 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1666 but lower breast and centre of belly white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Fairly common in the more densely forested parts of the Andaman Islands. A ♂ obtained in Kerala (Calicut) by Abdulali on 13.iv.1979 is in BNHS collection (JBNHS 84: 111). Affects dense jungle, gardens and scrub at the edge of paths and clearings.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1667. 'Hand-reared young copied tunes whistled to them with great accuracy' (Osmaston).

BREEDING. *Season*, at least May and June. *Nest* and *eggs* as in 1667. Recorded taking readily to nest-boxes placed in thick forest (Osmaston, JBNHS 17: 160).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male differs from *indicus* in having the lower breast, centre of belly and vent white; flanks tinged with ferruginous; tail shorter. Female like male but less glossy on chin and throat.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 85–89 mm. Tail 91–105 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1665.

Genus PHOENICURUS Forster

Phoenicurus Forster, 1817, Synopt. Cat. Brit. Bds.: 16, 53.

Type, by tautonymy, *Motacilla Phoenicurus* Linnaeus

Adelura Bonaparte, 1854, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris 38: 8.

Type, by original designation, *Phoenicura caeruleocephala* Vigors

Bill short and slender; rictal bristles short. Wing pointed. Tail rather long, more than or nearly twice the length of tarsus, largely rufous in all but *P. caeruleocephalus*. Tarsus fairly long. Sexes not alike.

Key to the Species

Males

	Page
I A white patch on wing	
A Throat rufous	<i>P. erythronotus</i> 252
B Throat not rufous	
I Cap ashy or blue	
a A white throat-patch	<i>P. schisticeps</i> 264
b No white on throat	
i Tail rufous	<i>P. hodgsoni</i> 260
ii Tail all black	<i>P. caeruleocephalus</i> 254

- 2 Cap and nape white, more or less tinged grey
 c White wing-patch restricted to secondaries *P. aureus* 266
 d White wing-patch including primaries *P. erythrogaster* 267
- II No white patch on wing
 C Tips of outer rectrices black *P. frontalis* 262
 D Outer rectrices entirely rufous
 3 A white band between grey crown and black forehead *P. phoenicurus* 259
 4 No white on crown *P. ochruros* 256

Females

- I A white or buff patch on wing
 A A white patch on throat *P. schisticeps* 264
 B No white on throat
 1 Buffish white on secondaries *P. aureus* 266
 2 Buffish white on tips of coverts
 a Outer rectrices rufous *P. erythronotus* 252
 b Outer rectrices brown *P. caeruleocephalus* 254
- II No white on wing
 C Wing over 90 mm *P. erythrogaster* 267
 D Wing under 90 mm
 3 Tips of outer rectrices black *P. frontalis* 262
 4 Outer rectrices entirely rufous
 c Breast grey *P. hodgsoni* 260
 d Breast greyish fulvous
 i Outer web of 6th primary emarginated *P. ochruros* 256
 ii Outer web of 6th primary not emarginated *P. phoenicurus* 259

1669. **Eversmann's Redstart.** *Phoenicurus erythronotus* (Eversmann)

Sylvia erythronota Eversmann, 1841, Add. Pallas Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. 2: 11
 (Altai)

Baker, FBI No. 529, Vol. 2: 73

Plate 89, fig. 2

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult) summer. *Above*, head and nape grey. A black band from lores through ear-coverts and sides of neck. Back and rump rufous-chestnut. Wings blackish brown with a large, longitudinal white wing-patch and a smaller white patch near outer edge. Tail rufous with brown tips, dark brown central rectrices and brown outer web of outer rectrices. *Below*, entirely rufous, centre of belly whitish.

Male in winter has a pale brown head and nape (grey colour being concealed by brown feather-tips). Chestnut of back partly concealed by brown tips. *Below*, rufous-chestnut partly concealed by whitish tips giving a hoary aspect. By mid-winter, brown and whitish tips wear off, giving place to nuptial plumage.

Female. *Above*, brown with a pale eye-ring. Lower rump and tail rufous. *Below*, paler brown, whitish fulvous on belly. Distinguished from other

species likely to occur in the same range by broad fulvous-white edges to wing-coverts and tertials. Distinguished from female Blueheaded Redstart (1670) by rufous tail (*v. brown*).

Tail flirited up and down, not shivered, a good field mark.

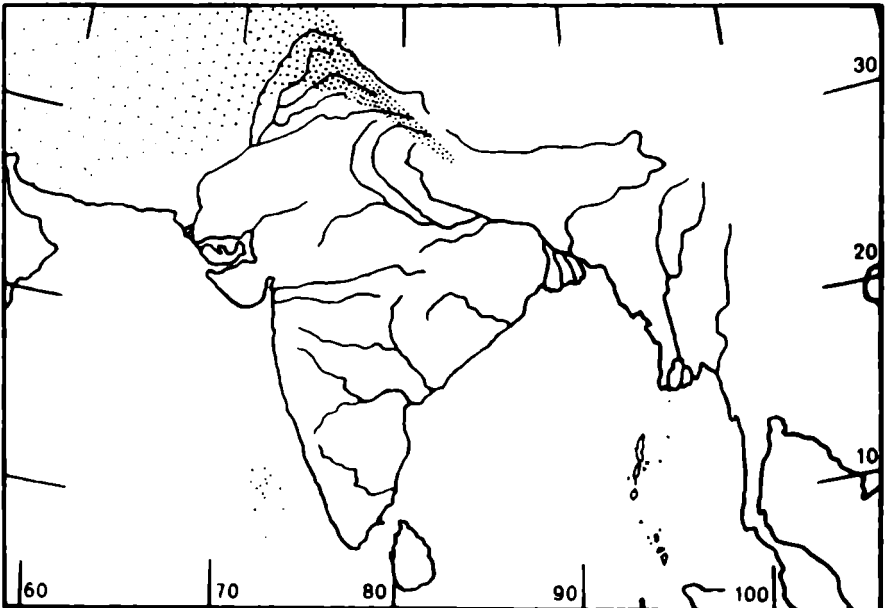
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor in variable numbers, as a rule not abundant. The western Himalayas in Chitral, less plentifully in Gilgit, Kashmir Valley, Kulu, Simla, west-central Nepal (easternmost record: Kali Gandak Valley, *c.* 83°30'E.—Rand & Fleming, *Fieldiana* 41: 151); widespread in the hill tracts of central Baluchistan, and N.W.F.P., typically in juniper scrub, or at lower elevations with scattered bushes of *Acacia modesta*, descending occasionally to adjacent plains (Jhang and Dera Ghazi Khan districts). Usually found near the base of hills but noted up to *c.* 2100 m (Nepal record at 2800 m). Affects arid country—waste land, scrub jungle, olive groves, orchards, dry river-beds, wooded compounds, and avenues and groves of *Acacia*, *Prosopis* and suchlike trees.

Extralimital. Breeds from the Tien Shan to Lake Baikal. Winters from Turkestan to southern Iraq.

MIGRATION. Recorded in winter quarters from October till end of March, mostly December to February. Numbers vary from year to year and month to month, indicating that the species does not have fixed winter quarters, but is nomadic according to weather conditions.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary. Usually seen perched on a stone or lower branch of a tree or thorn bush, descending momentarily to pick up an insect, and back again to the same or a nearby perch. Flirts tail up and down, and often quivers it like *P. ochruros* (Roberts).

Phoenicurus erythronotus



 Winter range

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a croaking *gre-er* (Whitehead), reminiscent of *Erithacus cyanurus*. Call-note, a softer slurred version of same. Song undescribed.

BREEDING. Extralimital.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Young spotted. Postjuvinal moult of body, lesser and median coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	84-89	14-16	23-26	64-75 mm
♀♀	81-86	15-16	23-27	64-72 mm (HW)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 17.7-20.6 g (Dementiev).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black; mouth yellowish (flesh-colour in one). Legs and feet black.

1670. **Blueheaded Redstart.** *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus* (Vigors)

Phoenicura caeruleocephala Vigors, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 35
(Himalayas = Simla-Almora area *vide* Ticehurst & Whistler, 1924, Ibis: 411)
Baker, FBI No. 553, Vol. 2: 104

Plate 89, fig. 5

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, crown and nape bluish ashy. Rest of upperparts, including tail, black with a large white patch on wing. *Below*, throat and breast black. Belly white. In winter, bluish and black colours masked by pale brown fringes to feathers, especially on upperparts.

Female. *Above*, brown with a pale eye-ring. Wing-coverts and tertiaries broadly edged and tipped with fulvous-white. Lower rump and upper tail-coverts ferruginous. Tail brown narrowly edged with ferruginous. *Below*, pale brown tinged with fulvous, becoming white on belly and under tail-coverts.

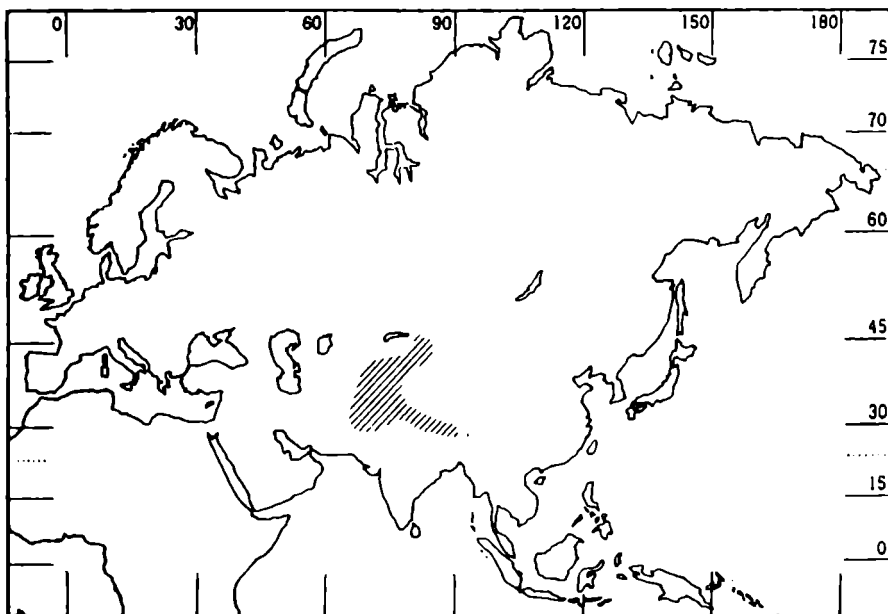
Female could casually be mistaken for Rufostailed Flycatcher (1409); in the distance and with naked eye, both sexes respectively also for Pied Bush Chat (*Saxicola c. bicolor*, 1700).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Mostly an altitudinal migrant; on the whole fairly common, scarcer east of Garhwal. The Himalayas from Safed Koh, Chitral, Hunza, Gilgit and Baltistan east to Bhutan (Pemberton). Breeds between *c.* 2400 and 3900 m, optimum zone 2700-3600 m. Winters from *c.* 3500 m down to the foothills, chiefly between 1200 and 2600 m. In the breeding season found at the upper margin of coniferous forest, but according to Osmaston prefers rocky ground, steep rocky hillsides, avoiding tall tree forest. Frequents mostly junipers but also open pine forest. In winter affects open pine woods and the more open parts of nullahs and hillsides, olive-groves and gardens.

Extralimital. Breeds also in adjacent parts of eastern Afghanistan and north to the Altai.

MIGRATION. Somewhat irregular in its appearances in winter. Arrives in November and December (earliest date 26 October), reaching peak numbers in January. Upward movement mostly in the first half of March (last date 22 March). On summer (breeding) grounds from the third week of March till the end of September.

Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus



 Distributional range

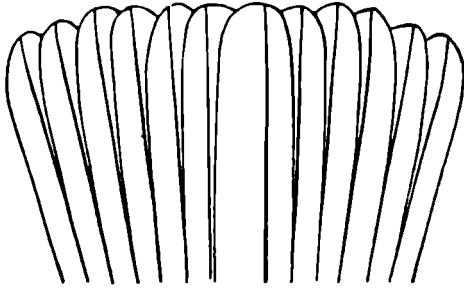
GENERAL HABITS. Has been described as 'partly redstart, partly robin' in behaviour, but Meinertzhagen affirms that 'the bird is exactly similar to the true redstarts in habits'. Usually seen singly, fluttering about the branches of trees and bushes, picking insects, then sitting still for a while. Descends to the ground to pick up a titbit, flying up to a perch immediately thereafter. Movement of tail 'more of a shake than the quiver of the redstart' (Whistler). Not a skulker.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note *tik-tik* similar to that of a Robin Redbreast (H. G. Alexander). Alarm, near nest, a continual plaintive piping note *tit, tit, tit . . .* while flitting anxiously about (Whistler). Song consists of pleasant warbling see-saw phrases, repeated with variations for minutes on end (Roberts); strongly reminiscent of *Emberiza cia stracheyi* [2052] (Jones); usually delivered from the top of a bush or a tall juniper.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a cup of moss, leaves, dry grass,

juniper bark fibre, lined with hair, wool and some feathers. Placed in recesses or hollows under boulders or fallen logs, among exposed roots of trees, in banks, concealed behind a screen of herbage; occasionally off the ground in a wall or in a hollow at the junction of juniper trunks. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, pale bluish green with a ring of fine, pale reddish specks at the larger end or pale creamy covered all over with fine red-brown speckles. Average size of 30 eggs 19.3 × 14.4 mm (Baker).



Tail, × c. 1

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Brown fringes of male's winter plumage apparently wear off in mid-winter or early spring. Summer plumage of female darker and light edges to wing-coverts worn off (HW). Postnuptial moult apparently in August. Young spotted (for details of plumage see *Ibis* 1925: 175). Young male in spotted plumage readily distinguished from female by white outer margins of inner secondaries (Scully). Postjuvenile moult of body-feathers, lesser, median and inner greater coverts. First-year birds distinguished by browner flight-feathers and primary-coverts, and by fulvous tips to outer greater coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	80-84	(1) 15	c. 22	c. 65 mm
♀♀	76-84			

(MD, wing by Rand & Fleming)

Weight 6 ♂♂ (Dec.) 14-17; 5 ♀♀ (Nov.-Dec.) 14.1-16.6 g—RAP. 4 ♂♂ (Apr.-June) 13-16; 2 ♀♀ (Apr.-May) 13, 14; 1 ♀ (June, with oviduct egg) 17 g—Paludan, Afghanistan.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill blackish brown. Legs and feet black. **Young** (in spotted plumage): Iris dark brown. Bill livid, darker above; mouth and gape yellow. Legs and feet livid steel colour; claws black; soles yellowish.

PHOENICURUS OCHRUROS (Gmelin): BLACK REDSTART**Key to the Subspecies**

Crown grey	<i>P. o. phoenicuroides</i>
Crown black	<i>P. o. rufiventris</i>

1671. ***Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*** (Moore)*Ruticilla phoenicuroides* Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat.

Bds. Mus. E. I. Co. 1: 301 (Shikarpore)

Baker, FBI No. 531, Vol. 2: 76

Plate 89, fig. 4

LOCAL NAMES. *Sin-tick* (Ladakh); *Thirthira* ('shaker'), *Thirthir-kāmpā* (Hindi); *Thārtāro* (Gujarati).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

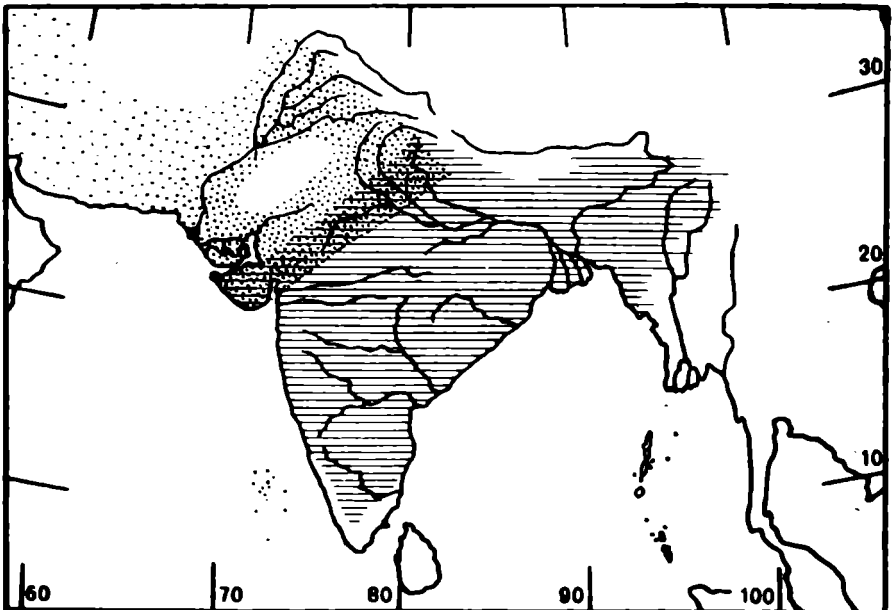
FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, forehead, round the eye, sides of neck and upper back black; crown and lower back grey. Wings brown. Rump and tail rufous; central rectrices dark brown. *Below*, throat and breast black; rest of underparts rufous. In winter, black parts fringed with grey.

Female. *Above*, pale brown with a paler eye-ring. Tail rufous, central rectrices dark brown. *Below*, pale fulvous-brown. But for habitat and behaviour could be mistaken for Rufoustailed Flycatcher (1409).

Males often breed in brown, female-like plumage.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Abundant summer (breeding) visitor: Pakistan and the western Himalayas from northern Baluchistan and N.W.F.P. through Gilgit, Ladakh and Kashmir to Rupshu, Lahul and Spiti. Breeds between 2100 and 3100 m (Baluchistan) and between 2400 and 4800 m (Himalayas), locally up to 5100 m, in the arid Tibetan facies; optimum zone 3000–4000 m. Winters from the foothills (*c.* 1400 m) south throughout Pakistan and in northwestern India (including Kutch and Kathiawar) at least to a line running from Baroda (Gujarat) to Etawah (central U.P.). Winter birds from Punjab and Sind 'much smaller than Kashmir breeding series and probably do not come from there' (Whistler). In summer (breeding) affects desolate rocky country and boulder-strewn ground above timber-line; also upland villages and, to a lesser extent, juniper forest. In winter frequents stony, sparsely scrubbed, broken country, dry water-courses and the neighbourhood of villages and cultivation and riverain forest (*Acacia arabica*) in the Indus plains.

Phoenicurus ochruros



Winter ranges (for breeding ranges see text)



phoenicuroides (1671).



rufiventris (1672).

Extralimal. Ranges east to the Caspian Sea and north to the Sayans and Altai. The species extends from western Europe and Morocco to Mongolia and western China. Winters in the southern parts of the range to Somalia, Arabia and Iraq.

MIGRATION. Arrives in winter quarters (very punctual locally) in the second half of September—first date in the foothills 30 August. Males appear to precede females by about three weeks. The majority leaves about the end of March (last date 10 May in Kashmir Valley). Noted on breeding grounds from end of March till October.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary outside the breeding season. Has feeding territories in winter quarters, the same neighbourhood being occupied year after year and often even the same perches for roosting; males appear to greatly outnumber females. Perches on a rock or other low vantage-point shivering its tail and bobbing up and down every little while before darting to the ground to pick up an insect. Also hops on the ground to feed, preferably in shady spots, occasionally entering bungalow verandas. A common and familiar species on its summer grounds where 'every house has its pair'.

FOOD. Insects, largely small beetles.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a loud pleasing trill of six or seven notes ending in an upward interrogative whistle, immediately followed by a short but loud hissing and rattling—'a curious husky sound resembling that made by pouring shot into a bottle' (BBO). Alarm or warning call *tucc-tucc tititititic*; also 'a mousy *whit . . . whit . . . whit . . .* like a squeaking unoiled bicycle wheel revolving at moderate speed' (SA). Alarm notes *ee-tick* or *ee-tick-tick*.

BREEDING. *Season*, from the beginning of May until early August. *Nest*, a cup of grass stems, moss, juniper bark and rootlets, lined with fine grass, hair and feathers; placed in piled stone walls, buildings, under stones or in rock crevices, etc. *Eggs*, 3 to 6, usually 4 or 5, pale blue, sometimes almost white, occasionally very faintly marked with reddish. Average size of 28 eggs 20.1 × 14.8 mm (Osmaston), of 60 eggs 19.9 × 14.3 mm (Baker). Brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*. Incubation mostly by female, but to some extent apparently also by male.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male differs from *rufiventris* (1672) in having more grey on upperparts, especially on crown. Winter series most satisfactorily separated on somewhat smaller size: Wing ♂♂ majority under 85 mm *v.* majority over 85 mm in *rufiventris*. First-year male keeps brown plumage but has a few rufous feathers on lower breast. Young spotted; for details of plumage see Richmond, 1895, p. 82.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	80-89 } 77-81 }	15-16	23-24	{ 60-65 mm 55-60 mm (HW, SA)
♀♀				

Weight 12 ♂♀ 13-17 g (SA). 1 ♂ (December) 17.3 g (RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

1672. *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris* (Vieillot)

Oenanthe rufiventris Vieillot, 1818, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., nouv. éd., 21: 431
(S. Africa *errone* = Gyantse, Tibet *vide* Baker, 1921, Hand-list: 85)
Baker, FBI No. 532, Vol. 2: 77

Plate 89, fig. 3

LOCAL NAMES. *Thirthira*, *Thirthir-kāmpā* (Hindi); *Phirira*, *Lal-girdi* (Bengali); *Nunbundi gadu* (Telugu); *Kankal* (Munda).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1671, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor: the northern Himalayas from Garhwal east through Nepal and Sikkim. Breeds between 3300 and 5200 m in Tibetan steppe facies. Habitat as in 1671. Recorded on passage in the Himalayas as high as 6000 m (Mt Everest). Winters from the foothills of Kumaon, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh south through Assam, Manipur, Bangladesh, and the Peninsula to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu [Palni Hills (*c.* 10°N.), Nichols, JBNHS 44: 394]. Specimens intermediate between *rufiventris* and *phoenicuroides* recorded in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and western Bengal (Whistler MS.). Winter habitat as in 1671.

MIGRATION. As in 1671.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1671.

BREEDING. As in 1671. A pair observed with two concurrent nests *c.* 8 metres apart; while the male was feeding half-grown young in one nest, the female was feeding younger chicks in the other (SA, JBNHS 46: 298). Average size of 100 eggs 20 × 14.6 mm (Baker); of 4 eggs 21.2 × 14.2 mm (Ludlow).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male differs from *phoenicuroides* in having the crown and back entirely black. Wing larger, mostly *over* 85 mm *v.* under 85 mm in *phoenicuroides*, q.v.

Female like *phoenicuroides* but much darker overall and tinged with orange-brown on belly and flanks.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	84-93 } 82-88 }	14-15	{ 25-26 24-25	60-65 mm
♀♀				56-64 mm (HW)

Weight 2 ♂♂ (Apr.) 14, 18.5, 1 ♂ (July) 17.7 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill blackish brown; gape and mouth yellow. Legs and feet brownish black; soles yellow.

1673. **Whitefronted Redstart.** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Linnaeus)

Motacilla Phoenicurus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1: 187
(Europa = Sweden)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus turkestanicus Zarudny, 1910, Orn. Monatsb. 18: 189
(Bokhara)

Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 89, fig. 6

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, forehead and sides of neck black. Forecrown white; rest of crown and back grey. Wings brown. Rump and tail rufous; central rectrices dark brown. *Below*, throat black; breast and flanks rufous. Centre of belly whitish; under tail-coverts buff. In winter, grey of upperparts fringed with rusty brown; flight-feathers fringed with whitish and rusty; black of lower throat fringed with white as is also the rufous of underparts.

Female very similar to that of *ochruros* (1671) but belly and under tail-coverts whitish buff, not fulvous. Not distinguishable in the field.

Male distinguished from Black Redstart by white forecrown and grey back; black of throat not extending to breast.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Passage migrant, probably regular: northwestern Baluchistan (Robat—Christison, JBNHS 41: 434) and Chitral (Mastuj Valley, 1650 m—Perreau, *ibid.* 19: 909). Affects gardens and better wooded localities than Black Redstart.

Extralimital. Breeds in the western and central Palaearctic from the British Isles to Lake Baikal, north to the limit of trees. Other subspecies from Turkmenia to Turkey and in Morocco. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

MIGRATION. Recorded during spring passage, 1 and 22 April in Baluchistan, and middle of May in Chitral. A nocturnal migrant, pausing during the day.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary. Carriage and movements as in the Black Redstart but more arboreal in habits. Usually perches on top of bushes, trees, fences or wires making short descents to the ground for insects.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Ordinary call-note *wheet* very similar to that of Chiffchaff (1574) or Northern Leaf Warbler (1572). Song more melodious than that of Black Redstart, without any grating notes.

BREEDING. *Extralimital.*

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

		Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
150	♂♂	76–85 (av. 79.1)	13–14	55–64 mm
70	♀♀	73–84 (av. 77.4)		

(Dementiev)

Tarsus 20–23 mm (Witherby)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet dark brown.

1674. **Hodgson's Redstart.** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* (Moore)

Ruticilla Hodgsoni Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. Mus. E. I. Co. 1: 303
(Bootan)

Baker, FBI No. 530, Vol. 2: 74

Plate 89, fig. 7

LOCAL NAME. *Thār-cāpni* (Nepal).

SIZE. Sparrow \pm ; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, forehead to ear-coverts black; forecrown whitish becoming ashy grey on crown, nape and mantle. Wings brown with a conspicuous white patch. Rump and tail rufous, central rectrices dark brown. *Below*, entire throat and breast black. Rest of underparts rufous.

Female. *Above*, greyish brown; no wing-patch; rump and tail as in male. *Below*, throat and breast pale grey-brown becoming whitish on belly.

Male distinguished from Black Redstart (1671) by grey back (*v.* black) and white patch on wing. Female differs from female of *ochruros* by grey-brown breast contrasting with whitish belly (*v.* uniform fulvous-brown underparts in *ochruros*).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Winter visitor, unevenly distributed, locally common. The lower Himalayas from Naini Tal (Meinertzhagen, *Ibis* 1927: 586) east through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh; from the foothills to *c.* 2800 m, mostly in the foothills and sometimes adjacent plains; also south of Brahmaputra river in the Patkai hills, Nagaland, and Manipur and Cachar hills in Assam. Records from Kashmir and Ladakh appear to be erroneous. May be expected to breed in northern Arunachal (north of the main range) as it does in adjoining SE. Tibet between 2900 and 4200 m. Has been recorded on the south side of the Tsangpo Valley by Ludlow (Sang, Chayul Dzong). In summer affects dry, barren uplands in the same biotope as *P. ochruros* as well as open cultivation, light forest and valley floors at lower elevations (Schäfer). In winter has a strong predilection for dry or partly dry river-beds in forest or cultivation; occasionally also in scrub, grassland and open parkland.

Extralimital. Breeds in the mountains of western China (in Tibetan steppe facies) and eastern Tibet (western limit unknown). Winters in adjacent regions of Sichuan, Yunnan and northern Burma.

MIGRATION. Arrives in winter quarters about the end of September and October, leaves in the first half of April. On summer grounds from end of March to October, most birds leaving before the end of September.

GENERAL HABITS. Typical of the genus. In winter found in widely separated pairs near streams, or bushes in the outskirts of neighbouring forest. Actions and behaviour on rocks and driftwood in streams particularly reminiscent of Plumbeous Redstart (1679). In summer also frequents high poplars, flitting among branches and catching insects in the manner of a flycatcher.

FOOD. Insects and berries (GD).

VOICE and CALLS. Normal note a single clicking *prit*, like Bluefronted Redstart, *q.v.* Alarm-note, a rattling *trrr*, *tschrrr*. Song, short, almost tinny, with little modulation (Schäfer); often a thin reedy rattle.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a cup of dry grass, fibres and moss, lined with hair and wool; placed in stone walls, holes in banks, clefts in rocks or underneath a boulder. *Eggs*, 4 or 5, rarely 6, pale blue, as a series decidedly darker than those of *ochruros*, sometimes faintly freckled with reddish. Average size of 50 eggs 20.4 \times 14.7 mm (Baker); of 6 eggs 21.2 \times 15 mm (Ludlow).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. First-year male similar to female.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	82-88	15-17	23-25	63-71 mm
♀♀	76-84	14-17	22-24	60-70 mm (BB, SA)

Weight 7 ♂♂ (winter) 16-19.5; 6 ♀♀ (winter) 14.5-18.5 g (SA, BB, SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill very dark horny to black. Legs, feet and claws very dark horny to black; soles grey.

1675. **Bluefronted Redstart.** *Phoenicurus frontalis* (Vigors)

Phoenicurus frontalis Vigors, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 172
(Himalayas = Garhwal, *vide* Baker, 1924 (April), FBI 2: 69)

Phoenicurus frontalis perates Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst.

Regional Exploration, No. 1: 13 (Karong, Manipur)

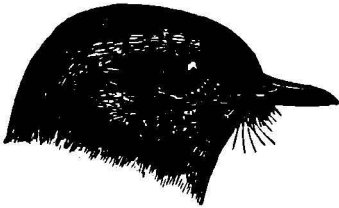
Baker, FBI No. 526, Vol. 2: 69

Plate 89, fig. 8

LOCAL NAME. *Tak-tirri-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, forehead and supercilium bright blue becoming darker blue on crown and back. Wings brown. Rump rufous; tail rufous with central rectrices, outer edge of outer rectrices, and a broad terminal band nearly black. *Below*, throat dark blue forming a rounded bib on breast; rest of underparts orange-chestnut.



× *c.* 1

Winter plumage similar but crown and back fringed with rusty brown and tertials edged with buff.

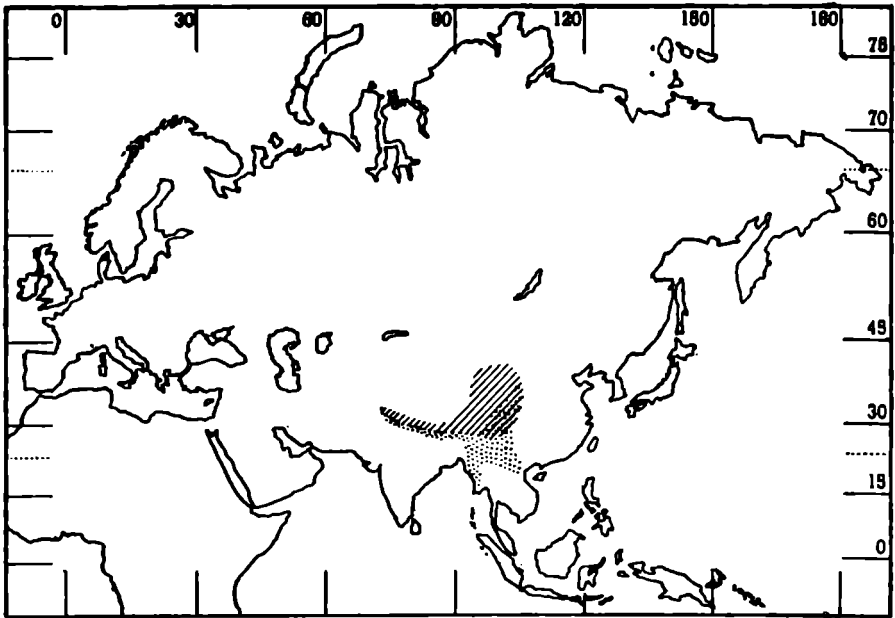
Female. *Above*, olive-brown, darker than most redstarts. A pale buffish eye-ring. Tail pattern as in male. *Below*, throat and breast olive-brown; rest of underparts orange-brown.

The black-centred tail with broad black terminal band distinguishes both sexes as well as the young in spotted plumage from all other redstarts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common altitudinal migrant. The Himalayas from Safed Koh, Chitral and Hunza east to Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow *Ibis* 1944: 182). Breeds between *c.* 3000 and 4500 m [on Duala Dhar down to 2700 m, locally to 2000 m (HW); in Nepal up to 5300 m (BB)]. Winters from *c.* 2700 m down to *c.* 1000 m, mostly between 1500 and 2400 m; winters also in the hills south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland and Manipur, south to the Chittagong ranges. In summer affects dwarf rhododendron, juniper, birch and other scrub at and above timber-line, and boulder-strewn slopes in the alpine zone. In winter (October to April) frequents cultivation clearings, gardens, terraced fields, scrub pasture and open forest.

Extralimital. The mountains of western China and eastern Tibet north to Kansu. Winters at lower elevations and south to northern Burma and northern Vietnam.

Phoenicurus frontalis



Distributional range

 Breeding

 Winter

GENERAL HABITS. Usually solitary, sometimes in small, loose parties after breeding or when migrating. Descends to ground from boulder or bush for insects or hops from branch to branch in bushes, occasionally catching insects in the air. Tail wagged up and down in the manner of Whitecapped Redstart (1716) not shivered as in the Black. Display is typical of the genus. The bird volplanes down from a high rock or tree with the bright patterned tail fanned out, with shallow fluttering wing beats, singing as it does so (Roberts).

FOOD. Insects, berries and seeds.

VOICE AND CALLS. Call-notes, a single clicking *tik* or *prii*. Alarm-note a soft frequently repeated *ee-tit-tit* or *tt-tt-tt-tt* from a perch as well as in flight, 'which sounds like a noisy watch being wound up a few cogs at a time' (Lister). Song 'typically redstart', a series of sweet warbling and harsh grating notes recalling those of *P. ochruros* (GD) but less wheezy, lacking the loud hissing notes. Main song period is over by mid June, only occasional song being uttered into July.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a cup of moss and grass lined with a few rootlets, hair and feathers, usually placed in a hollow in a bank, between stones, or in a wall, sometimes in holes in trees up to about seven metres from the ground (once under the eaves of a house). *Eggs*, 3 or 4, pale pinky grey or light buffy, densely covered with minute specks of pale reddish. Average size of 50 eggs 19.4 × 14.7 mm (Baker). Sometimes brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. First-Year birds recognized by

ochraceous tips to greater coverts. Postnuptial moult complete, in August and September.

Juvenile in spotted plumage dimorphic according to Diesselhorst: 1. Spots ochre, edges of inner flight-feathers golden brown; underparts ochre, 2. Spots white or nearly white, edges of inner flight-feathers whitish ochre to almost white; underparts whitish ochre. Intermediate plumages occur.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	84-93	15-17	24-25 (once 28)	65-76 mm
♀♀	80-87	14-16	21-25	64-70 mm (SA, BB, Stres.)

Weight 14 ♂♂ (May-Sept.) 15-19; 5 ♀♀ (May-Sept.) 14.3-17 g (GD).
11 ♂♂ (Oct.-Apr.) 14.5-17.5; 13 ♀♀ (Oct.-Apr.) 12.5-18 g (BB, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brownish black. Bill, legs and feet black.

1676. **Whitethroated Redstart.** *Phoenicurus schisticeps* (Gray)

Ruticilla schisticeps Gray, 1846, Cat. Mamms. Bds. Nepal: 69, 153
(Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 527, Vol. 2: 70

Plate 89, fig. 9

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

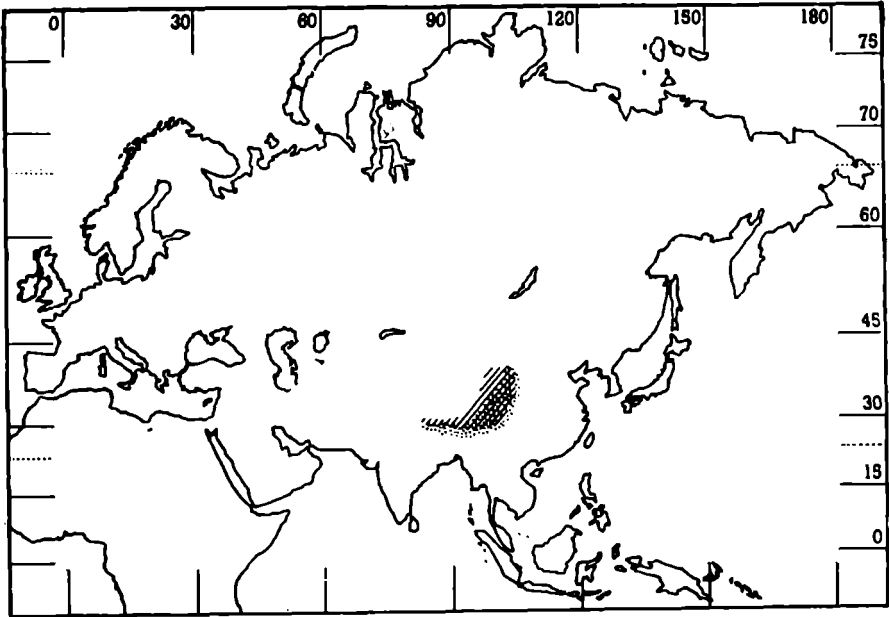
FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, head dull indigo blue, brighter on forehead. Sides of head and back black. Tips of tertials and rump chestnut. Wing blackish brown with a large, longitudinal white patch. Tail almost entirely black except base of outer rectrices which are chestnut. *Below*, chin and sides of throat black with a large white patch on centre of throat. Rest of underparts chestnut; lower belly whitish. Winter plumage similar but crown and back fringed with rusty brown.

Female. *Above*, dark brown with buff eye-ring. A large whitish patch on wing. Rump and sides of tail chestnut. *Below*, olive-brown, paler than back, with a white throat-patch; belly whitish fulvous.

The white throat-patch easily identifies both sexes. Young in spotted plumage already has a large white wing-patch.


STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to rather small altitudinal movements, locally common. The Himalayas from west-central Nepal (Rand & Fleming, 1957) east to Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1944: 183). Breeds between 2700 and 4900 m (2800 to 3100 m in Arunachal, 3000 to 4900 m in central Nepal). A high-level redstart, recorded in winter between 1400 and 4200 m. In summer affects open, park-like forest, scrub oak on ridges, juniper scrub in open conifer forest, and shrubs in semi-dry areas; favours stream banks. This species is strongly differentiated ecologically from other redstarts (Schäfer). In the Himalayas, appears to replace *P. frontalis* as the two species are not found in the same areas. In winter affects open meadows and scrub, sparsely scrub-covered hillsides with boulders and rock outcrops, occasionally forest.

Phoenicurus schisticeps



Distributional ranges

 Breeding

 Winter

Extralimital. The mountains of western China and eastern Tibet north to Kansu. Winters at lower elevations in same area.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps singly or in separated pairs; in scattered groups when just arrived on migration. Restless, and usually very wild. Perhaps more arboreal than most redstarts, finding its food largely in bushes or by aerial flycatching sorties. In winter feeds much on left-over berries on shrubs.

FOOD. Insects, berries (of *Hippophae* etc.) and small seeds.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a long-drawn *zieh* followed by a rattling note (Schäfer). Song unrecorded.

BREEDING. Little known and details not recorded within our limits. *Season*, May to August (in Tibet, Schäfer). *Nest*, a cup of moss and grass lined with hair, feathers, soft grass stems, vegetable down or rootlets; placed in a hollow in a tree or stream bank, or in a rock cleft concealed by bushes, within a couple of metres from the ground. *Eggs*, 3, of three types: reddish cream with fine orange freckles, evenly distributed or forming a cap at the large end; unspotted pale reddish clay; or pale greenish grey with dense, but almost invisible, fine, clay-coloured flecking. Average size of 10 eggs 19.3 × 14.6 mm (all breeding data by Beick, *J. Orn.* 85: 561-2).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	81-87	15-17	24-25	66-70 mm
♀♀	76-85	15-17	23-25	64-73 mm

(SA, BB, NBK, Rand & Fleming)

Weight ♂♂ (Feb.) 17.7–20.6; 1 ♀ (Sept.) 18.5 g (Beick). 2 ♂♂ (Feb.) 16.5, 17.5; 3 ♀♀ (Feb.–Mar.) 16–17 g (BB, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws black.

1677. **Daurian Redstart.** *Phoenicurus aureus leucopterus* (Blyth)

Phoenicurus leucopterus Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 962
(Malay peninsula)

Baker, FBI No. 528, Vol. 2: 71

Plate 89, fig. 11

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow ±; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, crown, nape and upper back slate-grey; centre of back black. Wings black with a prominent white patch. Rump and tail rufous, central rectrices blackish. *Below*, sides of neck and throat black. Rest of underparts rufous. In winter, grey and black of upperparts fringed with brown.

Female. *Above*, olive-brown, rump and tail rufous; a buff eye-ring and a small but distinct cream-coloured wing-patch. *Below*, breast fulvous-brown, throat paler; centre of belly cream-colour; flanks, vent and under tail-coverts ochraceous.

Male somewhat similar to *erythrogaster* (1678) but distinguished by smaller size and black central rectrices (*v.* all chestnut). Female recognized by whitish wing-patch.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Summer (breeding) visitor to south-eastern Tibet and adjacent parts of Arunachal Pradesh, between 2800 and 3700 m, mostly 2800–3300 m. Winters in the Himalayan foothills west to Sikkim and Darjeeling and in the hills of Bangladesh, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. In summer affects open forest, valley floors, cultivation and trees around upland villages. Does not occur in the arid Tibetan steppe facies. In winter found in open country, vicinity of villages, secondary jungle, tea gardens, along roads and tracks in forest, and bushes by streams.

Extralimital. Breeds in western and northern China, north to Ussuriland and the Lake Baikal region. Winters in southern China, Japan, Taiwan, Hainan and northern Indochinese countries.

MIGRATION. Recorded in winter quarters from October to March. A party on migration observed in northern Sikkim at *c.* 4200 m in December (Meinertzhagen).

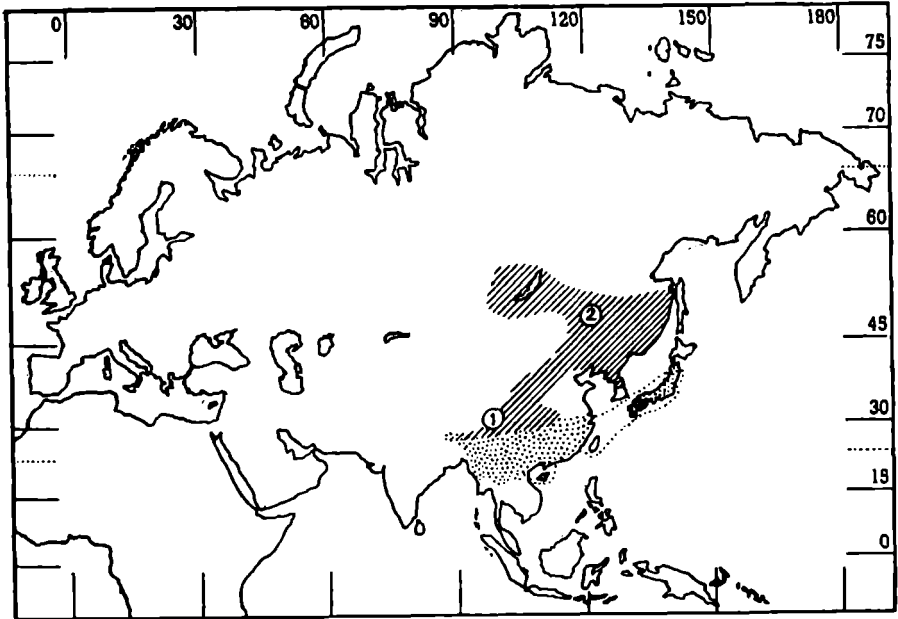
GENERAL HABITS. Usually solitary or in pairs, occasionally in small loose parties when migrating. Like 1676 feeds much in the manner of a flycatcher and on bushes and medium-sized trees, descending little to the ground. Territorial in winter as well as in summer. Tail flirited nervously.

FOOD. Insects and berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note *teck-teck* (Schäfer). Song undescribed; said to be 'cheerful'. Very silent in winter.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a cup of moss, grass strips, feathers and hair placed on the ground under exposed roots of trees, or in a hollow in banks or walls. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, very variable in colour; one variety is

Phoenicurus aureus



Distributional ranges

Breeding
 Winter

1 *leucopterus* (1677). 2 *aureus* (RE).

described as pale green with a ring of light brown spots at the large end and a few elsewhere (Ludlow); for details of eggs from China, see Baker, *Nidification* 2: 67. Average size of 4 eggs 18 × 14.5 mm (Ludlow).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	70-77	23	58-60 mm
			(Baker)

Bill from skull c. 15 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

1678. **Güldenstädt's Redstart.** *Phoenicurus erythrogaster grandis* (Gould)

Ruticilla grandis Gould, 1850, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 112
(Afghanistan and Thibet)

Ruticilla Vigorsii Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. Mus. E. I. Co. 1: 304
(Bootan)

Baker, FBI No. 533, Vol. 2: 78

Plate 89, fig. 10

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow +; length c. 16 cm (6½ in.).

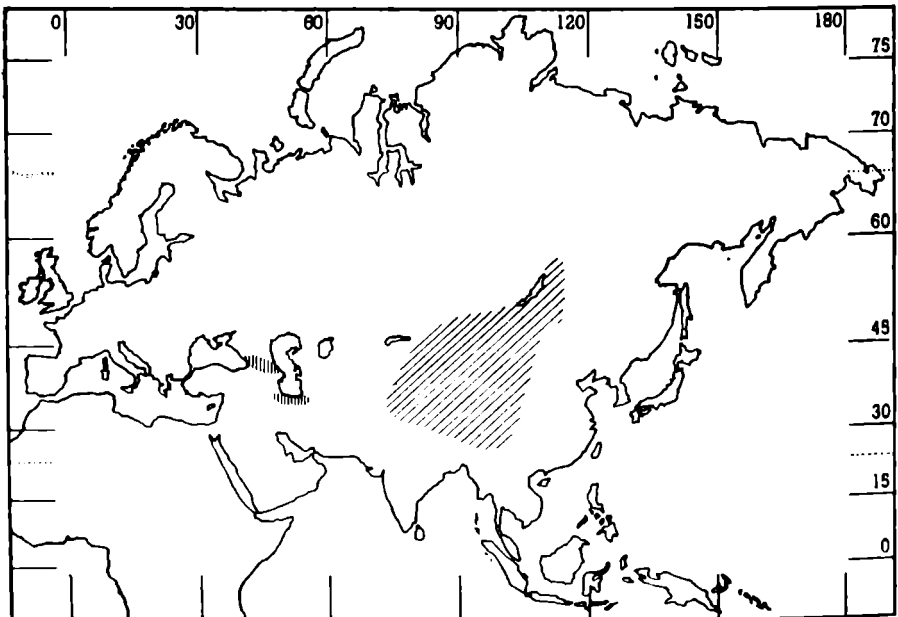
FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult), summer. *Above*, forehead and round the eye black; crown and nape white. Back and wings black; a large white wing-patch. Lower rump and tail chestnut. *Below*, throat and breast black, rest of underparts chestnut. In winter, white of crown and black of back and breast fringed with ashy.

Female. *Above*, pale brown; a whitish eye-ring. Lower rump rufous; tail brownish rufous. *Below*, pale fulvous-brown; lower breast and flanks ochraceous buff; centre of belly whitish.

Striking colour pattern of male superficially resembles Whitecapped Redstart (1716), but larger size, conspicuous white wing-patch and uniformly chestnut tail diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to altitudinal movements. Breeds in Chitral, Gilgit, Baltistan, Ladakh and along the northern Himalayan slopes (sporadic on southern slopes) through Kumaon, Nepal (Diesselhorst, 1968), Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Breeds between *c.* 3600 and 5200 m (in Pakistan mostly above 4200 m and in Tibet up to 5500 m), optimum zone 3900–4800 m. Winters in the valleys at lower elevations from *c.* 1500 m (seldom lower) up to 4800 m (Sikkim—Meinertzhagen, 1927). Scarce south of the main range in winter whence recorded in Kashmir, Chamba (down to 900 m), Nepal down to 2650 m (Inskipp & Inskipp, 1985), Sikkim and in Baltistan and Gilgit typically down to 1800 m (Roberts). In summer affects river-beds and boulder-strewn meadows and slopes in dry, barren alpine country above the dwarf scrub zone and in Tibetan facies. In winter frequents rocky moraines and

Phoenicurus erythrogaster



Distributional ranges

 *grandis* (1678).

 *erythrogaster* (RE).

river-beds, and sparsely scrubbed hillsides, usually in the vicinity of streams; very partial to *Hippophae* thickets in valley bottoms.

Extralimital. Breeds also in Tibet, Turkestan and western China, north to the Lake Baikal region. Nominate race in the Caucasus and southern Caspian mountains.

MIGRATION. Met with at lower elevations between September and April, but movements irregular and dependent on weather conditions; lowest levels usually reached in January.

GENERAL HABITS. A very hardy species often remaining at very high altitudes even during severe weather conditions. Males apparently harder than females, the latter deserting entirely their high summer grounds (Schäfer). Very shy. Usually keeps to itself, but at times may be seen in loose company with other species, when forced down by bad weather to lower levels. Actions and behaviour typically redstart. Flies from rock to rock or perches on boulders or scrub making short descents to the ground to pick insects, or hawking flying insects in the air. Replaces Whitecapped Redstart at high altitudes, taking insects amongst boulders along glacier torrents.

Display. Male soars from a prominent rock with outstretched quivering wings, showing off his striking plumage (Schäfer).

FOOD. Small beetles, ants, lepidoptera and other insects. In Tibet often observed searching for insects inside carcasses of dead transport animals. In winter feeds almost exclusively on berries of juniper, *Berberis*, and especially the bountiful *Hippophae*.

VOICE and CALLS. Little recorded. Song short and clear, reminiscent of the song of *P. ochruros* (Roberts), delivered from a prominent perch or during display flight (Schäfer).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a cup of dry grass shreds lined with wool, hair and a few feathers, placed in hollows between stones or in walls. *Eggs*, 4, white with pale reddish freckles. Average size of 9 eggs 22.7 × 17.4 mm (Osmaston).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Postnuptial moult in July and August. Plumage of young spotted, variable and with a brown and a whitish phase (GD) as in *frontalis*. Young males recognizable by white wing-patch. Postjuvénal moult in September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	101-115	17-18	28-30	70-75 mm
♀♀	95-106	15-17	27-28	71-75 mm
			(SA, Ludlow, Schäfer)	

Weight 1 ♀ ad. (Aug.) 25.2, 5 ♀♀ juv. 25.4-30.1; 6 ♂♂ juv. 26.5-30.8 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris black or brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws brownish black to black.

GENUS RHYACORNIS Blanford

Rhyacornis Blanford, 1872, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 41: 51.

Type, by monotypy, *Phoenicurus fuliginosa* Vigors

Differs from *Phoenicurus* by shorter tail and especially by very different plumage of

female and immature, both having a considerable amount of white in tail. Rictal bristles well developed.

Cf. Desfayes, M., 1969, *Ibis*: 245.

1679. **Plumbeous Redstart.** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus* (Vigors)

Phoenicura fuliginosa Vigors, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 35

(Himalayas, restricted to Simla-Almora area by Ticehurst & Whistler, 1924, *Ibis*: 471)

Baker, FBI No. 535, Vol. 2: 81

Plate 89, fig. 12

LOCAL NAMES. *Kola tiriv* (Kashmir); *Suradum parbo-pho* (Lepcha); *Chubbia nukki* (Bhutanese).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length 12 cm (5 in.).

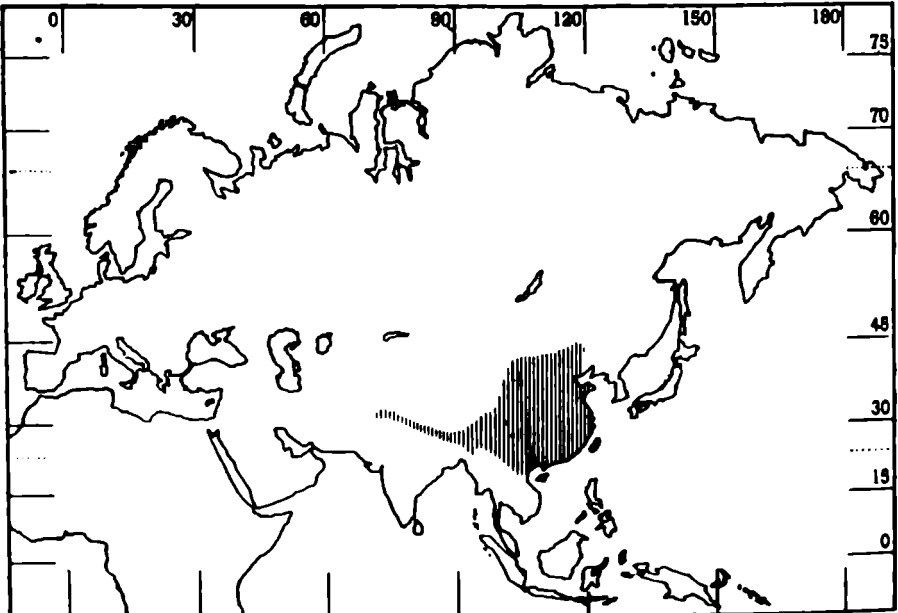
FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). Entirely bluish slaty with chestnut tail and rufous vent.

Female. *Above*, dark grey-brown with two rows of white spots on wing and a pale eye-ring. Base of tail white; rectrices partly white, tipped broadly and edged with brown. *Below*, mottled slate and white.

Expanded white tail of female exposes a brown triangle with the terminal end as its base.

Males often breed in female-like plumage.

Rhyacornis fuliginosus



Distributional ranges



fuliginosus (1679).



affinis (RE).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, subject to altitudinal movements. The Himalayas from N.W.F.P. eastward through Arunachal Pradesh, thence south through Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya in the Khasi hills. Vertical distribution uneven. Breeds mostly between *c.* 1800 and 2100 m in Chitral, less commonly in Gilgit; *c.* 1200 to 3900 m from the Sutlej Valley to Simla, mostly above 1800 m but down to 900 m in the Kulu Valley (HW); up to 4300 m in Garhwal, to 3200—locally to 3600 m—in western Nepal, and 4400 m in Manangbhot (Lowndes), but in eastern Nepal not over 3000 m (Diesselhorst) and down to *c.* 1500 m in Kathmandu Valley. In Sikkim and Bhutan does not ascend over 3700 m and may breed as low as 600 m (Sálim Ali, *Birds of Sikkim*); south of the Brahmaputra breeds between 1000 and 1800 m. Winters (October to March) from *c.* 2400 m down to the foothills and terai (chiefly 1000–1800 m), east of Nepal extending for *c.* 20 km into the plains along the larger streams; also winters in the foothills of Bangladesh south to the Chittagong region, and along the Burma border. Females and young apparently winter at lower levels than males (Schäfer). Affects rushing torrents and streams, chiefly in a wet climatic zone; does not breed north of the main range.

Extralimital. Ranges east to northern Vietnam, Hainan and China, north to Hopeh and Kansu. Another subspecies in Taiwan.

GENERAL HABITS. Solitary or in pairs. Confined to mountain streams where it flits from boulder to boulder, catching insects by making short sallies in the air or pursuing them with rapid steps over stones, sometimes hovering for an instant and snatching them from the surface of the water. When perched, the tail is continuously opened and shut rapidly with a scissors-like action and simultaneously wagged up and down. Very crepuscular, hunting late into the dusk till too dark to be seen but for the twinkling white in the female's tail. This twinkling produces the exact effect of water cascading over stones in a torrent, and even in good daylight often obliterates the bird against its background in an astonishing way. Maintains jealously guarded feeding territories in winter, demonstrating aggressively against intruders of its own kind while tolerating other species, e.g. Whitecapped Redstart and forktails etc. Cranes neck forward, tail fully fanned out and depressed, and utters a sharp, angry, prolonged *krreee* (SA). If this warning unheeded, attacks and chases intruder back to its own borders. Very territorial also in the breeding season, each pair staking out a stretch of river (Diesselhorst, Bates, Schäfer) and assiduously keeping off interlopers. However, Baker (*Nidification* 2: 77) states that two pairs may be seen feeding on the same stretch of water, while nests are often placed within a short distance of one another. If so, this must be exceptional.

Display. Flies almost vertically up in the air some 5 or 6 metres, then swoops down in a wide spiral to its original position (Cranbrook). Also described (if different from above), a slow and fluttering flight with tail fully spread out (Smythies), and a slow flight with rapidly vibrating wings in a short parabola from rock to rock (Whistler).

FOOD. Chiefly insects, occasionally berries (Diesselhorst).

VOICE and CALLS. Call-note, a sharp *ziel, ziel* (Schäfer); threat call, a sharp *krreee* (above). Song, a sharp, creaky and metallic jingle of about 2–2.5 seconds' duration exactly like a cricket's chirping and similarly rising in pitch (SA); uttered from a boulder or during display flight (q.v.). Song

period, mainly February to June (Proud) but may occasionally be heard in winter.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. Double brooded. *Nest*, a cup of green moss, grass, rootlets and a few dead leaves lined with rootlets, fibres, hair or wool; usually placed on a ledge of rock, in a crevice or hole in stream banks, in the stonework of bridges, occasionally under the eaves of a streamside house, in hollows in trees or stumps—rarely even against the trunk of a tree up to *c.* 4 metres above the ground. Seldom built more than 50 metres or so away from streams. *Eggs*, 3 to 6, normally 4, very pale grey-green with reddish brown markings usually forming a ring or cap at the large end. Average size of 14 eggs 19.8 × 14.6 mm (BBO); of 100 eggs 18.7 × 14.5 mm (Baker). Construction of nest by both sexes; incubation by female alone, period undetermined. Both sexes tend the young. Brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus* and *C. fugax*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Young. *Above*, grey-brown with small whitish spots (buffish on wing). Upper tail-coverts white; tail white except distal half of central rectrices and outer margins of outermost rectrices which are dark brown. *Below*, throat, breast and flanks grey-brown densely spotted with whitish; belly white with dusky fringes; under surface of tail white except for brown tip. Young moult into brown female-like plumage. Males often breed in this brown dress and apparently do not acquire adult plumage until the second year.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	72–80	13–16	22–24	50–57 mm
♀♀	68–83	13–14	21–24	46–58 mm

(BB, SA, CBT, Stres.)

Weight 3 ♂♂ (spring) 17.7–19 g (GD). 5 ♂♂ (Nov.–Dec.) 16.6–19.1; 4 ♀♀ (Oct.–Dec.) 14.8–16.8 g (RAP). 5 ♂♂ (Oct.–Apr.) 14–21; 4 ♀♀ (Oct.–Apr.) 15–18 g (SA, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs and feet blackish brown; soles white.

Genus HODGSONIUS Bonaparte

Hodgsonius Bonaparte, 1850, *Consp. Gen. Av.* 1: 300. Type, by monotypy,

Brachypterus phaenicuroides 'Hodgs.' = *Brachypterus phaenicuroides* [sic] Gray

Wing short and rounded. Bill as in *Brachypteryx*. Rictal bristles weak. Tarsus and tail long.

1680. Hodgson's Shortwing or Whitebellied Redstart. *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides phaenicuroides* (Gray)

Brachypterus phaenicuroides [sic] Gray, 1846, *Cat. Mamms. Bds. Nepal*: 70, 153 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 491, Vol. 2: 21

Plate 89, fig. 13

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). *Above*, slate-blue with two small white spots on wing. Tail long and graduated, blackish, base of outer rectrices rufous. *Below*, throat and breast slate-blue; belly white; under tail-coverts blackish tipped white.

White wing-spots conspicuous in flight and when wings drooped.

Female. *Above*, brown; tail with rufous patch at base as in male. *Below*, fulvous, centre of belly whitish.

First-year male like female but much darker brown; often breeds in this plumage.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Altitudinal migrant. Summer (breeding) visitor, locally common: the Himalayas from the Kunhar river (Kagan) east through Arunachal Pradesh. Breeds between 2400 m (isolately) and 3900 m, in Nepal up to 4400 m. Winters (September to May) from at least 1500 m down to the foothills. Affects dense thickets of birch and juniper, chiefly near and above timber-line. In winter frequents bush jungle, under-growth and edges of forest.

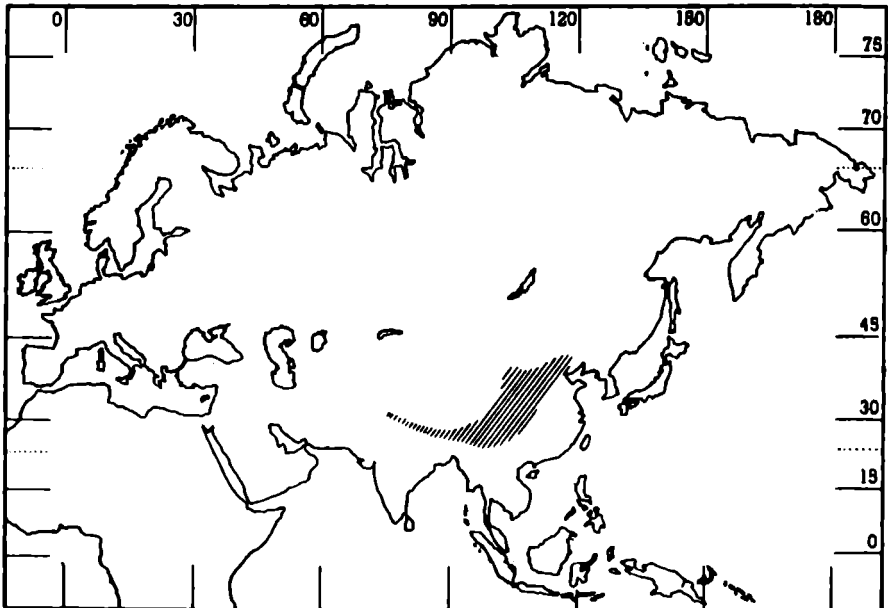
Extralimital. Extends east to Yunnan. The species ranges north to Kansu and Shensi and winters south to the northern Indochinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Robin-like; very shy and retiring. Makes short flights from bush to bush; feeds on the ground. Tail often erected almost vertically and expanded, especially when calling, displaying the rufous base otherwise concealed or inconspicuous.

FOOD. Insects; in autumn berries are also taken (Schäfer).

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a complacent-sounding, loud, rather melancholy

Hodgsonius phoenicuroides phoenicuroides



 Distributional range

whistled phrase of three notes, the middle one prolonged and highest, the last a half-tone lower than the first (BBO), rendered as *pe-pee-pit* (SA) or *he did so* (Whitehead). Usually given from a bush-top or tree early morning and late evening—even during moonlit nights. Song period June to August. Alarm call a rapidly repeated grating croak, similar to that of *Erithacus cyanurus* (Roberts). Other notes described as a monosyllabic *chuck*.

BREEDING. *Season*, June to August. *Nest*, a deep cup of grass and dead leaves, lined with moss or fine grass, hair and a few feathers; reminiscent of a nightingale's. Placed in low bushes within 30 to 50 cm from the ground, or even on the ground itself. *Eggs*, normally 3, sometimes 2, rarely 4, deep blue-green. Average size of 31 eggs 22.2×16.1 mm (Osmaston); of 60 eggs 22.7×16.1 mm (Baker). Often brood-parasitized by *Cuculus canorus*. Incubation apparently by female alone; period undetermined. Both sexes tend the young.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail	
2 ♂♂	72, 74 } 69-72 }	18-19	{ 77, 79 76-78	mm
4 ♀♀				mm
				(BB, SA)

Tarsus *c.* 30 mm

Weight 2 ♂♂ (July) 22.5, 22.7; 4 ♀♀ (August) 22-24.8 g (GD). 1 ♀ (Nov.) 24 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black (♂), brown (♀), with gape yellow in male, showing conspicuously. Legs and feet brown, soles paler.

REFERENCES CITED

- Ahlstorm, P., Ripley, S. D. & Rasmussen, P. C. (1993): 'Revaluation of the taxonomic status of *Phylloscopus subaffinis arcanus*'. Bull. BOC.
- Ahmad, Nazir (1965): 'The birds of Lahore.' *Pakistan Jour. Sci.* 17: 143-67.
- Alexander, H. G. (1955): 'Field-notes on some Asian leaf-warblers.' *British Birds*, Vol. 48 Pt 1 (July): 293-9, Pt 2 (August): 349-56.
- Alexander, H. G. (1969): 'Some notes on Asian leaf-warblers (Genus *Phylloscopus*).' Privately published brochure, 31 pp.
- Ali, Sálím (1935-7): 'The Ornithology of Travancore and Cochin' (with notes by Hugh Whistler). *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society*, Vols. 37-39 (8 parts).
- Ali, Sálím (1945): *The Birds of Kutch*. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Ali, Sálím (1949): *Indian Hill Birds*. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Ali, Sálím (1962): *The Birds of Sikkim*. Oxford University Press, Madras.
- Ali, Sálím (1968): *Birds of Kerala*. Oxford University Press, Madras.
- Baker, E. C. Stuart (1922-31): *Fauna of British India: Birds*. 8 vols., Taylor & Francis, London.
- Baker, E. C. Stuart (1932-5): *The Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire*. 4 vols., Taylor & Francis, London.
- Blanford, W. T. (1876): *Zoology and Geology of Eastern Persia*. Macmillan & Co., London.
- Christison, A. F. P. (1941): 'Notes on the birds of Chagai.' *The Ibis*: 531-56.
- Christison, A. F. P. (1942): 'Some additional notes on the distribution of the avifauna of northern Baluchistan' (assisted by C. B. Ticehurst). *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society* 43: 478-87.
- Dementiev, G. P., Gladkov, N. A., Ptushenko, E. S., Spangenberg, E. P. & Sudilovskaya, E. M. (English translation 1966-9): *Birds of the Soviet Union*. 6 vols. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.
- Diesselhorst, Gerd (1968): 'Beiträge zur Ökologie der Vögel Zentral und Ost-Nepals.' *Khumbu Himal* 2, edited by Prof. Dr Walter Hellmich. Universitätsverlag Wagner Ges. M. B. H., Innsbruck-München.
- Gavrilov, E. I. & Koushar, A. F. (1970): 'Breeding biology of the Himalayan Rubythroat *Erithacus pectoralis* in the Tien Shan'. *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society* 67: 14-25.
- Hartert, Ernst (1910-22): *Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna*. 3 vols., R. Friedlander u. Sohn, Berlin.
- Henry, G. M. (1955): *A Guide to the Birds of Ceylon*. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Hume, A. O. & Oates, E. W. (1889-90): *Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds*. 3 vols., 2nd. ed., R. H. Porter, London.
- Inskipp, C. & Inskipp, T. (1985): *A Guide to the Birds of Nepal*. Christopher Helm, London. 392 pp.
- Jerdon, T. C. (1862, 1864): *The Birds of India*. 2 vols. (3 parts), published by the author, Calcutta.
- La Touche, J. D. D. (1931, 1934): *A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China*. 2 vols., Taylor & Francis, London.
- Ludlow, Frank (1944): 'The Birds of Southeastern Tibet.' *The Ibis* 86: 43-86, 176-208.

- Mason, C. W. & Maxwell-Lefroy, H. (1912): 'The Food of Birds in India.' *Mem. Agr. Dept. India*, Entomological Series Vol. 3.
- Paludan, Knud (1959): 'On the Birds of Afghanistan.' *Vidensk. Medd. Dansk naturh. For.*, Vol. 122.
- Peters, J. L. (1931-): *Check-list of the Birds of the World*. Vols. 1-7, 9, 12, 15 published to 1971, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.
- Phillips, W. W. A. (1953): *A (1952) Revised Checklist of the Birds of Ceylon*. The National Museums of Ceylon. Natural History Series (Zoology).
- Phillips, W. W. A. (1958): '1956 Supplement to the 1952 Revised Checklist of the Birds of Ceylon.' *Spolia Zeylanica* 28 (2): 183-92.
- Rashid, Haroun er (1967): *Systematic List of the Birds of East Pakistan*. The Asiatic Society of East Pakistan, Dacca.
- Richmond, C. W. (1895): 'Catalogue of a collection of birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott in Kashmir, Baltistan and Ladakh . . .' *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 18, No. 1078: 451-591.
- Ripley, S. Dillon (1946): 'Comments on Ceylon Birds.' *Spolia Zeylanica* 24 (3): 197-241.
- Ripley, S. Dillon (1961): *A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan*. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.
- Roberts, T. J. (1980): 'Birds from Baluchistan Province, Pakistan.' *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society* 77: 12-20.
- Schäfer, Ernst (1938): 'Ornithologische Ergebnisse zweier Forschungsreisen nach Tibet.' *Journal für Ornithologie*, Sonderheft: 1-349.
- Smythies, B. E. (1953): *The Birds of Burma*. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.
- Stresemann, Erwin (1927-34): *Handbuch der Zoologie*, Aves (Kükenthal, Vol. 7). Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin.
- Ticehurst, C. B. (1922-4): 'The Birds of Sind.' 8 parts. *The Ibis*.
- Ticehurst, C. B. (1926-7): 'The Birds of British Baluchistan.' *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society*, Vols. 31-32 (3 parts).
- Ticehurst, C. B. (1938): *A systematic review of the genus Phylloscopus*. British Museum, London.
- Vaurie, Charles (1959): *The Birds of the Palaearctic Fauna*. (Passeriformes). H. F. & G. Witherby, London.
- Wells, D. R. (1982): 'Biological species limits in the *Cettia fortipes* complex.' *Bull. British Orn. Cl.* 102(2): 57-62.
- Whistler, Hugh (1930-7): 'The Vernay Scientific Survey of the Eastern Ghats. Ornithological Section.' *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Society*, Vols. 34-39 (16 parts).
- Whistler, Hugh (1944): 'The Avifaunal Survey of Ceylon.' *Spolia Zeylanica* 23 (3 & 4): 119-321.
- Whistler, Hugh, MSS. notes in British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.
- Williamson, Kenneth (1960): *The genera Locustella, Luscinola, Acrocephalus and Hippolais*. British Trust for Ornithology, Identification Guide No. 1, London.
- Williamson, Kenneth (1962): *The genus Phylloscopus*. British Trust for Ornithology, Identification Guide No. 2, London.
- Williamson, Kenneth (1963): *The genera Cettia, Locustella, Acrocephalus and Hippolais*. British Trust for Ornithology, Field Guide No. 7, London.
- Witherby, H. F., Jourdain, F. C. R., Ticehurst, N. F., and Tucker, B. W. (1938-41): *The Handbook of British Birds*. 5 vols., H. F. & G. Witherby, London.

(Other references in the text)

INDEX

- abbotti** (*Cyanecula*, *Erithacus*), 223
Abornis, 134
Abroscopus, 192
acanthizoides *see* *brunnescens* (*Cettia*, *Horeites*)
Acanthopneuste, 134
acredula (*Phylloscopus*), 136
Acrocephalus, 96
Adelura, 251
aedon (*Acrocephalus*, *Muscicapa*), 97
affinis (*Abornis*, *Seicercus*), 183
affinis [*C. (urruca)*], 130
affinis (*Phylloscopus*), 144
agricola [*Acrocephalus*, *Sylvia* (*acrocephalus*)], 110
Agrobates, 213
albigularis (*Abornis*), 193
albiventris (*Brachypteryx*, *Callene*), 209
albiventris (*Cettia*), 19
albiventris (*Copsychus*, *Kittacincla*), 251
albugularis (*Abornis*, *Abroscopus*), 196
albugularis (*Prinia*), 42
albosuperciliaris (*Abornis*, *Seicercus*), 187
alexanderi (*Cettia*), 15
altaica (*Cyanecula*), 224
altaica (*Oreopneuste*), 151
althaea (*Sylvia*), 130
amyae (*Acrocephalus*), 102
andamanensis (*Copsychus*), 247
andrewsi (*Megalurus*), 94
angamea (*Larvivora*), 229
aralensis (*Cyanecula*), 221
arcanus (*Phylloscopus*), 14
arundinaceus *see* *zarudnyi* (*Acrocephalus*)
arundinaceus (*Turdus*) 96
assamica (*Suya*), 69
assamensis (*Franklinia*), 36
assamensis (*Phylloscopus*), 179
Atricapilla (*Motacilla*), 122
atrogularis *see* *nitidus* (*Orthotomus*)
atrogularis (*Prinia*, *Suya*), 70
auroreus *see* *leucopterus* (*Phoenicurus*)
austeni (*Franklinia*), 36

baboecala *see* *brachyptera* (*Sylvia*)
bengalensis (*Graminicola*), 76
bistrigiceps (*Acrocephalus*), 105
blythi (*Sylvia*), 127
borealis (*Phyllopneuste*, *Phylloscopus*), 165
brachyptera (*Sylvia*), 20
Brachypteryx, 206
Bradypterus, 20

brevicauda (*Prinia*), 59
brevipennis (*Salicaria*), 112
brunnea (*Larvivora*), 229
brunnescens [*Acrocephalus*, *A. (grobates)*], 99
brunnescens (*Cettia*, *Horeites*), 16
brunneus (*Erithacus*), 229
brunnifrons *see* *Horeites*
brunnifrons (*Cettia*, *Prinia*), 17
buchanani (*Prinia*), 44
burkii (*Seicercus*, *Sylvia*), 185
burnesii [*Eu. (rycerus)*, *Prinia*], 72

caeruleocephala (*Phoenicura*), 254
caeruleocephalus (*Phoenicurus*), 254
caligata (*Hippolais*, *Sylvia*), 117
Calliope, 216
calliope (*Erithacus*, *Motacilla*), 218
cantator (*Motacilla*, *Phylloscopus*), 181
canturians (*Arundinax*, *Cettia*), 8
capistrata (*Acrocephalus*, *Salicaria*), 112
castaneocoronata (*Sylvia?*, *Tesia*), 4
castaniceps (*Abornis*, *Seicercus*), 191
catharia (*Prinia*), 69
centralasiae (*Locustella*), 87
centralis (*Phylloscopus*), 163
certhiola (*Locustella*), 87
cetti *see* *albiventris* (*Cettia*)
Cetti (*Sylvia*), 5
Cettia, 5
Cettioides (*Cettia*), 19
ceylonensis (*Copsychus*), 246
Chaetornis, 92
chloronotus (*Abornis*, *Phylloscopus*), 161
Chlorotesia, 1
Chorotesia [*sic*], 1
chrysaecus (*Erithacus*, *Tarsiger*), 237
cinerascens (*Eurycercus*, *Prinia*), 74
cinereocapilla (*Prinia*), 46
circumspectus (*Neornis*), 15
Cisticola, 27
cisticola (*Sylvia*), 27
claudiae (*Acanthopneuste*, *Phylloscopus*), 180
cleghorniae [*F. (ranklinia)*], 44
collybita (*Phylloscopus*, *Sylvia*), 137
communis *see* *icterops* (*Sylvia*)
concinens (*Acrocephalus*), 112
confusa (*Luscinia*), 227
confusus (*Erithacus*), 227
Copsychus, 243
coronata (*Ficedula*), 176
coronatus (*Orthotomus*), 85
coronatus (*Phylloscopus*), 176
criniger (*Prinia*, *Prinia?* *Suya*), 68

- cruralis* (*Brachypteryx*, *Calliope?*), 212
cryptica (*Brachypteryx*), 209
cucullatus see *corynatus* (*Orthotomus*)
cucullatus (*Phyllergates*), 78
curruca (*Sylvia*), 127
cursitans (*Cisticola*, *Prinia*), 31
cyane (*Erithacus*, *Motacilla*), 233
cyaniventer (*Tesia*), 1
Cyanosylvia, 216
cyanurus (*Erithacus*, *Motacilla*), 237
- daulias* (*Luscinia*), 232
Davidi (*Luscinia*), 232
diphone see *canturians* (*Arundinax*, *Cettia*)
discessa (*Cyanecula*), 221
drasticus (*Abroscopus*), 194
Drymochares, 206
dumetorum (*Acrocephalus*), 108
- Elaphornis*, 20
elegans (*Leptopoeile*), 202
erimelas (*Copsychus*), 243
Erithacus, 216
erochroa (*Phylloscopus*), 153
erythrocephala (*Cisticola*), 28
erythrogaster see *grandis* (*Phoenicurus*, *Ruticilla*)
erythronota (*Sylvia*), 252
erythronotus (*Phoenicurus*), 252
Erythropgyia, 213
Eurycercus, 35
exilis (*Cisticola*), 28
extimus (*Phylloscopus*), 176
- familiaris* (*Erythropgyia*, *Sylvia*) 213
familiaris (*Prinia*), 35
fernandonis (*Orthotomus*), 84
flavicularis (*Abrornis*), 189
flavimentalis (*Abrornis*, *Abroscopus*), 196
flaviventer (*Tesia*), 1
flaviventris (*Abrornis*, *Abroscopus*), 193
flaviventris (*Orthotomus*, *Prinia*), 66
flavogularis (*Abrornis*, *Seicercus*), 189
flavolivacea [*Cettia*, *N.(eornis)*], 14
forresti (*Phylloscopus*), 162
fortipes (*Cettia*, *Homochlamys*, *Horornis*), 10
Franklinia, 35
franklinii (*Prinia*), 54
frontalis (*Phoenicura*, *Phoenicurus*), 262
fuliginosa (*Phoenicura*), 270
fuliginosus (*Rhyacornis*), 270
fuligiventer [*H.(orornis)?*, *Phylloscopus*], 147
fulviventris (*Prinia*), 66
fusca (*Curruca*), 106
fusca (*Drymoica*, *Prinia*), 53
fuscata (*Phyllopneuste*), 151
fuscatus (*Phylloscopus*), 151
- fuscus* (*Acrocephalus*, *Curruca*), 106
galactotes see *familiaris* (*Erythropgyia*, *Sylvia*)
galactotes (*Sylvia*), 213
gangetica (*Prinia*, *Suya*), 60
geokichla (*Brachypteryx*), 210
Golzii (*Luscinia*), 217
gracilis see *lepida* (*Prinia*)
gracilis (*Prinia*), 47
gracilis [*Sylvia* (= *Prinia*)], 41
Graminicola, 76
grandis (*Phoenicurus*, *Ruticilla*), 267
griseolus (*Phylloscopus*), 146
guzurata (*Sylvia*), 79
guzuratus (*Orthotomus*), 79
- hafizi* (*Erithacus*, *Luscinia*), 217
halimodendri (*Sylvia*), 128
haringtoni (*Acrocephalus*), 112
harterti (*Acanthopneuste*), 179
harterti (*Phylloscopus*), 179
Herbivocula, 135
Heteroxenicus, 206
himalayensis (*Regulus*), 200
Hippolais, 117
hodgsoni (*Abrornis?* *Abroscopus*), 197
hodgsoni (*Phoenicurus*, *Ruticilla*), 260
hodgsonii see *lepida* (*Prinia*)
hodgsonii (*Prinia*), 41
Hodgsonius, 272
hokrae (*Acrocephalus*), 112
homeyeri (*Phyllopneuste*), 151
Homochlamys, 5
Horeites, 5
Horornis, 20
hortensis see *jerdoni* [*C. (urruca)*, *Sylvia*]
humei (*Phylloscopus*, *Reguloides*), 154
hyperythra (*Brachypteryx*), 208
hyperythra (*Ianthia*), 241
hyperythrus (*Erithacus*), 241
- Ianthia*, 216
icterops (*Sylvia*), 125
indica (*Kittacincla*), 249
indica (*Sylvia*), 239
indicus (*Copsychus*), 249
indicus (*Erithacus*), 239
inglisi (*Prinia*), 57
inornata (*Prinia*), 52
inornatus (*Phylloscopus*, *Regulus*), 157
inquieta see *striata* (*Scotocerca*)
inquietus (*Malurus*), 74
insignis (*Drymoipus*, *Prinia*), 62
insularis [*Drymoeca (sic)*, *Prinia*], 55
- jerdoni* [*C.(urruca)*, *Sylvia*], 123
juncidis (*Cisticola*), 31
juncidis (*Sylvia*), 27
- kangrae* (*Phylloscopus*), 152

- kaschgariensis (Cyanosylvia), 221
 kashmirensis (Dumeticola), 20
 kashmiriensis (Phylloscopus), 177
 khasiana (Prinia, Suya), 71
 Kittacincla, 243
 kobdensis (Cyanosylvia), 221

 lanceolata (Locustella, Sylvia), 88
 languida (Curruca, Hippolais), 120
 Larvivora, 216
 latebricola (Orthotomus), 84
 lathamii *see* Calliope
 Laticilla, 35
 leggei (Copsychus, Kittacincla), 249
 lepida (Prinia), 47
 Leptopoeile, 202
 leucomelanura (Muscicapa) *see* cyane
 (Erithacus, Motacilla)
 leucophrys *see* nipalensis (Brachypteryx)
 leucophrys (Sylvia), 213
 leucoptera (Phoenicura), 266
 leucopterus (Phoenicurus), 266
 leucura (Prinia), 55
 Locustella, 86
 Locustella (Sylvia), 86
 londae (Orthotomus), 79
 Lophobasileus, 202
 ludlowi (Phylloscopus), 170
 Luscinia, 216
 luscinia *see* Homochlamys
 luscinia (Sylvia), 216
 Lusciniola, 96
 luteoventris (Bradypterus, Tribura), 25
 luteus (Orthotomus), 82

 macrorhyncha (Calamoherpe), 116
 macrorhyncha (Phyllopneuste), 116
 macrorhynchus (Acrocephalus), 116
 macroura (Motacilla), 54
 macroura (Prinia), 54
 macrourus (Turdus), 243
 maculipennis (Abrornis, Phylloscopus),
 163
 magnirostris (Phylloscopus), 165
 mahendrae (Prinia), 63
 major (Brachypteryx, Phaenicura), 209
 major (Bradypterus, Dumeticola), 23
 major (Cettia, Horeites), 12
 malabarica (Muscicapa), 247
 malabaricus (Copsychus), 247
 malaya (Cisticola), 35
 mandellii (Phylloscopus, Reguloides),
 156
 manis (Homochlamys), 10
 margelanica *see* minula (Sylvia)
 mariae (Phylloscopus), 149
 Megalurus, 94
 megarhynchos *see* hafizi (Erithacus, Lus-
 cinia)
 megarhynchos (Luscinia), 216
 meissneri (Lophobasileus), 202

 melanopogon *see* mimicus (Acrocephalus)
 melanopogon (Sylvia), 96
 meridionalis [C.(alamodyta), Acro-
 cephalus], 102
 mimica (Lusciniola), 114
 mimicus (Acrocephalus), 114
 mindanensis (Turdus), 243
 minula (Sylvia), 129
 mizorum (Homochlamys), 10
 modestus (Regulus), 134
 montana *see* cruralis (Brachypteryx, Cal-
 liope?)
 montana *see* fortipes (Cettia)
 montana (Brachypteryx), 206
 muroides (Cettia, Horeites), 18
 Muscicapidae, 1
 mystacea (Sylvia), 133

 naevia *see* straminea (Locustella)
 nagaensis (Seicercus), 191
 nana (Curruca, Sylvia), 131
 nebulosa [Surya (*sic*)], 69
 neglectus (Phylloscopus), 140
 nemoralis (Seicercus), 185
 Nemura, 216
 Neornis, 5
 newtoni (Phylloscopus), 162
 nipalensis (Brachypteryx), 210
 nisiora (Motacilla, Sylvia), 122
 nitidus (Orthotomus), 84
 nitidus (Phylloscopus), 172
 Notodela, 243

 obscura (Leptopoeile), 205
 occipitalis [Phylloscopus, Ph.(yllop-
 neuste)], 174
 ochruros (Phoenicurus), 256
 Offinis [*sic*] (Motacilla), 144
 Oligura, 1
 olivacea (Phragmaticola), 96
 olivea (Saxicola?, Tesia), 3
 omalura (Cisticola), 34
 orientalis (Acrocephalus, Salicaria), 104
 orinus [Acrocephalus, Acrocephalus
 (stentoreus)], 116
 Orthotomus, 78
 osmastoni (Cettia, Horeites), 8

 pallida (Cettia), 9
 pallidior (Erithacus), 234
 pallidior (Prinia), 41
 pallidiora (Ianthia), 234
 pallidipes (Cettia, Phylloscopus), 6
 pallidogularis [C.(yanecula), Erithacus],
 221
 pallidus (Horeites), 9
 palliseri (Brachypteryx, Bradypterus),
 26
 palniensis (Prinia), 62
 palustris (Megalurus), 94
 papilio (Phylloscopus), 163

- patia (*Orthotomus*), 82
 pectardens [*C.(alliope)*, *Erithacus*], 232
 pectoralis [*Calliope*, *Erithacus*], 225
 pectoralis (*Erythropogon*), 213
 pectoralis (*Prinia*), 43
 perates (*Phoenicurus*), 262
 pernix (*Phylloscopus*), 153
 phaenicuroides (*Brachypterus*), 272
 phaenicuroides [*sic*] (*Bradypterus*), 272
 phaenicuroides (*Hodgsonius*), 272
 phaenicuroides (*Phoenicurus*, *Ruticilla*), 256
Phoenicurus, 251
 phaenicuroides (*Motacilla*, *Phoenicurus*), 259
 Phragmaticola (*sic*), 96
 Phyllergates, 78
 Phylloscopus, 134
 platyura (*Schoenicola*, *Thimalia*), 91
 platyurus (*Bradypterus*), 20
 poliogenys [*C.(ulicipeta)*, *Seicercus*], 190
 pollicaris *see* *Horeites*
 polyglotta (*Sylvia*), 117
 praeium (*Phylloscopus*), 157
Prinia, 35
 proregulus (*Phylloscopus*), 159
 przewalskii (*Bradypterus*, *Dumeticola*), 20
 przewalskii (*Cyanosylvia*), 224
 pulcher (*Phylloscopus*), 153
 pulla (*Seicercus*), 189

 rama (*Hippolais*, *Sylvia*), 119
 regia (*Tesia*), 4
 reguloides (*Phyllopneuste*, *Phylloscopus*), 178
Regulus, 198
Regulus (*Motacilla*), 198
 regulus (*Regulus*), 198
Rhyacornis, 269
 robusta *see* *valida* (*Drymoica*, *Prinia*)
 robusta (*Cyanecula*), 220
Rubecula (*Motacilla*), 216
 rubescens (*Locustella*), 87
 rubicola (*Sylvia*), 125
 rufescens *see* *aedon* (*Acrocephalus* *Muscicapa*)
 rufescens *see* *insignis* (*Drymoipus*, *Prinia*)
 rufescens (*Prinia*), 36
 ruficapilla (*Sylvia*), 79
 rufifrons (*Prinia*), 44
 rufilatus [*Erithacus*, *N.(emura)*], 236
 rufiventris (*Oenanthe*, *Phoenicurus*), 259
 rufula (*Prinia*), 39
 rupchandi (*Tickellia*), 197

 salimalii (*Cisticola*), 34
 salimalii (*Regulus*), 200

 saturator (*Cyanecula*, *Erithacus*), 224
 saularis (*Copsychus*, *Gracula*), 243
 schisticeps (*Abroscopus*, *Culicipeta*), 195
 schisticeps (*Phoenicurus*, *Ruticilla*), 264
Schoenicola, 91
 schoenobaenus (*Acrocephalus*, *Motacilla*), 117
 schwarzi [*Phylloscopus*, *Sylvia* (*Phylloscopus*)], 182
 scirpaceus *see* *fuscus* (*Acrocephalus*)
 scita (*Sylvia*), 117
Scotocerca, 74
Seicercus, 182
 sepium (*Orthotomus*), 78
 sikkimensis (*Regulus*), 201
 simlaensis (*Phylloscopus*), 159
 sindiana (*Orthotomus*), 79
 sindiana (*Prinia*), 64
 sindianus (*Phylloscopus*), 139
 sindianus (*Prinia*), 64
 socialis (*Prinia*), 58
 sophiae (*Leptopoeile*), 204
 squamiceps (*Tribura*), 5
 stellata (*Brachypteryx*), 207
 stellatus [*Brachypteryx* (*Drymocharis*)], 207
 stentoreus (*Acrocephalus*), 99
 stevensi (*Acrocephalus*), 113
 stevensi (*Prinia*), 50
 stewarti (*Prinia*), 56
 stresemanni (*Cettia*, *Neornis*), 15
 straminea (*Locustella*), 89
 striata (*Scotocerca*), 75
 striatula (*Prinia*), 67
 striatulus [*Blandfordius* (*sic*)], 67
 striatulus (*Blandfordius*), 67
 striatus (*Chaetornis*, *Megalurus?*), 92
 striatus (*Melizophilus*), 75
 subflava (*Prinia*), 50
 subviridis (*Phylloscopus*, *Reguloides*), 158
 superciliaris (*Abornis*), 192
 superciliaris (*Abroscopus*), 193
 superciliosa (*Motacilla*), 157
 sutoria (*Motacilla*), 83
 sutorius (*Orthotomus*), 83
Suya, 35
 svecica (*Motacilla*), 220
 svecicus (*Erithacus*), 220
 sylvatica (*Prinia*), 62
Sylvia, 122

 tacsanowskia (*Locustella*), 24
 tacsanowskii (*Bradypterus*), 24
Tarsiger, 216
 tenellipes (*Phylloscopus*), 173
 tephrocephalus (*Culicipeta*, *Seicercus*), 186
 tephrodiras (*Seicercus*), 190
 terpsinus (*Phylloscopus*), 179

- terricolor (*Drymoipus*, *Prinia*), 50
Tesia, 1
theresae (*Sylvia*), 131
thoracica [*D. (umeticola)*], 22
thoracicus (*Bradypterus*), 22
tianshanica (*Cyanosylvia*), 224
tibetanus (*Phylloscopus*), 148
Tickellia, 192
toklao (*Megalurus*, *Turdus*), 94
Tribura, 20
tristis (*Phylloscopus*), 138
tristis (*Regulus*), 198
trochiloides (*Acanthiza*, *Phylloscopus*),
171
Trochilus (*Motacilla*), 134
trochilus (*Phylloscopus*), 136
tschebaiewi (*Calliope*, *Erithacus*), 228
turkestanicus (*Phoenicurus*), 259
tytleri (*Cisticola*), 29
tytleri (*Phylloscopus*), 142
- Urophlexis, 5
Urosphena, 5
- vafer (*Cettia*, *Homochlamys*), 13
valida (*Drymoica*, *Prinia*), 64
Vigorsii (*Ruticilla*), 267
virens (*Phylloscopus*), 162
viridanus (*Phylloscopus*), 168
- weigoldi (*Luscinia*), 220
weigoldi (*Phylloscopus*), 149
whistleri (*Cettia*, *Horeites*), 17
whistleri (*Erithacus*, *Tarsiger*), 237
whistleri (*Seicercus*), 184
wickhami (*Larvivora*), 229
- xanthoschistos (*Phyllopnuste*, *Seicercus*), 188
- yakutensis (*Phylloscopus*), 136
yunnanensis (*Regulus*), 201
yunnanensis (*Suya*), 69
- zarudnyi (*Acrocephalus*), 103

PLATES

Synopsis *numbers in brackets* (SE) = *Species Extralimital*

PLATE 83

- 1 *Cettia pallidipes*, Palefooted Bush Warbler (1474–1475)
- 2 *Cettia diphone*, Japanese Bush Warbler (1476)
- 3 *Cettia montana*, Strongfooted Bush Warbler (1477–1478)
- 4 *Cettia flavolivacea*, Aberrant Bush Warbler (1481–1483)
- 5 *Cettia brunnifrons*, Rufouscapped Bush Warbler (1485–1487)
- 6 *Cettia major*, Large Bush Warbler (1479–1480)
- 7 *Cettia acanthizoides*, Hume's Bush Warbler (1484)
- 8 *Bradypterus luteoventris*, Brown Bush Warbler (1493)
- 9 *Bradypterus palliseri*, Palliser's Bush Warbler (1494)
- 10 *Bradypterus thoracicus*, Spotted Bush Warbler (1489–1490)
- 11 *Cettia cetti*, Cetti's Warbler (1488)
- 12 *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*, Blackbrowed Reed Warbler (1555)
- 13 *Bradypterus major*, Largebilled Bush Warbler (1491)
- 14 *Acrocephalus aedon*, Thickbilled Warbler (1549)
- 15 *Bradypterus tacsanowskii*, Chinese Bush Warbler (1492)
- 16 *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Blyth's Reed Warbler (1556)
- 17 *Acrocephalus agricola*, Paddyfield Warbler (1557–1558)
- 18 *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Asian Reed Warbler (1555a)
- 19 *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Indian Great Reed Warbler (1550–1552)



John X. Dieke

PLATE 84

- 1 *Sylvia nisoria*, Barred Warbler (1564a)
- 2 *Sylvia communis*, Whitethroat (1566)
- 3 *Sylvia hortensis*, Orphean Warbler (1565)
- 4 *Sylvia curruca minula*, Lesser Whitethroat (1569)
- 5 ssp *althaea* of 1569 (1570)
- 6 ssp *blythi* of 1569 (1567)
- 7 *Sylvia nana*, Desert Warbler (1571)
- 8 *Leptopoecile sophiae*, Stoliczka's Tit-Warbler (1633)
- 9 ssp *obscura* of 1633 (1634)
- 0 *Regulus regulus*, Goldcrest (1628–1631)
- 1 *Sylvia mystacea*, Ménétrière's Warbler (1571a)
- 2 *Leptopoecile elegans*, Crested Tit-Warbler (1632)
- 3 *Prinia socialis*, Ashy Wren-Warbler (1516–1518)
- 4 ssp *stewarti* of 1517 (1515)
- 5 *Prinia cinereocapilla*, Hodgson's Wren-Warbler (1507)
- 6 *Prinia rufescens*, Rufous Wren-Warbler (1501)
- 7 *Prinia hodgsonii*, Ashy-grey Wren-Warbler (1502–1505)



PLATE 85

- 1 *Locustella certhiola*, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (1542–1543)
- 2 *Schoenicola platyura*, Broadtailed Grass Warbler (1546)
- 3 *Locustella naevia*, Eastern Grasshopper Warbler (1545)
- 4 *ssp obscurior* of 1545 (RE)
- 5 *Megalurus palustris*, Striated Marsh Warbler (1548)
- 6 *Chaetornis striatus*, Bristled Grass Warbler (1547)
- 7 *Prinia gracilis*, Streaked Wren-Warbler (1508–1509)
- 8 *Prinia buchanani*, Rufousfronted Wren-Warbler (1506)
- 9 *Locustella lanceolata*, Streaked Grasshopper Warbler (1544)
- 10 *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, Moustached Sedge Warbler (1495)
- 11 *Prinia atrogularis*, Blackthroated Hill Warbler (1529–1530)
- 12 *Prinia subflaza*, Plain Wren-Warbler (1510–1514)
- 13 *Prinia sylvatica*, Jungle Wren-Warbler (1519–1523)
- 14 *ssp sindiana* of 1525 (1524)
- 15 *Prinia flaviventris*, Yellowbellied Wren-Warbler (1525)
- 16 *ssp ctnerascens* of 1531 (1532)
- 17 *Prinia burnesti*, Longtailed Grass Warbler (1531)
- 18 *Scotocerca inqueteta*, Streaked Scrub Warbler (1533)
- 19 *Prinia criniger*, Brown Hill Warbler (1526–1528)
- 20 *Cisticola juncidis*, Streaked Fantail Warbler (1498–1500a)
- 21 *Graminicola bengalensis*, Large Grass Warbler (1534)
- 22 *Cisticola exilis*, Fantail Warbler (1496–1497)



John A. Dick

PLATE 86

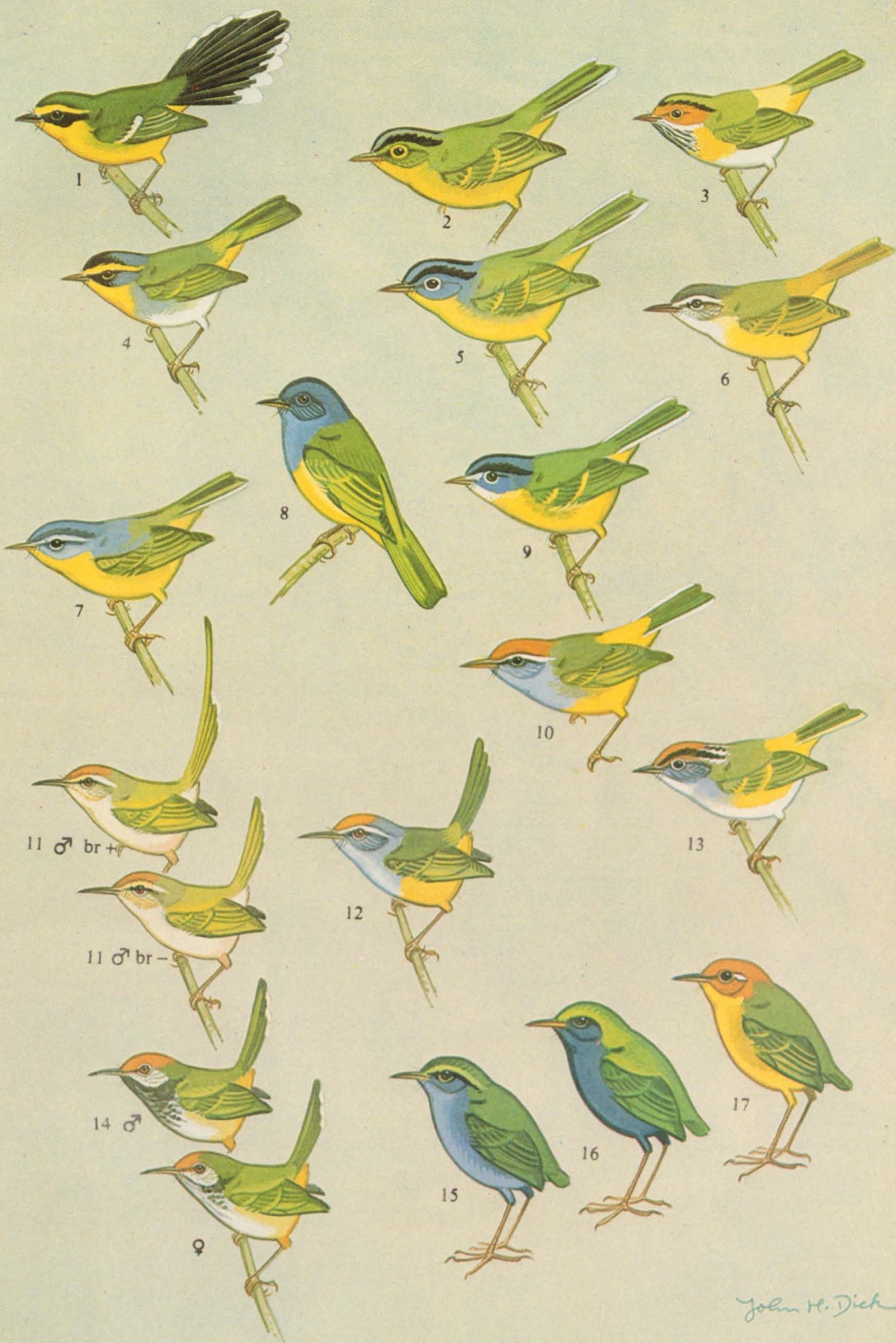
- 1 *Hippolais languida*, Upcher's Tree Warbler (1564)
- 2 *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Plain Leaf Warbler (1577)
- 3 *Hippolais caligata*, Booted Tree Warbler (1562–1563)
- 4 *Phylloscopus collybita*, Chiffchaff (1574–1576)
- 5 *Phylloscopus tytleri*, Tytler's Leaf Warbler (1578)
- 6 *Phylloscopus affinis*, Tickell's Leaf Warbler (1579)
- 7 *Cettia flavovivacea*, Aberrant Bush Warbler (1481, 1580)
- 8 *Phylloscopus griseolus*, Olivaceous Leaf Warbler (1581)
- 9 *Phylloscopus subviridis*, Brooks's Leaf Warbler (1593)
- 10 *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Yellowbrowed Leaf Warbler (1590–1592)
- 11 *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Dusky Leaf Warbler (1584–1586)
- 12 *Phylloscopus fuligiventer*, Smoky Leaf Warbler (1582–1583)
- 13 *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Radde's Leaf Warbler (1612a)
- 14 *Phylloscopus pulcher*, Orangebarred Leaf Warbler (1588, 1589)
- 15 *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Pallas's Leaf Warbler (1594–1596)
- 16 *Phylloscopus maculipennis*, Greyfaced Leaf Warbler (1597–1599)
- 17 *Phylloscopus cantator*, Blackbrowed or Yellowfaced Leaf Warbler (1612)
- 18 *Phylloscopus occipitalis*, Large Crowned Leaf Warbler (1606)
- 19 *ssp coronatus* of 1606 (1607)
- 20 *Phylloscopus reguloides*, Crowned Leaf Warbler (1608–1611)
- 21 *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Greenish Leaf Warbler (1602–1605; 1572)
- 22 *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, Largebilled Leaf Warbler (1601)



John H. Dick

PLATE 87

- 1 *Rhipidura hypoxantha*, Yellowbellied Fantail Flycatcher (1450)
- 2 *Seicercus burkii*, Blackbrowed Flycatcher-Warbler (1614–1615a)
- 3 *Abroscopus albogularis*, Whitethroated Flycatcher-Warbler (1626)
- 4 *Abroscopus schisticeps*, Blackfaced Flycatcher-Warbler (1624–1625)
- 5 *Seicercus affinis*, Allied Flycatcher-Warbler (1613)
- 6 *Abroscopus superciliaris*, Yellowbellied Flycatcher-Warbler (1622–1623)
- 7 *Seicercus xanthoschistos*, Greyheaded Flycatcher-Warbler (1616–1619)
- 8 *Culicicapa ceylonensis*, Greyheaded Flycatcher-Warbler (1449)
- 9 *Seicercus poliogenys*, Greycheeked Flycatcher-Warbler (1620)
- 10 *Abroscopus hodgsoni*, Broadbilled Flycatcher-Warbler (1627)
- 11 *Orthotomus sutorius*, Tailor Bird (1535–1539)
- 12 *Orthotomus cucullatus*, Goldenheaded Tailor Bird (1541)
- 13 *Seicercus castaniceps*, Chestnut-headed Flycatcher-Warbler (1621)
- 14 *Orthotomus atrogularis*, Blacknecked Tailor Bird (1540)
- 15 *Tesia cyaniventer*, Yellowbrowed Ground Warbler (1471)
- 16 *Tesia olivea*, Slatybellied Ground Warbler (1472)
- 17 *Tesia castaneocoronata*, Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler (1473)



John H. Dick

PLATE 88

- 1 *Brachypteryx stellata*, Gould's Shortwing (1635)
- 2 *Brachypteryx hyperythra*, Rustybellied Shortwing (1636)
- 3 *Brachypteryx leucophrys*, Lesser Shortwing (1639)
- 4 *Brachypteryx major*, Rufousbellied Shortwing (1637–1638)
- 5 *Brachypteryx montana*, Whitebrowed Shortwing (1640)
- 6 *Erithacus megarhynchos*, Nightingale (1642)
- 7 *Erithacus calliope*, Rubythroat (1643)
- 8 *Erithacus pectoralis*, Himalayan Rubythroat (1647–1649)
- 9 *Erithacus svecicus*, Bluethroat (1644–1646a)
- 10 *Erithacus pectardens*, Firethroat (1652)
- 11 *Erithacus brunneus*, Blue Chat (1650, 1651)
- 12 *Erithacus cyane*, Siberian Blue Chat (1653)
- 13 *Erithacus indicus*, Whitebrowed Bush Robin (1659)
- 14 *Erithacus cyanurus*, Redflanked Bush Robin (1654–1656)
- 15 *Erithacus chrysaeus*, Golden Bush Robin (1657–1658)
- 16 *Iranta gutturalis*, Whitethroated Robin (SE)
- 17 *Erithacus hyperthrus*, Rufousbellied Bush Robin (1660)



PLATE 89

- 1 *Erythropygia galactotes*, Rufous Chat (1641)
- 2 *Phoenicurus erythronotus*, Eversmann's Redstart (1669)
- 3 *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*, Black Redstart (1672)
- 4 *ssp phoenicuroides* of 1672 (1671)
- 5 *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*, Blueheaded Redstart (1670)
- 6 *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Whitefronted Redstart (1673)
- 7 *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*, Hodgson's Redstart (1674)
- 8 *Phoenicurus frontalis*, Bluefronted Redstart (1675)
- 9 *Phoenicurus schisticeps*, Whitethroated Redstart (1676)
- 10 *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*, Gldenstdt's Redstart (1678)
- 11 *Phoenicurus aureus*, Daurian Redstart (1677)
- 12 *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*, Plumbeous Redstart (1679)
- 13 *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides*, Hodgson's Shortwing or
Whitebellied Redstart (1680)
- 14 *Cinclidium leucurum*, Whitetailed Blue Robin (1681)
- 15 *Cinclidium frontale*, Bluefronted Robin (1682)
- 16 *Saxicoloides fulicata*, Indian Robin (1720–1721)
- 17 *ssp combatensis* of 1720 (1717–1719)
- 18 *Cercomela fusca*, Brown Rock Chat (1692)
- 19 *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*, Whitecapped Redstart or
River Chat (1716)



John H. Dick

INDEX TO THE VOLUMES BY FAMILY

English names (for Latin names see front endpaper)

- Accentors, 9
Avadavat, 10
Avocet, 2
- Babblers, 6-7
Barbets, 4
Barn Owls, 3
Bee-eaters, 4
Bitterns, 1
Boobies, 1
Broadbills, 4
Bulbuls, 6
Buntings, 10
Bustards, 2
Button and Bustard-Quails, 2
- Chaffinch, 10
Chats, 8-9
Coots, 2
Cormorants, 1
Coursers, 3
Crab Plover, 2
Cranes, 2
Creepers, 9
Crested Swift, 4
Crows, 5
Cuckoo-Shrikes, 6
Cuckoos, 3
Curlews, 2
- Darter, 1
Dippers, 9
Divers, 1
Doves, 3
Drongos, 5
Ducks, 1
- Egrets, 1
- Fairy Bluebird, 6
Falcons, 1
Finches, 10
Finfoot, 2
Flamingos, 1
Flowerpeckers, 10
Flycatchers, 7
Frigate Birds, 1
Frogmouths, 4
- Geese, 1
Goatsuckers, 4
Goldfinches, 10
- Grebes, 1
Grey Creeper, 9
Gulls, 3
- Hawks, 1
Hedge Sparrows, 9
Herons, 1
Honeyguides, 4
Hoopoes, 4
Hornbills, 4
House Sparrows, 10
Hypocolius, 5
- Ibisbill, 2
Ibises, 1
Ioras, 6
- Jaçanas, 2
Jaegers, 3
Jays, 5
- Kingfishers, 4
- Larks, 5
Laughing Thrushes, 7
Leaf Birds, 6
Leaf Warblers, 8
Longtailed Titmice, 9
Loons, 1
- Magpies, 5
Megapodes, 2
Minivets, 6
Monarch Flycatchers, 7
Munias, 10
Mynas, 5
- Nightjars, 4
Nuthatches, 9
- Orioles, 5
Owls, 3
Oystercatchers, 2
- Painted Snipe, 2
Parrots, 3
Partridges, 2
Pelicans, 1
Penduline Titmice, 9
Petrels, 1
Phalaropes, 2
Pheasants, 2
- Pigeons, 3
Pipits, 9
Pittas, 4
Plovers, 2
Pratincoles, 3
- Quails, 2
- Rails, 2
Robins, 8
Rollers, 4
- Sandgrouse, 3
Sandpipers, 2
Scimitar Babblers, 6
Shearwaters, 1
Shrikebilled Flycatcher, 7
Shrikes, 5
Skuas, 3
Snipe, 2
Sparrows, 10
Spiderhunters, 10
Spoonbill, 1
Spotted Creepers, 9
Starlings, 5
Stilts, 2
Stone Curlews, 3
Storks, 1
Storm Petrels, 1
- Sunbirds, 10
Swallow-Shrikes, 5
Swallows, 5
Swans, 1
Swifts, 4
- Terns, 3
Thick-knees, 3
Thickhead, 7
Thrushes, 8-9
Titmice, 9
Tree Creepers, 9
Trogon, 4
Tropic-birds, 1
- Vultures, 1
- Wagtails, 9
Wall Creeper, 9
Warblers, 8
Waxbills, 10
Waxwing, 5
Weaver Birds, 10
White-eyes, 10
Wood Swallows, 5
Woodcock, 2
Woodpeckers, 4
Wrens, 9