

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent

A FIELD GUIDE

Ranjit Manakadan, J.C. Daniel & Nikhil Bhopale

Illustrations
John Henry Dick



BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent

A FIELD GUIDE



A civilization can be judged by the way it treats its animals.

- Mahatma Gandhi

FRONT COVER: Golden-throated Barbet (Gould's Collection)

BACK COVER: Crimson Sunbird (Gould's Collection)

HALF TITLE PAGE: Serendib Scops-Owl by S. Ramesh

TITLE PAGE: Bugun Liocichla by S. Ramesh

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- The Birds of Asia, 1850-1883
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- Sixty-eight Indian Birds by C.M. Inglis

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent

A FIELD GUIDE

Based on
Sálim Ali & Dillon Ripley's 'Pictorial Guide'



Ranjit Manakadan
J.C. Daniel
Nikhil Bhopale

Illustrations
John Henry Dick

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PREFACE

Specific identification is the basis of meaningful bird watching as much as of scientific field research. However significant a field observation, its importance is lost unless the concerned species is correctly identified. For the untutored beginner, good illustrations of birds, preferably in colour, are fundamental. The truth of this was clearly demonstrated by Hugh Whistler's pioneering *POPULAR HANDBOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS* first published in 1928, in creating and developing an interest in birds and birdwatching among the Indian public, where it was practically non-existent before. Although the *POPULAR HANDBOOK* contained only a few illustrations of the birds described in the text, and fewer still in colour, it triggered an immediate spurt of interest in birds and birdwatching, necessitating a second edition of the book in 1935, followed soon by a third edition and a fourth.

In 1941, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) first published *THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS* by Sálím Ali describing 181 species of the commoner birds, all of which were shown in colour. The popularity of *THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS*, largely due to this feature, enabled it to produce further editions every few years, each edition enlarged progressively by the inclusion of a few more species, till the latest, the thirteenth, published in 2002 containing accounts and colour illustrations of 538 species. However, this represents merely a small fraction of our total avifauna, and it was desirable to illustrate many more species if Indian ornithology was to be better served. Sálím Ali and S. Dillon Ripley attempted to do this in the 10 volumes of their *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN* (1969-74), which contains colour illustrations of some 900 species of the then 1200+ reported from the Indian subcontinent, therefore still considerably short of the total. Moreover, the plates in the *HANDBOOK* are spread over 10 separate volumes which make the locating of individual species inconvenient and time-consuming, since even in these plates the illustrations are not in systematic order, family-wise. Under these conditions, the Bombay Natural History Society, through the sponsorship of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Smithsonian Institution published *A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT* in 1983. The publication with a set of 95 plates in colour by the well-known American bird painter John Henry Dick, depicting 1241 species of the Indian subcontinent was a landmark publication for Indian Ornithology during its time. *THE PICTORIAL GUIDE* and the *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN* and *THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS* were the compendium of books that Indian birdwatchers possessed till the late 1990s.

Subsequently, three field guides to Indian birds by European and American birders entered the Indian market. Being the first of its genre, the *PICTORIAL GUIDE* had its share of flaws, one of which was lack of text to aid birdwatchers in field identification. Another was that enormous changes had taken place in the taxonomy of birds by the turn of the century, making the avian classification order topsy-turvy. Additionally, new bird records for the Indian region and new species, resulting mostly from 'splits' of species were being reported. Range extensions were also being reported with frequency, due to the increasing popularity of birding as a hobby or profession, brought out mainly by the BNHS bird books. Other contributory factors were changes in the features of the Indian landscape due to human interventions like creation of dams, loss of forest cover, desertification, and possibly climate change. Thus, the checklist of 1241 species for the Indian subcontinent had gone up to around 1300 plus species. All these were accompanied by necessary, and sometimes unwarranted, changes in the common (English) names of birds in the new field guides, resulting in confusion on which names to use, necessitating

the publication of a standardized checklist of Indian birds by Manakadan and Pittie (2001). To top it all, the long-suspected fraudulent records of Richard Meinertzhagen of the British Era, who even went to the extent of stealing skins from museums and relabelling them with false data, were finally exposed, necessitating deletion of his especially startling new records. Analysis of some of the records of E.C. Stuart Baker, one of the most prolific of the early Indian birders, who depended too much on native fowlers (who sometimes hoodwinked him) for his collection of bird skins and tended to be make statements without solid foundation, also resulted in doubts on the authenticity of some of his records.

All these developments clearly pointed to the need to bring out a new edition of the PICTORIAL GUIDE and the result is this publication. As a tribute to the authors of the original publication, we have dedicated the new publication to Sálím Ali and S. Dillon Ripley. We hope this guide will be welcomed by the birding community in India and look forward to constructive criticism and comments for incorporation in the next planned edition. Like in the case of the earlier publication, the price of the book has been kept low to enable the widest possible cross-section of people develop an interest in the avian wealth of the Subcontinent, and experience the joys of birdwatching.



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Earlier Editions as the Pictorial Guide

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Current Edition as the Field Guide

Ranjit Manakadan: First and foremost, I am indebted to Mr. J.C. Daniel for considering me as a co-author for the revision work, and I respect his grit and determination to carry on with the work inspite of the numerous hurdles we faced. Vibhuti Dedhia (General Manager, Publications) was instrumental in convincing me to again take up the work after a long hiatus, and later taking care of all aspects of the publishing work, besides proof-reading, and I am indebted to her. I am grateful to J.P.K. Menon (Systems Manager) for working uncomplainingly on umpteen drafts of the book. Mr. Sachin Kulkarni (Manager, Projects) helped sort out administrative problems and took care of all the correspondence

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Sálim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley - An Introduction



Sálim Ali (1896-1987)

Sálim Ali was born on 12th November 1896 in Mumbai. Orphaned at the age of three, he was brought up by his uncle, and as was not unusual with wealthy Muslim families in those days, Sálim Ali too took to hunting. His 'true' passion for birds was kindled at the age of nine after the fortuitous 'fall of a sparrow', as described in his autobiography of the same title. The 'fallen sparrow' (the Yellow-throat Sparrow *Petronia xanthocollis*) that had a yellow throat unlike the many other female House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) that he had shot, intrigued him sufficiently to visit the BNHS, which eventually turned out to be a very long and fruitful association with the Society and for Indian Ornithology.

After getting a background in zoology, a disastrous venture into business in Burma (Myanmar), a stint as a nature education organizer with the museum in Mumbai, and training in scientific ornithology including taxonomy at the Berlin University Zoological Museum, he decided to pursue his passion in life, field ornithology. Starting with a study on the Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*), he undertook a series of bird surveys over parts of the Indian subcontinent, resulting in publications in scientific journals and books, including THE BIRDS OF KUTCH (1945), INDIAN HILL BIRDS (1949), THE BIRDS OF TRAVANCORE AND COCHIN (1953), THE BIRDS OF KERALA (1968), THE BIRDS OF SIKKIM (1962) and THE BIRDS OF THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS (1977). What was unique about the surveys was that they were undertaken on shoe-string budgets with the contributors, mostly the former maharajas of princely states, getting a surprise return of unspent funds on completion of the surveys from these already small-budget projects – a true example of a conservationist and a Gandhian. Besides the Spartan life that he led, his striving for excellence in work

and other things, his ineffable charm, impish wit, absence of religious and race dogmas, and lack of craving for fame, endeared him to all who knew him and worked with him. Fondly referred to as the 'Birdman of India', Sálím Ali did more than any other individual to popularize ornithology and nature awareness in the Indian subcontinent through his work and publications after the British Era. His bestseller, *THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS*, first published in 1941 and now in its 13th edition, was instrumental in popularizing bird-watching as a hobby and a profession in the Indian subcontinent. His *magnum opus*, drafted with S. Dillon Ripley, was the *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN* (1968-74) in ten volumes, the Bible for Indian Birders. It is for these reasons that Indian ornithology post India's independence, and also the BNHS, was and still is, very much associated with Sálím Ali.

S. Dillon Ripley (1913-2001)

S. Dillon Ripley was born in New York City on 20th September 1913. As a teenager, he was fascinated by waterfowl and had ample opportunities to observe them in his family's 2000 acre ranch in Connecticut. His career as an ornithologist began in 1936 with an expedition to New Guinea under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Later, based in Harvard University, he obtained his doctorate on a thesis on the biogeography of the birds of an island group south of Sumatra, thereby also describing species new to science. After a stint with Peabody Museum at Yale University as Professor and Director, Ripley served as Curator and later Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington from 1964 to 1984. During his tenure at the Smithsonian, the research and outreach facilities of the organization expanded under Ripley's able leadership, making it the nation's centre for national culture and collections. Ripley was also an early leader in international nature conservation, and it was his belief that biologists had an obligation to protect the species and habitats that were the focus of their studies. Ripley was also an aviculturist, owning a waterfowl reserve run as a nonprofit conservation and aviculture centre, which played a role in the conservation of the Hawaiian Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*).

Ripley's first association with the BNHS and Sálím Ali was during World War II, when he landed in Mumbai. Ripley had read about the work of Ali on the Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) and also owned a copy of the *THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS*, and was keen to meet him. The association and friendship carried on for the next 45 years (till Sálím Ali's death) and they undertook a number of joint ornithological field expeditions and co-authored publications, including their *magnum opus*, *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN* (1968-74). In the work on the book, Ali dwelt on the ecological and behavioural aspects of birds while Ripley focused on taxonomy and systematics. Prior to the *HANDBOOK*, Ripley separately published the *SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN*, a purely taxonomic and systematic checklist of the birds of the Indian region in 1961, revised in 1982. Ripley could not undertake the last publication planned on Indian birds due to a long and debilitating illness, and passed away in 2001. However, the work was taken up by Pamela C. Rasmussen and John C. Anderton, and as a tribute to his personality and work, the book published in 2002 is titled as *BIRDS OF SOUTH ASIA: THE RIPLEY GUIDE*.

INTRODUCTION

This guide is a revised edition of A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT first published by Sálím Ali and S. Dillon Ripley in 1983. As in the case of the PICTORIAL GUIDE, this publication deals with the birds of the Indian Subcontinent, viz, the countries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, including the islands of Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep and Maldives. It does not include Afghanistan and the Chagos Archipelago unlike in Rasmussen and Anderton's (2005) publication, BIRDS OF SOUTH ASIA - THE RIPLEY GUIDE.

The earlier publication had 95 colour plates by the well-known American bird painter John Henry Dick. The current edition, renamed the BIRDS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT - A FIELD GUIDE, uses these plates with additional drawings of raptors in flight, besides a few other species or races. Other changes in the plates include placement of flight diagrams next to illustrations of species and changes in the background and layout of illustrations. With these additions, the guide now has 112 plates containing illustrations of 1,251 species. Additionally, notes on a little over 100 definite/tentative species are provided without illustrations, these having resulted mostly from 'splits' of earlier described species.

Another major change in the guide is that there are species descriptions to aid field identification, which was a major lacuna in the earlier book, as there are quite a few bird species where a pictorial representation is by itself not sufficient, especially to identify similar looking birds. The species descriptions have been kept as brief as possible to enable quick identification, except for species where more detailing is required.

The family sequence follows Rasmussen and Anderton 2005 (BIRDS OF SOUTH ASIA - THE RIPLEY GUIDE) in general, and with regard to taxonomy, either adopts the (many) cases of splits given in the publication or briefs readers about them *via* notes in the species write-ups. As for English names, we have adopted a mix of the standardized names of Manakadan and Pittie's (2001) and those in THE RIPLEY GUIDE, factoring in changes in taxonomy, birders' acceptance of the English names since the standardized bird list and considering the need for brevity in names. The alternative names used in the recent Indian field guides have also been given within parenthesis after the adopted name, which will be of help to birders referring to more than one field guide.

The basic concept was to have the text facing the Plate. Wherever the text exceeded this limitation, a plate taken from one of the earlier publications was inserted to assure the following plate and text faced each other. The Publications, apart from the Society's *Journal*, where the 'filler' plates were first published are listed on the page following the half title page.

EXPLANATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Indian subcontinent: The Indian subcontinent, as per this guide, encompasses the entire countries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep and Maldives in the Arabian Sea are also covered. It does not include Afghanistan and the Chagos Archipelago, unlike in Rasmussen and Anderton's *The Ripley Guide*.

The term **Subcontinent** used in the text for the distribution of a species, refers to the 'mainland Subcontinent', i.e., excluding the islands. When the distribution of a species is given as **Subcontinent; Maldives, Sri Lanka**, it means that it occurs in the 'mainland Subcontinent', and also in the islands of Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Himalayas: When used by itself, stands for the entire range west to east from NW Frontier Province (Pakistan) to Arunachal Pradesh (India), including the 'command areas' along its base.

NE Hill States: Includes the Indian states of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, and the contiguous district of Chittagong in Bangladesh. When the distribution of a species is mentioned as 'NE hill states' it denotes that the species is present in this region but not necessarily in all these states. In some cases, the states/region where they occur are specified.

W Ghats: Stands for the entire range, north to south from Gujarat to Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including the Nilgiri, Palni, Annamalai and associated hills of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

E Ghats: Stands for the entire range north to south from Orissa to Tamil Nadu, including Visakhapatnam Ghats, the Nallamalai, Palakonda, Seshachalam, Shevaroy and associated hills of Orissa, SE and S Bastar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Continental India: Upper India south of the Himalayas to c. 20° N (Tapti River, Madhya Pradesh) latitude.

Peninsular India: Roughly south of c. 20° N (Tapti river, Madhya Pradesh) latitude.

Deccan: Refers to the Deccan Plateau covering large parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Gangetic Plains: A belt of grassland and associated scrub and woodland (locally known as terai, bhabar and duars), now highly fragmented, across the plains of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers extending into the adjacent Himalayan foothills.

Bhabar: Belt of alluvial loamy soil supporting dense forest stretching along the northern edge of the dun or terai, and up to c. 600 m in the Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand to Assam. Bhabar are known as duar in northern W. Bengal and Assam.

Duar: See Bhabar.

Dun: Hummocky broken country, often broad valleys within the outer ranges of the Himalayas, that in some sections intervenes between the bhabar and terai.

Terai: Undulating alluvial, often marshy, strip of country along the southern edge of the bhabar and dun south to the Gangetic Plains, stretching from Uttar Pradesh, Nepal and northern W Bengal to Assam. It supports tall grass interspersed with tracts of dense forest. Large tracts have now been lost to cultivation.

Note: Some of the occurrences of species attributed to **Bihar** may now fall under the new state **Jharkhand** carved out of the southern areas of Bihar in 2000. Similarly, some of the occurrences of species stated for **Madhya Pradesh** may now fall under the new state **Chhattisgarh** carved out of the eastern and south-eastern areas of Madhya Pradesh in 2000.

5. (436): Of the numerals preceding the species-name in the species accounts, the first number identifies the illustration of the corresponding plate and the second (within parenthesis) corresponds with the taxon number in the second edition of the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN by Sálim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley (1987). The species number permits easy cross reference with the HANDBOOK for additional information on the species in these comprehensive volumes. In case of a species reported from the Indian region subsequent to the publication of the HANDBOOK, it will not have a species number and is represented as (-).

(180): This number at the end of some species accounts is the species number in the 13th edition of THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS (2002).

[Hy-PCR]: This abbreviation at the end of some species accounts denotes species whose occurrence in the Indian region is treated as hypothetical by Pamela C. Rasmussen in BIRDS OF SOUTH ASIA - THE RIPLEY GUIDE.

The following abbreviations have been used in the species accounts:

- V = Vagrant (an occasional stray)
- R = Resident (also covers local migrants, i.e., species that breed in one part of the Subcontinent in one season and move to other parts within the country in a different season).
- M = Migrant: Extralimital, chiefly a long distance visitor during winter.
- RM = Resident with migratory (subspecies) populations or chiefly a migrant with some breeding records.
- EL = Extralimital, with possibilities of occurring in the Indian region.

Eclipse Plumage: In certain families, e.g. ducks (Anatidae), the males don a distinctive breeding plumage in summer and revert to a female-like (or eclipse) plumage in winter. The sexes are then difficult to distinguish. S (summer) and W (winter) against the illustrations identifies these seasonal plumages.

Birds of Prey or Raptors often have very different and highly confusing plumages as adult, immature and juvenile. Moreover, in addition to the normal plumage, they (and also some other birds) frequently have a dark phase (or morph) and a pale phase, with sometimes an intermediate one. All birds illustrated are in adult plumage, unless otherwise stated. The following abbreviations and symbols are used in the plates.

- ad- = Subadult (a bird with prior adulthood plumage, referring to birds such as raptors and gulls which take years to reach maturity).

- imm = Immature (not yet adult, and may include juvenile).
- juv = Juvenile (fully grown young in first year plumage).
- S = Summer
- W = Winter
- br = Breeding
- nbr = Non-breeding
- = Dark phase
- = Pale phase
- ◐ = Intermediate phase

A comparison with some common and familiar bird as a standard to give a rough indication of size is helpful in field identification. Chiefly the following standards have been used in this book:

Sparrow	15 cm	Crow	42 cm
Quail	18-20 cm	Village hen	45-70 cm
Bulbul	20 cm	Kite	60 cm
Myna	23 cm	Duck	60 cm
Pigeon	32 cm	Peahen	90 cm
Francolin	32 cm		

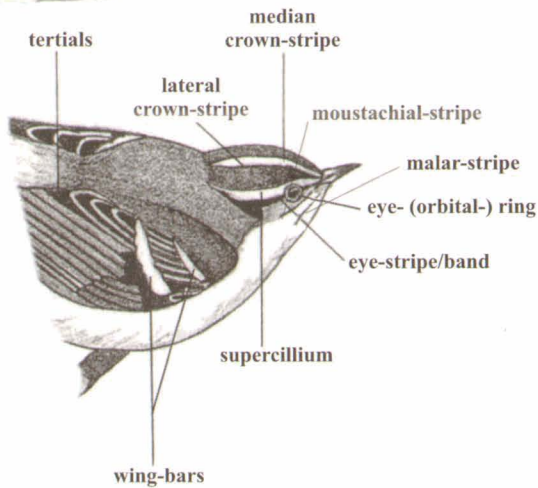
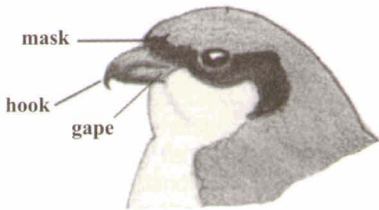
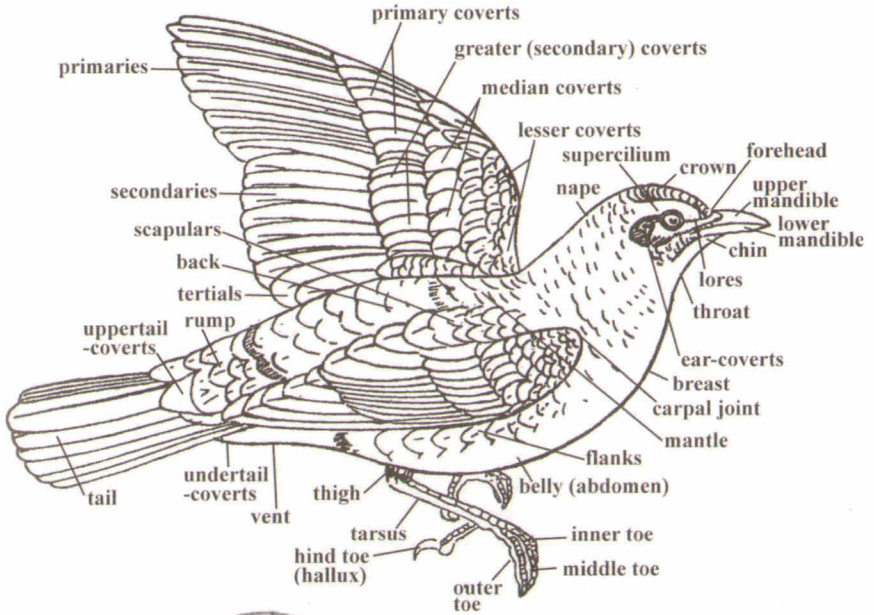
Plus (+) and minus (-) signs indicate whether the bird is bigger or smaller than the standard. Plus/minus (\pm) means that it is more or less the same size as the standard. The size in centimeter is also an approximation, and must be treated as such.

GLOSSARY

- Aigrettes** : Bunch of ornamental plumes over the breast and back of some species of egrets seen during the breeding season.
- Altricial** : Young naked and helpless on hatching.
- Aquatic** : Living on or at the edges of water.
- Arboreal** : A tree or bush dwelling species.
- Axillaries** : The region between the wings and body, the 'armpits'.
- Biotope** : Broad physiographical unit, e.g., evergreen biotope, desert biotope.
- Booted** : Refers to the horny/leathery covering on tarsus (legs) when totally or largely of one undivided piece (e.g. in Booted Warbler) vs. scutellated (in many overlapping pieces). Term also used to describe feathered tarsus (legs) as in Booted Eagle.
- Brood Parasite** : A species that lays eggs in nests of other species, thus foisting the labour of incubation and rearing of young upon the foster parents.
- Buff** : Yellowish-beige colour.
- Carnatic** : In the region of southern India between the Western Ghats and the Coromandel Coast.
- Carpal** : The bend at the wing, where the alula feathers arise.
- Casque** : Structure on upper bill seen in some species of hornbills.
- Cere** : Fleshy, naked covering at base of upper bill prominent in raptors.
- Collar** : A band of contrasting colour across the neck.
- Conspecific** : Of the same genus.
- Coverts** : Feathers covering the base of flight and tail feathers.
- Crepuscular** : Active during dawn and dusk.
- Cryptic** : Plumage colours and pattern that afford concealment, e.g., nightjars, chicks of ground nesting birds.
- Culmen** : Dorsal ridge of upper bill.
- Cursorial** : A ground-dwelling species, adapted to running.
- Dimorphic Plumage** : Species that occurs in two distinct morphological forms, e.g., sexual dimorphism in ducks.
- Down** : Dense, very short, hair-like plumage seen in chicks of some species (e.g., ducks), and also seen on bare heads of juvenile vultures.
- Eclipse** : The post-breeding (plain) plumage, where mostly males resemble females, e.g., in ducks.
- Endemic** : Restricted to a country or region.
- Facies** : A smaller division of the biotope, e.g., sandy or rocky facies of desert biotope.
- Feral** : An escapee or released domesticated species occurring in the wild.
- Fledgling** : A young bird at the nest that is able to fly.
- Gape** : Fleshy edge of bill at mouth opening.
- Gorget** : A coloured band across the throat or upper breast.
- Gular** : Pertaining to the throat.

- Gular-pouch** : Pouch, feathered or unfeathered, extending from the throat.
- Gular-stripe** : Stripe at centre of throat, seen in raptors, also referred to as mesial-stripe.
- Hepatic** : Rufous morph seen in some female cuckoos.
- Jheel** : Shallow lake in a low-lying natural depression usually with floating, submerged and emergent vegetation. Either rain-filled or formed from spillage from a river.
- Maritime** : Occurring in seas and oceans, e.g., sea ducks, sea terns.
- Mesial-stripe** : See gular-stripe.
- Morph** : A normal plumage variant, e.g., dark or pale morph.
- Nestling** : A young bird at the nest that is not able to fly.
- Nidicolous** : Young that stay at the nest after hatching till fledged, e.g., sparrows.
- Nidifugous** : Young leave nest soon after hatching, e.g., ducks and quails.
- Nocturnal** : Active at night.
- Passage** : A species that occurs in an area only on passage, i.e., while migrating between its breeding grounds in the north and wintering grounds in the south, chiefly during spring and autumn.
- Migrant** : A species that occurs in an area only on passage, i.e., while migrating between its breeding grounds in the north and wintering grounds in the south, chiefly during spring and autumn.
- Pelagic** : Occurring in the open seas.
- Polyandrous** : Female mating with a number of males (e.g. buttonquails, painted-snipes, jacanas), with parental duties taken up by males.
- Polygamous** : Male with a harem of females, e.g., pheasants, bayas.
- Precocial** : Young capable of locomotion soon after hatching, e.g. bustards.
- Rectrices** : Tail quills.
- Remiges** : Wing quills.
- Rictal** : Near base of bill; rictal spot (in drongo) and rictal bristles (in grassbirds).
- Rufous** : Reddish-brown colour.
- Scutellated** : See Booted.
- Shola** : Montane, evergreen wet temperate forest, usually in a sheltered nullah or hill stream valley among rolling grassy hills (shola grasslands) from above c. 1500m in southern India and Sri Lanka.
- Speculum** : Coloured and contrasting wing-panel on secondaries of ducks.
- Streamers** : The extremely elongated tail feathers seen in species like tropicbirds and racket-tailed drongos.
- Syndactyl** : Three toes in front and one behind, as in Passerines. Also see zygodactyl.
- Tawny** : Yellowish-brown or orange-brown colour.
- Terrestrial** : Ground dwelling.
- Vinaceous** : Colour of red wine.
- Wattle** : Bare, often brightly coloured skin, on the head, face or neck.
- Wing-Bar** : A line or bar on the wing (usually white) contrasting in colour with the rest of the wing.
- Zygodactyl** : Two toes in front and two behind, as in cuckoos, parrots and woodpeckers. Also see syndactyl.

BIRD TOPOGRAPHY



FAMILY ACCOUNTS

The sequence of families follows
BIRDS OF SOUTH ASIA - THE RIPLEY GUIDE (2005)

GAVIIFORMES

GAVIIDAE

Divers (Loons)

Aquatic birds superficially resembling grebes. Toes fully webbed, not lobed or scalloped. Plumage dense, compact and coarse. Tarsi reticulate, laterally compressed. Legs short and set far back, almost at the end. Wings short, narrow and tapering, set well back. Seen singly or in pairs. Frequent lakes, ponds and slow-flowing rivers in summer; essentially marine in winter. Skilled divers and swimmers. Take wing reluctantly and with some difficulty, but once airborne, their flight is powerful and swift. Sexes alike (winter); dimorphic (summer). *Breeding*: Extralimital. **Plate 1.**

PODICIPEDIFORMES

PODICIPEDIDAE

Grebes

Aquatic birds with soft rudimentary tail, very small wings, and compressed sharply pointed bill. Legs placed far back, especially adapted for diving and swimming. Tarsi scutellated in front, laterally compressed. Front toes with broad lateral vane-like lobes. Hind toe small, raised, vertically lobed. Nails broad and flattened. Plumage dense and silky. Loath to fly, rise with effort, but once airborne can fly strongly, often long distances. Sexes seasonally dimorphic. Nest, a mass of water weeds with a central depression or floating mound of grass and rubbish, loosely anchored to reeds or the substrate. Incubation by both sexes. Downy young boldly striped blackish and white. Rides on parent's backs. **Plate 1.**

PROCELLARIIFORMES

PROCELLARIIDAE

Petrels and Shearwaters

Sea birds of varying sizes and of white, grey, brown, black plumage, or combinations of these. Bill short and stout to longish and slender, covered with horny plates, hooked at tip. Nostrils tubular. Wings narrow, long and pointed, with first primary longest and secondaries short. Tarsus short to medium, slender, laterally compressed, reticulated. Feet webbed, with strong hindclaw. Tail short, rounded. Sexes alike. Nest: A sand burrow excavated beneath scrub roots, near the shore. **Plates 2-3.**

HYDROBATIDAE

Storm-Petrels

The smallest sea birds; blackish or greyish, mostly with white rump. Wings long; tail medium to long; neck short. Bill slender, of medium length, grooved, hooked at tip. Nostrils tubular with a single orifice. Legs slender, medium to long; feet webbed, mostly black. Webs black or particoloured. Feed by 'walking' or 'hopping' on the water with wings fluttering and held slightly above line of back, long legs dangling, feet paddling, head bent low and bill touching the surface. Sexes alike. Nest in crevices in cliffs. **Plate 2.**

PELECANIFORMES

PHAETHONTIDAE

Tropicbirds

Tropical seabirds, superficially resembling terns but are morphologically closer to cormorants and frigatebirds. Plumage chiefly white and black. Head large; neck short; bill yellow or orange-red, longish, stout, decurved and pointed. Wings long and pointed. Tail wedge-shaped with the middle pair of feathers in adults narrow, ribbon-like and much elongated. Legs short; feet webbed. Sexes alike. Nest: Under shelter of a ledge of rock or in a crevice. A single egg is laid; young hatch covered with down. **Plate 4.**

PELECANIDAE

Pelicans

Large, gregarious, squat and clumsy fish-eating birds with short sturdy legs and large webbed feet. Wings large and broad; tail short, square and soft. Characteristic of the family is the long heavy bill with the upper mandible flattened and hook-tipped and the lower consisting of two narrow flexible arches underhung throughout its length by a capacious gular pouch of naked skin which functions as a drag net for scooping up fish while swimming. Flight is strong and over long distances, though the initial take-off requires some effort. They fly with the neck bent back in a flat S and the head drawn in between the shoulders. Pelicans fly either in the characteristic V-shaped echelons of geese or in long straggly ribbons over a wide front. Often seen soaring on thermals. Sexes alike. Nest in colonies in trees, on reeds or ground. Eggs: 2-4. Chicks naked on hatching. **Plate 5.**

SULIDAE

Gannets and Boobies

Seabirds, typically white with variable amount of black in wings. Body stout, neck of moderate length, wings long and pointed, tail rather long and wedge-shaped. Bill stout, conical, pointed, slightly downcurved at tip, but not hooked. Bill, and bare facial and gular skin, brightly coloured. Legs short and stout, feet large and fully webbed. They have a characteristic habit of plunging headlong into the water from a height of 8 to 17 metres in the air for fish, and are capable of deep dives in underwater pursuit of fish. Breed on oceanic islands, on the ground or in stick nest in trees. **Plate 3.**

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Cormorants and Shags

Gregarious black coloured fish-eating, colonial-nesting water birds. Bill laterally compressed, rather long, slender and pointed; hooked at tip. Neck and body long, spindle-shaped; wings of moderate length. Tail long and stiff. Legs short; feet large and webbed, claws much curved. Plumage not very dense or resistant to water; becomes soaked by prolonged immersion and requires constant drying out. The birds rise off water with some difficulty, but the flight is powerful and sustained, with the neck stretched out in front. Cormorants fly in goose-like V-shaped echelons or wavy diagonal lines. Sexes alike. Nest: Skimpily to fairly substantial stick platform lined with water weeds in trees, rarely on rocks. Eggs: 2-6. Incubation by both sexes. Young naked at hatching, down-covered later. **Plate 5.**

ANHINGIDAE

Darters

Seen singly, in scattered twos and threes or large congregations depending on living conditions. More individualistic than cormorants. Bill slender, straight, very sharp-pointed

with both margins of commissure toothed near tip. Tail feathers long and cuneate. Swims with body submerged, only the snake-like head and neck showing above the surface. Nests gregariously among large mixed heronries. Both sexes incubate and feed the young. **Plate 5.**

FREGATIDAE

Frigatebirds

Large, gregarious, dark or black-and-white oceanic birds with long, pointed, streamlined wings, deeply forked tails, and flight resembling that of raptors. Bill long and strongly hooked, rounded in cross-section, the culmen convex. Throat bare, the bright coloured gular-pouch occasionally inflated by courting male even in flight. Tarsus very short, stout, feathered. Feet small and webbed at the base; claws long, strong, much curved; middle claw pectinate. Usually feed by pirating food obtained by other birds. Frigate birds are magnificent fliers and capable of soaring and sailing for hours, spending almost all day on the wing. Nest of sticks built on trees and bushes, and on rocks. Eggs: 1 or 2. Incubation by both sexes. Chick naked on hatching; covered with white down later. **Plate 4**

CICONIIFORMES

ARDEIDAE

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns

Long-legged, lanky wading birds, with long slender flexible necks which are retracted into a flat S during flight. Bill long, straight, sharp-pointed and dagger-like. Tarsi very long; toes long and slender, the middle and outer toes united by a small web at their base; claw of middle toe pectinate. Most species have curious powder-down patches on each side of rump and breast providing a sort of dry shampoo for degreasing soiled feathers. Plumage soft and loose-textured, usually white, grey, purple or brown. In many species, filamentous ornamental plumes (aigrettes), acquired during the breeding season. Sexes alike or nearly so. Breeding, colonial, usually in mixed heronries. Nest, shallow stick platform on trees. Eggs: 3-6. Young nidicolous. **Plates 6-7.**

CICONIIDAE

Storks

Large, long-legged, diurnal birds, terrestrial and marsh-haunting. Colour pattern mainly white and black with a metallic sheen. Bill long, massive, pointed straight or nearly so. Wings long and broad; tail short. Legs very long, tibiae partly naked; toes of moderate length, webbed at base, all four at same level (*contra* cranes which have the hind toe raised above the ground); claws blunt. Lacking voice muscles, therefore silent. However, most species produce low grunting and hissing noises, and a loud castanet-like clattering or snapping of the mandibles. Strong fliers, flying with neck and legs fully outstretched. Nests are large stick platforms in trees, or on cliffs and buildings. Eggs: 3-6. Incubation and nest-feeding by both sexes. Chicks naked at first, downy later. **Plate 8.**

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Ibises and Spoonbills

Comparatively long and bare-legged, gregarious, waterside, or marsh birds related to and resembling storks, herons and egrets, with whom they normally associate. Plumage chiefly white, black or chestnut with a metallic gloss. Bill long, slender, grooved and decurved (ibises), or extremely flattened and spatulate at tip (spoonbill). Face and throat or whole head and neck bare in some species. Neck slender, longish, outstretched in flight. Wings long; tail short. Legs and toes moderately long; tibiae partly bare; toes

webbed at base. Sexes nearly alike. Fly in V-formation or in wavy diagonal ribbons. Roost on trees. Nest: A platform of sticks on trees. Eggs: 2-4, rarely 5. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 8.**

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Flamingos

Large, excessively long-legged marsh birds with very long slender necks and peculiar thick lamellate bills sharply downcurved in the middle. Plumage largely pinkish-white and crimson, with black remiges (wing-quills). Tibiae bare; toes short and webbed. Highly gregarious, often in vast congregations numbering over many hundred thousand. A filter feeder of algae and minute organisms usually in shallow, brackish water. Flies with fairly rapid wing-strokes, neck fully extended in front and legs trailing well behind in diagonal wavy ribbons, single file or in V-formation. Breeds in colonies with hundreds of conical, mud nests close to one another in a compact, expansive 'city' covering several acres. Eggs: Normally 1, occasionally 2; incubation by both sexes. Newly hatched and small chicks fed by parent on drops of a liquid ('milk') from its bill tip. **Plate 9.**

ANSERIFORMES

ANATIDAE

Swans, Geese and Ducks

Wetland birds of considerable diversity in size and colouration from wholly white to combinations of grey, brown, black and green with metallic reflections. Bill typically broad, flat, rounded at tip, and with a comb-like fringe or lamellae for straining out food particles from water, in which they chiefly feed. Wings mostly rather narrow and pointed, adapted for swift and long-ranging flight. Tail short. Legs short; feet webbed. Most species are migratory. Nest: On the ground or in holes or hollows in tree trunks. Eggs: 6-16. Young nidifugous, down covered. **Plates 9-14.**

FALCONIFORMES

ACCIPITRIDAE

Hawks, Kites, Old World Vultures, Buzzards and Eagles

Comprise of an assortment of diurnal birds of prey (raptors) or scavengers (vultures). Inhabit forests, forest edges, grasslands, open areas and aquatic habitats. Bill usually short with upper mandible longer than lower, curved and strongly hooked at the tip; basal portion covered with a cere, which is usually bright coloured. Wings long or short, rounded or pointed. Feet strong; tarsi usually partly or fully feathered; hallux (hind toe) always present; claws hooked and powerful. Many species have confusingly different adult and juvenile plumages. Sexes nearly alike; female usually larger in some genera/species. Feed on the flesh of animals, self-killed or carrion. Breed in trees or on crags. Nest made of sticks and often lined with leaves and grass. Eggs: 1-5. The rate of reproduction, especially in the larger species, is slow. **Plates 15-26.**

PANDIONIDAE

Osprey

One species worldwide. A fish-eating raptor. Outer toe reversible and soles of toes equipped with spicules to help grasp fish. Sexes alike, female larger. Mainly breeds in Europe and north Asia; some nesting records from Himalayas. **Plate 16.**

FALCONIDAE

Falcons

Diurnal birds of prey, with grey or brown and white or buff plumage; streaked or barred, especially below, showing strong contrast of black and white. Bill short, strongly hooked and toothed. Wings long and pointed. Legs strong; toes long; claws hooked and powerful. Extremely accomplished and swift fliers, generally killing their flying prey on the wing. Food: Chiefly birds, large insects, rodents and other small ground animals. There is considerable change in the plumage from immature to adult. Sexes alike, but female larger. Nest: Normally old stick nests of other birds in trees or in cliffs are appropriated. Eggs: 2-5, usually 3 or 4. **Plates 27-28.**

GALLIFORMES

MEGAPODIIDAE

Megapodes

Chiefly confined to the Australasian region; represented within our limits by a single species. This fowl-like family is remarkable for its reptile-like nesting habits, laying their eggs in holes in the ground or in scraped-together mounds of sand and humus, leaving them to hatch by the heat of the sun and/or decomposition of the vegetable matter. Young emerge from nest with full juvenile plumage and are able to fly and fend for themselves. Bill moderate. Legs and feet very large and powerful; tarsus in front broadly scutellated; claws long and straight; hindclaw longest. Wings and tail short and rounded. Sexes alike. **Plate 30.**

PHASIANIDAE

Partridges, Francolins, Quails and Pheasants

Terrestrial, but may roost on trees. Bill thick and short with the upper mandible overhanging the lower. Legs stout and unfeathered, usually armed with one or more pointed spurs in male, Hallux (hind toe) always present; claws short, blunt and very strong for scratching the ground for food. Wings short and rounded. Flight may be swift and strong, but not for long distances. Normally feed on grain, seeds and tender shoots; also fruits and insects. The majority lay their eggs (4-8, sometimes more) on the ground in open scrapes with no or scanty lining. Young nidifugous and downy. **Plates 29-33.**

GRUIFORMES

TURNICIDAE

Buttonquails (Bustardquails)

Small terrestrial birds superficially like the true quails, but the hallux (hind toe) is absent making the feet three-toed as in bustards. Poor fliers. Females larger than males, more showily coloured, polyandrous, and with a more active role in courtship. Nest: A scrape or depression in the ground sometimes lined with grass. Eggs: Usually 4. Incubation, and rearing of chicks done entirely by the male. Young down-covered and precocial. **Plate 30.**

GRUIDAE

Cranes

Large, long-legged, marsh-terrestrial birds. Bill pointed and comparatively short. Tibiae partly bare; toes short, strong, unwebbed; hind toe raised above level of the other three (*contra* storks). Wings large and broad with the inner secondaries elongated, curled and drooping (used in display) under which the short tail is hidden. Flight powerful, in

V-formation or in a line. Sexes nearly alike. Cranes pair for life; they have exceptionally powerful, resonant, bugle-like calls, and a spectacular ceremonial 'dance' which consists of curtseying, prancing, capering and wildly leaping at, around and away from each other, accompanied by noisy duets. Food: Vegetable matter, grain, insects and small animals. Nest: A mass of vegetation on the ground or in shallow water. Eggs: Usually 2. **Plate 34.**

RALLIDAE

Rails, Crakes, Coots and allies

Small to medium-sized marsh or water birds, with some terrestrial forms. Plumage black or in soft shades of grey, brown, blue or green. Body laterally compressed. Bill strong; stout and short or curved and long. Legs and toes long; tibiae partly bare. Wings short and rounded. Generally poor fliers, with some island forms nearly flightless; however, some species are known to make long migratory flights. Sexes nearly alike. Feed on a variety of animal and vegetable matter. Nest: On the ground, in bushes, or floating on water. Eggs: 2-16. Incubation by both sexes. **Plates 35-36.**

HELIORNITHIDAE

Finfoots

A single Indo-Malayan species, three globally. Shy and secretive coot-like birds inhabiting dense swampy forest. Legs short; toes fringed with a lobed web. Wings rounded; tail broad and stiff. Flight strong, but low and not prolonged. Sexes nearly alike. Nest: A pad of twigs on trees over water. Eggs: 2-6. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 36.**

OTIDIDAE

Bustards

Large terrestrial birds inhabiting open grassy plains. Plumage buff, grey, white and black, generally cryptically patterned. Neck long. Bill short, stout and flattened. Legs strong and long; tibiae bare; foot cursorial, with three short and broad anterior toes. Wings broad. Flight strong, but not very frequent, the birds preferring to run or crouch when faced with danger. Sexes dimorphic. Food: Both vegetable and animal matter. Nest: A scrape on bare ground, sometimes lined with grass or under a bush. Eggs: 1- 5. Incubation by female. Young, precocial and downy. **Plate 34.**

CHARADRIIFORMES

JACANIDAE

Jacanas

Aquatic birds inhabiting jheels with dense aquatic vegetation. Bill slender, longish, straight and compressed. Legs long, tibiae bare; toes and claws enormously elongated enabling the birds to trip lightly over floating leaves and vegetation. Wings broad with sharp metacarpal spur. Tail short except in *Hydrophasianus*, where it is narrow, long and arched. Flight feeble seldom more than 2 or 3 metres above the surface; the large feet dangling behind. Food: Chiefly vegetable matter, also insects and molluscs. Sexes alike, but female larger, and polyandrous. Nest: A flimsy pad or raft of grass or weed-stems on floating vegetation. Eggs: normally 4, often laid directly on floating leaves. Incubation by the male alone. Young, nidifugous and downy. **Plate 36.**

ROSTRATULIDAE

Painted-Snipes

Largely crepuscular, brightly coloured terrestrial birds of reedy marshes. Plumage brown, grey, bronzy, black and white, cryptically patterned. Neck short. Bill long, slightly curved and swollen at tip. Toes long. Wings broad. Tail short. Flight slow; strong and swift runners; effective swimmers. Food, molluscs, crustaceans, insects, worms, weed-seeds and paddy grains, obtained by probing into squelchy mud or by scything movements of the bill in shallow water. Polyandrous, the female larger and more brightly coloured than male, pugnacious, and the dominant sex partner. Nest: A pad of grass or rushes with a slight depression in the centre, built on the ground or floating in the water. Eggs: Normally 4. Incubation and raising of the chicks done by male. **Plate 37.**

HAEMATOPODIDAE

Oystercatchers

One species in the Indian region, about eleven worldwide. Shore birds. Bill long, compressed, slightly truncated at the end, and red in colour. Tarsus short, stout and reticulated; hallux (hind toe) absent; anterior toes short, stout and slightly webbed. Wings long and pointed. Flight strong. Feeds largely on marine molluscs. Sexes alike. Nest: Usually a depression in the ground. Eggs: 3-4. Young precocial, but initially food-dependent on parents. **Plate 41.**

CHARADRIIDAE

Plovers and Lapwings

Small to medium sized wading birds, some often found away from water and in open grasslands. Bill short and pigeon-like (plovers) to relatively longer (lapwings). Legs short to long, with tibiae partly bare in many species. Wings long and pointed; tail short to medium. Flight strong, swift and well sustained. Sexes may be nearly alike, or female may be much smaller and/or duller coloured than male. Food: Small invertebrates, molluscs, insects, worms and some vegetable matter obtained by walking or running, and picking up or probing in soft mud. Nest: On the ground. Eggs: 2-5. Chicks precocial. **Plates 38-39.**

SCOLOPACIDAE

Sandpipers, Stints, Snipes, Curlews and allies

A widely distributed family of waders wintering mainly along the sea shores and along the margins of lakes and marshes of inland waters. Varies in size from the large curlews to diminutive stints; some species with very distinct summer and winter plumages. Feeds on various prey by pecking or probing often at night. Nest: A scrape on the ground, usually not colonial breeders. Eggs: Usually four. **Plates 37, 40-44.**

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Stilts, Avocets and Ibisbill

Waders or shore birds with white, black or brownish-grey plumage. Bill long, slender and straight or upcurved. Legs moderate to extremely long and slender. Feet webbed; hallux (hind toe) vestigial or absent. Wings long and pointed; tail short and square. Food: Molluscs, worms, crustaceans, insects, and seeds of sedges and marsh plants. Nest: A hollow depression in the ground or a raised platform of pebbles, sometimes lined with vegetable scum off the water and grass. Eggs: Normally 4. Incubation by both sexes. Young, nidifugous and downy. **Plates 40-41.**

PHALAROPODIDAE

Phalaropes

Small delicate shorebird. Female larger and brighter, and is the dominant sex partner. Habitually swims on water, fresh and salt. Two species recorded in Indian waters. Nest: A scrape with some lining; clutch usually four. **Plate 42.**

DROMADIDAE

Crab-Plover

One species worldwide. Largely crepuscular, maritime wader. Plumage mainly black and white. Bill strong and laterally compressed. Legs long and bare; middle claw pectinate. Wings long and pointed; tail short. Sexes alike. Food: Chiefly crabs. Nest: Hole in sandbanks on coral reefs; colonial. Egg: A singleton, inordinately large. **Plate 41.**

BURHINIDAE

Stone-Curlews and Stone-Plovers (Thick-knees)

Cursorial birds inhabiting stony semi-desert, rocky river beds and coasts. Plumage brown, buff and white cryptically patterned, and with conspicuous head and wing markings. Head large and broad; very large 'goggle' eyes. Bill stout. Legs long; tarsus bare, tibiotarsal ('knee') joint thickened (hence the name thick-knee); feet partially webbed; toes three. Wings long and pointed. Sexes alike. Food: Chiefly animal matter (insects, lizards, etc). Nest: A shallow, unlined scrape on the ground. Eggs: 1-3. Incubation by both sexes, chiefly by the female. **Plate 41.**

GLAREOLIDAE

Coursers and Pratincoles

Brown, grey and white cursorial birds boldly marked with black, white and chestnut. *Coursers*: Wings short and broad; tail short; bill longish and tapering; legs long and bare; three anterior toes. Most feeding movement on the ground by running swiftly in spurts, but also capable of fast, sustained flight. *Pratincoles*: Wings long, narrow and pointed; tail forked; bill and legs short; hallux (hind toe) present. Middle toe elongate with pectinate claw. Feed on the wing on flying insects. Sexes alike or nearly so. Nest: On the ground. Eggs: 2-3. **Plate 37.**

STERCORARIIDAE

Skuas and Jaegers

Pelagic, aggressive, gull-like birds, many with dark and light plumage phases. Body stout. Bill strong, rounded and strongly hooked, with a horny cere. Legs short; feet stout and fully webbed; claws small, but curved and sharp. Wings long and pointed; tail wedge-shaped. Flight powerful and swift. Sexes alike. Solitary or loosely gregarious. Skuas are predatory on the eggs and chicks of other colonial nesting sea birds. They also attack and chase birds, forcing them to either drop their catch or disgorge their crop contents, which they then retrieve in mid-air. They are birds of the Arctic and Antarctic zones. Within our limits, the records are mainly of accidental storm-tossed birds during heavy monsoon gales. **Plate 45.**

LARIDAE

Gulls

Gregarious, heavy-bodied aquatic birds. Plumage chiefly a combination of grey, white and black. Bill slender to heavy, sharply pointed or blunt and slightly hooked. Legs

short; feet webbed; hallux (hind toe) small or vestigial. Wings long; tail square. Sexes alike. Flight strong. Feed by catching fish, scavenging on various animal and vegetable matter, and by piracy like skuas. Roost and breed in colonies, often of great size. Nest: On the ground or cliff, either a bulky structure of grass or a skimpily lined or unlined scrape. Eggs: 2-4. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 45.**

STERNIDAE

Terns

Terns are more lightly built than gulls, with longer, narrower wings and a different style of flight. They rest and roost on rocks or mudbanks, and in spite of their webbed feet rarely settle on water. They capture living prey (fish, crabs, insects, etc.) by scooping it up from the surface in flight or diving vertically from the air and going under water momentarily. Nesting colonial, on the ground, cliff or in trees. **Plate 46.**

RYNCHOPIDAE

Skimmers

A single species in the region, three worldwide. Easily identified by pied plumage and the peculiar compressed knife-like orange-yellow bill with the lower mandible projecting well beyond the upper. Legs bright red. Sexes alike. Confined to the larger rivers north of *c.* 16°N. Breeds in mixed colonies with other terns on exposed sandbanks. **Plate 45.**

COLUMBIFORMES

PTEROCLIDAE

Sandgrouse

Terrestrial pigeon-like birds. Plumage chiefly sandy-brown patterned with black spots and vermiculations affording perfect camouflage to the birds in their native semi-desert environment. They have an exceptionally powerful flight, and in spite of their short legs, are also good walkers and runners. Bill small but stout. Wings long and pointed; tail moderately long and pointed. Legs and toes short; claws short and thick. Sexes differ. Sandgrouse have a typical habit of flying in flocks, often covering long distances, to water, a few hours after sunrise and during early dusk. Food: Chiefly vegetarian: seeds and shoots of desert grasses and weeds. Nest: A shallow unlined scrape on the ground. Eggs: 2-3. Incubation by both sexes. Young precocial. **Plate 47.**

COLUMBIDAE

Pigeons and Doves

Arboreal or terrestrial birds. Plumage dense and soft. Body compact. Head small; neck short. Bill of medium length and slender to stout, with a naked cere. Legs short to fairly long. Flight swift and powerful. Sexes alike in most species. Food: Chiefly seeds, grain and drupes. Drink water by immersing the bill and sucking continuously. Nest: A sketchy platform of a few sticks in trees, on ledges or in holes in cliffs. Eggs: Normally 2. Incubation and care of young by both sexes. Initially the nestlings are fed on a secretion of the parent's crop known as 'pigeon's milk'. Voice, cooing or booming calls or mellow musical whistles. Many species are migratory. The homing instinct of some domestic breeds was extensively exploited for carrying messages prior to the advent of wireless telegraphy and even during the two World Wars. **Plates 48-49.**

PSITTACIFORMES

PSITTACIDAE

Parrots (Parakeets and Hanging-Parrots)

Arboreal fruit- and grain-eating birds. Indian species chiefly green and represented by parakeets and hanging-parrots. They include some of the most abundant and destructive bird pests of agriculture and horticulture in India. Bill short, stout, strongly hooked; upper mandible loosely articulated with the skull and capable of kinetic movement. Tongue thick and fleshy. Feet zygodactyl. Wings rounded. Flight swift. Sexes alike or differing slightly. Food: Fruit, berries, nuts and grain. Voice: Loud, high-pitched and harsh. Many species can be trained in captivity to imitate a few words of human speech. Nest: Usually in holes in trees. Eggs: 2-5. **Plate 50.**

CUCULIFORMES

CUCULIDAE

Cuckoos, Malkohas and Coucals

Arboreal or terrestrial. Bill curved, stout, and sometimes heavy. Legs short; feet zygodactyl. Wings medium to long; tail medium to extremely long, often graduated. Sexes usually alike. Food: Insects, molluscs, lizards, snakes and other small vertebrates; also fruits. Voice: Loud notes – mostly harsh and shrieking, but some quite melodious – monotonously repeated. This family is well known for its habit of brood-parasitism, building no nests, but laying the eggs in the nests of other birds and foisting the labour of incubating the eggs and rearing the young upon the foster parents. Some species are non-parasitic, having normal habits as in other birds. Young nidicolous. **Plates 51-52.**

STRIGIFORMES

TYTONIDAE

Barn-Owls, Grass-Owls and Bay Owls

Peculiar owls, lacking 'ear-tufts' and with well developed facial disc, surrounded by a tuft of stiff feathers. Legs long, upper tarsus feathered. Largely crepuscular and nocturnal. Affects the neighbourhood of human habitations. Lives largely on rats and mice. Calls are a variety of discordant, shrieks and chuckles. Nests in holes and niches in buildings and ruins. Incubation by both sexes. Incubation begins as soon as an egg is laid so nestlings are of different ages and sizes. **Plate 53.**

STRIGIDAE

Owls

Chiefly arboreal and nocturnal birds of prey. Plumage long and soft; grey, brown, chestnut, black or white, and barred, streaked or vermiculated. Head large; eyes very large, and forwardly directed. A facial disc and 'ear-tufts' present in many species. Bill short, strong and hooked. Flank feathers greatly elongated; tarsus and toes feathered; outer toe reversible; claws strongly hooked. Wings broad and rounded. Sexes generally alike, but female larger. Flight buoyant and, in most species, silent. Food: Entirely animal, principally rodents, also other small creatures. Nest: In holes or hollows. Young nidicolous and downy. Care of young by both sexes. **Plates 53-54.**

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

PODARGIDAE

Frogmouths

Crepuscular and nocturnal with soft, silky plumage – cryptically patterned in brown, tawny, grey and black. Neck short and thick. Bill broad, flat and triangular, very wide at gape and hooked at tip; the base overhung by bristly feathers. Legs short; feet small and weak; middle toe elongated. Wings rounded. Sexes dimorphic. Spend the day perched on a bare branch, body tilted at an upward angle bill pointing to sky, simulating a broken stump. Food: Insects. Nest: A small pad of leaves and twigs lined with down from the bird's under-plumage; placed in the fork of, or on a horizontal branch. Eggs: 1-3. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 55.**

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Nightjars

Crepuscular or nocturnal soft plumaged birds, cryptically patterned in rufous, buff, grey, black and white. Head and eyes large; neck short. Bill weak and small; gape wide; middle toe long with a pectinate claw. Wings long and pointed. Sexes nearly alike. Food: Insects, captured in flight. Eggs: 1-2, on the bare ground. Calls distinctive and diagnostic. **Plate 55.**

APODIFORMES

APODIDAE

Swifts

The most aerial of all birds. Body compact; neck short. Plumage chiefly brown or blackish with patches of white or grey. Bill small, slightly decurved, with a very large gape. Legs short; feet small with hind toe completely reversible and needle-sharp curved claws, useless for walking or perching. Wings long, narrow and pointed and bow-shaped. Sexes alike. Swifts are capable of sustained high-speed flight, often spending all day on the wing; they rest by clinging to rough, vertical surfaces. Food: Insects hawked in flight. Nest: Grass and fibres, glued together with saliva and attached to a vertical surface. Some species build their nests entirely of saliva; these nests are edible and of commercial value. Eggs: 1-6. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 56.**

HEMIPROCNIDAE

Tree-Swifts

Differs from Swifts (Apodidae) in the character of the tarsi and feet which resemble swallows. Hind toe not reversible, and unlike swifts, the birds are able to perch like true passerines. Nests on trees. **Plate 66.**

TROGONIFORMES

TROGONIDAE

Trogons

Brightly coloured arboreal birds with soft, dense plumage. Neck short. Eyes large; brightly coloured, bare eye-ring. Bill short. Legs and feet small and weak, the first and second toes turned back. Wings short and rounded; tail long and graduated. Sexes dimorphic. Usually solitary, sometimes in pairs or small groups. Perch erect and motionless on branches for long periods, statue-like. Flight swift, but generally not over long distances. Food: Insects and berries. Nest: In holes in trees. Eggs: 2-4. Incubation by both sexes. Young, altricial and nidicolous. **Plate 57.**

CORACIIFORMES

ALCEDINIDAE

Kingfishers

Usually of blue, green purple, brown or black-and-white plumage. Body compact; neck short; bill massive, long, straight and pointed. Legs short; feet syndactyl. Wings short and rounded. Sexes generally alike. Flight direct and swift. Non-social birds, adapted for life chiefly on inland waters, though some species are largely maritime and others largely terrestrial. The aquatic forms feed on fish obtained by diving headlong into the water; the others live also on large insects and small vertebrates. Nest: Burrows in river banks or holes in trees. Eggs: 2-7. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 58.**

MEROPIDAE

Bee-eaters

Gregarious sleek-looking birds with soft and compact plumage. Most species largely green, and generally with a black eye-stripe. Bill long, slender, laterally compressed and decurved. Legs small, feet and toes slender. Wings long and pointed; tail longish with the central pair of rectrices usually elongated as pins. Sexes nearly alike. Food: Insects, chiefly bees and wasps caught in flight. Nest: Self-excavated holes in earth banks or sloping tunnels in the ground. Eggs: 2-8. Incubation and nest-feeding by both sexes. **Plate 57.**

CORACIIDAE

Rollers

Crow-sized arboreal birds chiefly of striking brown and brilliant blue plumage. Head large; neck short. Bill wide, strong and slightly hooked. Legs short; feet strong; second and third toes basally united. Wings long; tail longish. Sexes nearly alike. Flight strong, often accompanied, especially during courtship display, by harsh cries and a series of bizarre aerobatics (nose-diving, rolling, looping-the-loop, etc). Food: Chiefly insects caught in air, also small crawling animals. Nest: Unlined tree holes. Eggs: 2-4. Incubation by both sexes. Rollers are noisy birds, often aggressive and quarrelsome. **Plate 57.**

UPOPIDAE

Hoopoes

One species in the region, one or two (taxonomy dependent) worldwide. Pinkish cinnamon to chestnut coloured birds with black, white and buff zebra-like stripes on back and wings, and a long, conspicuous black-tipped fan-like crest. Bill long and slender. Tarsi short, toes long. Wings broad and rounded; tail square. Sexes nearly alike. Flight undulating. Food: Largely insects probed out of the soil, using the bill as forceps. Nest: Holes in trees or walls; notoriously insanitary and evil-smelling from the bird's droppings and food remains. Eggs: 5-7. Incubation by female, who is fed by her mate throughout this period. Nestlings fed by both parents. When threatened, the nestlings squirt their foul-smelling liquid faeces at the intruder. **Plate 58.**

BUCEROTIDAE

Hornbills

Large, chiefly arboreal birds with wiry plumage, white, black, grey or brown in combinations. Bill enormous, brightly coloured, curved, and usually with a large casque on culmen. Bare brightly coloured skin around eyes; eyelashes bristly and prominent. Legs short; feet broad-soled and syndactyl. Wings broad; tail long. Food: Fruits, insects and small animals. Nest: Holes in mature forest trees. The female walls herself into the

nest, leaving a small aperture through which the male feeds her during the incubation period, and in many species, till the young fledge out. The female undergoes an accelerated wing moult during her incarceration. Eggs: 1-6. **Plate 59.**

PICIFORMES

CAPITONIDAE

Barbets

Small, stocky arboreal birds with large head. Plumage coarse, generally brightly coloured. Feather tufts present over the nostrils or well-developed rictal and chin bristles. Bill large, heavy, slightly curved and pointed. Legs short and strong; feet large and zygodactyl. Wings rounded; flight weak. Calls: Loud and far-reaching, monotonously repeated. Sexes generally alike. Food: Fruits and insects. Nest: Self-excavated holes in tree trunks and branches. Eggs: 2-4. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 60.**

INDICATORIDAE

Honeyguides

One species in the region. Small, solitary, dull-coloured arboreal birds, brown, olive and grey above and lighter below. Skin very thick and tough. Bill short, stout and blunt to slender and pointed. Tarsus short; feet zygodactyl; toes strong; claws long and hooked. Wings long and pointed; tail somewhat graduated. Flight swift. Food: Bees, other hymenopterans and also bees-wax from abandoned combs. Some African species reputed to guide humans and other melliphagous animals to bees' nests. Habits and breeding biology of the Indian species little known. Most African species brood-parasitic. **Plate 60.**

PICIDAE

Woodpeckers

Arboreal. Plumage black, white, yellow, red, brown or green. Head large; neck slender but very strong. Tongue extremely long, cylindrical, protrusible and barb-tipped, used for catching insects and skewering out beetle larvae from pupal galleries in the wood. Bill strong and chisel-like. Legs short; feet zygodactyl and very strong. Wings strong and rounded; tail rounded or wedge-shaped, the rectrices stiff and pointed, useful as a support when climbing a tree trunk. Sexes dimorphic. Flight strong and 'bounding'. Food: Chiefly insects; also fruits. Nest: Unlined holes in tree trunks and branches. Eggs: 2-6 or 8. **Plates 60-63.**

PASSERIFORMES

EURLAIMIDAE

Broadbills

Two species in the Indian region. Brightly coloured arboreal birds. Body stout; head-broad; eyes large. Bill broad, flattened and hooked, with a wide gape. Legs short; feet strong and syndactyl; toes and claws long. Wings rounded; tail short and square or long, slender and graduated. Sexes dimorphic. Feed largely on insects. Usually tame and confiding. Nest: A conspicuous purse-like structure suspended from a branch with no attempt at concealment. Eggs: 1-5. **Plate 64.**

PITTIDAE

Pittas

Plump, solitary birds, largely terrestrial and generally brightly coloured. Neck short. Bill strong and slightly curved. Legs strong and long; feet large. Wings short and rounded;

tail very short. Generally hop on the ground but perch on trees to sing and roost. Flight strong. Food: Insects, grubs and other invertebrates. Voice: Rich whistles and trilling calls. Nest: A globular structure of twigs and grass, on the ground or in trees. Eggs: 2-7. Incubation by both sexes. **Plate 64.**

ALAUDIDAE

Larks

Small, dull-coloured sparrow-like, terrestrial birds. Generally grey-brown and buff, cryptically patterned with brown or black. Bill long and curved or short and stout. Legs short to long; hind claw straight, long and sharp. Wings long and pointed. Sexes generally alike. Flight strong; many species migratory. Movement on ground by walking or running. Food: Seeds and insects. Larks are well-known for their songs and soaring song-flights. Nest: A scrape on the ground with little or no lining. Eggs: 2-6. **Plate 65.**

HIRUNDINIDAE

Swallows and Martins

Gregarious aerial birds, superficially similar to swifts. Plumage chiefly black, brown, dark blue or dark green. Body slender; neck short. Bill short and flattened, with a very wide gape. Legs short; tarsi feathered in some species; feet small and weak, but with strong claws. Wings long and pointed; tail medium to long, truncate to forked. Sexes nearly alike. Flight swift and strong. Food: Mainly insects taken on the wing. Nest: Variable, of conglomerated mud pellets, usually attached to buildings or rocks; also burrows in vertical earth banks. Generally colonial. Eggs: 3-7. Young nidicolous; cared for by both sexes. **Plate 66.**

MOTACILLIDAE

Pipits and Wagtails

Slender-bodied terrestrial birds. Plumage black, grey, olive, yellow or brown, some species with distinct breeding plumage. Bill slender and pointed. Toes long; hind toe generally elongated. Wings pointed; tail long, constantly 'wagged' vertically, especially in wagtails. Food: Chiefly tiny insects and other invertebrates. Most species are migratory. Nest: Open, cup-shaped, generally on the ground. Eggs: 3-7. **Plate 67.**

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Minivets, Cuckoo-Shrikes, Woodshrikes and Trillers

Small to medium sized arboreal birds. Plumage soft, of loosely attached feathers, grey, black, blue, red, orange or yellow. Bill relatively heavy and slightly to strongly hooked. Legs short. Tail typically graduated and long. The birds rarely descend to the ground. Food: chiefly insects. Nest: A shallow open cup of twigs and rootlets cemented with cobweb on a high branch or in a fork of branches. Eggs: 2-5. Incubation by both sexes or only by the female. **Plate 68.**

BOMBYCILLIDAE

Waxwings

One species in the region, three worldwide. Rather sluggish, crested, arboreal birds with soft silky plumage. Bill short and thick, hooked, notched, and with a wide gape. Legs short. Wings short to long and pointed; tail short and square. The waxwings have the shafts of the secondaries prolonged into waxy tips. Food: Berries, flowers, and insects caught on the wing. Flight rapid and direct or undulating. Nest: A cup of pliant twigs, moss and grass in small trees and bushes. Eggs: 3-7. **Plate 69.**

HYPOCOLIIDAE

Hypocolius

A single genus and species in west Asia. Shrike-like passerine; flight not undulating. Lives chiefly on fruits. Sexes dissimilar. Nest: A cup in a tree. Eggs: 4-5. **Plate 69.**

MONARCHIDAE

Monarchs (Monarch-Flycatchers) and Paradise-Flycatchers

Two genera of flycatchers with depressed bills swollen at the base. Rictal bristles long, coarse and numerous. Tarsus short and stout. Central pair of rectrices greatly elongated in the male of the genus *Terpsiphone*. Food: Insects. Solitary or in pairs, flocks at times. Nest: A cup bound with cobweb. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 69.**

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Whistlers

Small to medium sized birds; a single species in the Indian region. Short, strong bill; head rounded. Usually solitary. Food: Insects. Sexes similar. Nest: A cup in tree-fork or cavity. Eggs: 1-5. **Plate 77.**

RHIPIDURIDAE

Fantails (Fantail-Flycatchers)

Small flycatchers with numerous, long rictal bristles and graduated tail longer than wing. Bill small; legs short; wings rounded. Hunts with fanned out tail and drooping wings. Sexes similar. Nest: A cobweb held cup. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 69.**

PYCNONOTIDAE

Bulbuls

Noisy, gregarious and mostly dull-coloured birds with soft, long and fluffy plumage. Bill short to medium length and slightly curved. Legs short and rather weak. Wings short and rounded; tail comparatively longer. Hair-like feathers on nape and rictal bristles, usually well developed. Sexes generally alike. Food: Fruits, nectar, insects. Most have sprightly, musical calls. Nest: An open cup of twigs and leaves, generally built in bushes or small trees. Eggs: 2-5. **Plates 70-71.**

AEGITHINIDAE

Ioras

Two species in the Indian region, four worldwide. Small, dumpy arboreal passerines. Plumage, green and yellow with short and square tail. Bill notched and pointed. Wings rounded. Small parties glean insects from leaves. Very vocal. Sexes differ, male with more contrasting plumage. Eggs: 2. **Plate 71.**

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Leafbirds (Chloropsis)

Four species in the Indian region. Arboreal birds, predominantly green; males brighter. Bill slender slightly curved. Wings rounded. Food: Insects, fruits and nectar. Nest: A cup at edge of canopy. Eggs: 2. **Plate 71.**

LANIIDAE
Shrikes

Bold and aggressive birds like miniature raptors. Plumage chiefly grey or brown above and white below; face and flight feathers boldly marked in black and white. Head large; bill strong and hooked. Legs and feet strong; claws sharp. Tail long, narrow and graduated. Strictly carnivorous, feeding on insects and small vertebrates. Voice: Harsh calls as well as musical songs; most shrikes are accomplished mimics of other birds' calls. Nest: A deep cup of twigs, grass, wool or tow, placed at moderate height in a thorn bush. Eggs: 3-6. **Plate 72.**

CINCLIDAE
Dippers

Two species in the region, five worldwide. Solitary aquatic birds inhabiting rapid-flowing mountain streams. Body compact and plumage firm and dense. Bill longish, slender, laterally compressed, slightly hooked and notched. Legs and toes long and stout; claws short and strong. Wings short, pointed and concave beneath; tail short, square or rounded. Sexes alike. Lives in pairs, but may roost communally. Food: Chiefly aquatic insects and other invertebrates. Walk and 'fly' under water, using the wings for propulsion. Nest: Domed, built near water, lined with moss and leaves. Eggs: 4-5. **Plate 73.**

TROGLODYTIDAE
Wrens

One species in the Indian region. Tiny, skulking terrestrial birds with plumage typically 'pepper-and-salt' patterned in shades with white, buff, and black. Bill slender and medium to long and curved. Legs and feet strong; anterior toes partly adherent; claws long. Wings short and rounded: tail very short to longish. Sexes nearly alike. Food: Chiefly insects. Known for their loud, spirited, melodious songs. Nest: In cavities in trees, rocks and buildings, or domed nests built in bushes and trees. Polygamy common in many species. **Plate 86.**

PRUNELLIDAE
Accentors

Small, terrestrial sparrow-like birds. Plumage black, brown, grey or buff, streaked above and plain or streaked below. Bill slender and finely pointed. Legs and feet strong. Wings short and rounded to long and pointed. Sexes alike or nearly so. Food: Chiefly insects in summer; fruits and berries in winter. Nest: Neat and cup-shaped, built in trees, bushes or rock crevices. Eggs: 3-5. **Plate 73.**

TURDIDAE
Thrushes

Plump, arboreal or terrestrial birds with soft plumage. Bill slender. Legs and feet stout; tarsi booted. Wings short and rounded to long and pointed; tail square, rounded or emarginate. Food: A variety of animal and vegetable matter. Some species have highly developed songs. Sexes either dissimilar or alike. Nest: An open cup in trees, bushes, on the ground, or in holes. Eggs: 2-6. **Plates 74-76.**

MUSCICAPIDAE
Old World Flycatchers, Redstarts, Wheatears and Chats

Dull to brightly coloured, small to medium-sized arboreal birds. Bill typically broad and

flat at base. Legs short. Wings short and rounded to long and pointed. Tail variable, short and square or notched, or graduated and fan-shaped, to longish with flowing ribbons. Food: insects and spiders, often caught on the wing. Some species have well-developed songs. Nest: A neatly built deep cup of grasses, usually bound or plastered with cobweb, placed on a tree or bush, sometimes in holes. Eggs: 2-6. Incubation and nest-feeding by both sexes, but female does most of the work. **Plates 77-82.**

TIMALIDAE

Laughingthrushes, Babblers, Scimitar-Babblers, Wren-Babblers, Babaxes, Barwings, Fulvettas, Sibias, Yuhinas, Parrotbills, Shrike-Babbler and allies

A large group of varied, arboreal or terrestrial birds with soft lax plumage. Bill generally strong. Legs and feet strong. Wings short and rounded; flight weak. Food: Insects, other small animals, flower-nectar and fruit. Most species noisy, with harsh calls, some with melodious song. Sexes largely alike. Nest: Cup-shaped or domed, built chiefly on trees and bushes. Eggs: 1-7. **Plates 83-90.**

CISTICOLIDAE

Cisticolas, Prinias and Tailorbirds

Small, dainty, skulking passerines of grasslands, scrub country, gardens and forests. Flight between cover clumsy due to the long tail. Sexes more or less alike, but male more striking during the breeding season. Has a song flight. Nest: A woven dome in shrub vegetation. **Plates 91, 92, 95.**

SYLVIIDAE

Old World Warblers

Small, dull-coloured, active arboreal birds consisting of more than 70 species. Bill slender and pointed. Legs short. Wings of medium length and rounded; flight 'bouncy'. Food: Insects, spiders, sometimes berries. Most species have well-developed melodious songs that are often diagnostic for species otherwise confusingly alike. Nest: Cup-shaped or domed, placed on the ground among vegetation and in bushes. Sexes alike. **Plates 91-96.**

REGULIDAE

Goldcrests and Kinglets

One species in the Indian region, five worldwide. Active forest birds with fine bill and high pitched complex calls. Plain olive plumage with wing-bars and face pattern, female duller. Affects the canopy of coniferous forests of the Himalayas, hunting insects. Songs complex. **Plate 96.**

AEGITHALIDAE

Long-Tailed Tits

Long-tailed, small tits with small conical bill. Sexes alike, strikingly patterned with a broad black stripe through eye. Communal, occurring in groups of 5 to 20 birds. Nest: A globular mass of moss and feathers covered with lichens and cobwebs. Eggs: 4-12. **Plate 97.**

REMIZIDAE

Penduline-Tits

Small tits with short, straight and pointed bill. Seen in small hunting parties. Flits restlessly above the treetops. Movement and habits similar to that of leaf-warblers. Nest: A gourd

shaped structure with a tubular entrance at the top suspended from the tip of a branch. Eggs: 3-10. **Plate 97.**

PARIDAE

Tits (Titmice) and Ground-Tit

Small, restless, active, arboreal, woodland birds, except for Ground-Tit. Plumage chiefly olive, brown, grey, white or buff; many species crested. Bill stout, conical or pointed. Legs short and strong. Wings rounded. Food: Insects and seeds. Sexes generally alike. Nest: Chiefly in tree-holes. Eggs: 3-15. Incubation generally by female. The Ground-Tit, earlier included under Corvidae, is now placed under this family. This ground-dwelling species roosts and nests in long burrows and feeds primarily on insects and also carcasses. **Plate 96-97.**

SITTIDAE

Nuthatches and Wallcreepers

Nuthatches: Small arboreal climbing birds. Plumage blue, grey with black or brown; usually a dark line and white markings on tail present. Body compact. Bill slender, straight and notched. Tarsi short; toes long; claws laterally compressed. Wings long and pointed; tail short and truncate. Sexes nearly alike. Flight undulating. Climbs tree trunks going up, around and down branches without using tail as support, with jerky hops or obliquely. Food: Insects, nuts, seeds. Nest: In lined tree holes or crevices. Eggs: 4-14. *Wallcreeper*: Bill slender, long and downcurved. Distinct breeding plumage. **Plate 98.**

CERTHIIDAE

Treecreepers and Creepers

Small arboreal birds with plumage chiefly brown to black above and white, grey or buff below. Bill slender, laterally compressed and downcurved. Toes and claws long. Wings rounded; tail longish, stiff and pointed. Sexes nearly alike. Climb tree trunks and boughs in the manner of woodpeckers using the tail as a support. Flight undulating and not sustained. Food: Chiefly tiny insects lurking in the bark. Nest: In holes or crevices in tree trunks. Eggs: 3-9. **Plate 98.**

DICAEIDAE

Flowerpeckers

Small, restless, active arboreal birds. In some species, both sexes dull-coloured; male bright plumaged in others. Bill shortish, thin and curved or stout. Legs short. Wings long; tail short. Constantly flit among tree-tops uttering sharp call notes. Food: Insects, nectar and berries particularly mistletoe. Some species important flower pollinators and seed-dispersers. Nest: Normally purse-shaped, of soft fibres, pendant from a branch. Eggs: 1-5. **Plate 99.**

NECTARINIIDAE

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters

Small, active arboreal 'flower-birds'. Sexes dimorphic. Males generally glistening metallic red, yellow, green, blue, purple and black in combinations. Females generally dull coloured. Bill long, slender, curved and very finely serrate. Tongue long and tubular (suctorial). Legs short and strong; claws sharp. Wings short and rounded; tail short and truncate to long and pointed. Food: Flower-nectar and insects. Nest: Typically purse-shaped, pendant, often with a porch overhanging the lateral entrance. Eggs: 2-3. **Plate 100.**

ZOSTEROPIDAE

White-Eyes

Gregarious, active, restless arboreal birds. Plumage typically olive-green above and yellow and white below. Conspicuous white eye-ring. Bill slender, pointed and slightly curved. Legs short and strong. Wings pointed; tail truncate. Sexes alike. Food: Insects, fruit and nectar. Voice, plaintive jingling notes; song, sometimes a far-carrying warble. Nest: A deep cup cemented with cobweb, placed in the fork of a twig. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 99.**

EMBERIZIDAE

Buntings

Small, chiefly terrestrial birds with the plumage brown, grey or olive with mix of black, white, yellow and red. Bill short, conical and finely pointed; edges of mandibles showing a gap midway between gape and tip. Wings short and rounded to long and pointed. Tail long, graduated or forked. Food: Mainly seeds. Gregarious in winter. Nest: Cup-shaped, made of grass, roots, hair and moss. Calls when breeding, species specific. Eggs: 2-8. **Plate 101.**

FRINGILLIDAE

Finches

Seed-eating arboreal or terrestrial birds. Plumage, from cryptically patterned grey and brown to bold combinations of yellow, red, purple, blue, green, black, and white. Bill typically short, conical, thick to very massive. Flight undulating. Wings short and rounded to long and pointed. Sexes usually dimorphic. Nest building and incubation by the female. Nest: Cup-shaped in shrubs and trees. Eggs: 3-6. **Plates 102-105.**

ESTRILDIDAE

Munias, Avadavats and Silverbills

Small, slim, finch-like birds with short conical bills. Gregarious, grass-seed feeders. Wings short, legs strong. Flight fast and undulating. Sexes either similar or the male brighter. Nest: A domed structure with a side entrance. Eggs, 4-6. **Plates 106.**

PASSERIDAE

Old World Sparrows and Snowfinches

Small passerines with short and chunky bill. Rather pointed wings. Granivorous and gregarious, often a commensal of man. Sexes similar, or more striking in male (*Passer*). Calls mostly simple chirps. Nest: In crevices in buildings, trees and rocks. Eggs: 2-7. **Plate 103, 107.**

PLOCEIDAE

Weavers

Finch-like, small, gregarious, arboreal birds inhabiting open country. Mainly granivorous. Plumage, drab brown with black streaks during the non-breeding season. Males attain golden crowns when breeding and display at colonies. Flight, strong and direct. Nest: Very elaborate, skillfully woven and pendant. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 107.**

STURNIDAE

Starlings and Mynas

Gregarious arboreal or terrestrial birds with silky plumage. Bill typically straight and rather long and slender. Legs and feet strong. Wings, short and rounded to long and pointed. Tail, usually short and square. Sexes nearly alike. Flight strong. Food: Insects, fruits, grain and flower-nectar. Voice, a variety of harsh to pleasing notes and whistles.

Some species are renowned mimics of the calls of other birds and human speech. Nest: In holes or cavities in trees. Eggs: 2-9. Some species have become commensals of man and some are serious pests of agriculture and horticulture. **Plate 108.**

ORIORIDAE

Orioles

Non-social arboreal birds. Plumage chiefly yellow, green, red, brown or black. Bill red, blue or black; strong, pointed and slightly hooked. Legs short and strong. Wings long and pointed. Sexes dimorphic. Flight rapid and undulating. Food: Generally insects and fruits. Voice: Loud fluty and melodious notes. Nest: A deep cup of woven grass and fibres, slung like a hammock within a fork of branches. Eggs: 2-5. **Plate 109.**

IRENIDAE

Fairy-Bluebirds

One species in the Indian region, two worldwide. Midsized and heavily built with brightly coloured plumage, chiefly blue and black or combinations. Iris red. Sexes dimorphic, the males more brightly coloured. Inhabits tall forest. Food: Fruits, seeds, flower nectar and insects. Voice: A variety of mellow and sibilant whistles, harsh chattering. Nest: A rough platform in fork of sapling or under-canopy tree. Eggs: 2-3. **Plate 109.**

DICRURIDAE

Drongos

Pugnacious arboreal birds. Plumage chiefly black or grey. Eyes reddish-brown or red in most species. Bill stout, hooked and notched. Legs short, toes and claws stout, the latter curved and needle-sharp. Wings long; tail variable: medium to extremely long and deeply forked, some with projecting 'streamers'. Sexes alike. Flight swift and agile. Food: Chiefly insects and other small creatures, and flower-nectar. Bold and fearless, will attack and drive away larger birds intruding the precincts of the nest-tree. Nest: A shallow cup of twigs and grass, compacted with cobwebs, placed in a horizontal fork of twigs. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 110.**

ARTAMIDAE

Woodswallows (Swallow-Shrikes)

Arboreal birds with fine-textured soft plumage; the only passerines possessing powder-down feathers. Body stout; neck short. Bill stout, rather finch-like, slightly curved, pointed, and with a wide gape. Legs short and stout; feet strong. Wings long and pointed. Sexes nearly alike. Flight swift and swallow-like, several rapid wing-beats followed by an effortless, graceful glide. Food: Insects caught on the wing. Nest: A loosely structured shallow cup of grass and roots, placed on a branch or in the head of a palm tree often at considerable height from the ground. Extremely aggressive when nesting, attacking crows and raptors coming in the vicinity of the nest-tree. Eggs: 2-4. **Plate 109.**

CORVIDAE

Jays, Magpies, Treepies, Choughs and Crows

The largest among passerine birds. Most species highly gregarious and social. Bill stout and powerful. Tarsi large, either fully booted or scutellated in front and booted behind. Wings and tail strong. Sexes alike or nearly so. Food: All types of plant and animal matter. Most species bold and aggressive. Some species show a highly developed intelligence and have a complex social organisation. Nest: Generally bulky, open, made of twigs. Eggs: 3-6. **Plates 111-112.**



PLATE 1: DIVERS AND GREBES

1. (1) **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (BLACK-THROATED LOON) *Gavia arctica* (V) Duck±:65cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts. Single record from Ambala (Haryana). **ID:** Non-breeding plumage largely grey-black and white, with less white on face and sides of neck than Red-throated Diver. Breeding birds have a black throat. Bill straight or appears decurved.
2. (2) **RED-THROATED DIVER** (RED-THROATED LOON) *Gavia stellata* (V) Duck±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts. Single records from the Makran coast off Pakistan (more reports in recent years) and SE Nepal. **ID:** Non-breeding plumage largely grey and white. Breeding birds have a chestnut throat. Bill appears upcurved.
3. (3) **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* (RM) Duck-:50cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and littoral waters. Chiefly a migrant to N and C Subcontinent; also recorded from Chilika (Orissa) and Kerala. Breeding records from lakes in Baluchistan, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. **ID:** A large grebe with pinkish bill and long slender neck. Two upstanding backwardly-directed, blackish ear-tufts above head and ruff of chestnut and black elongated feathers, conspicuous and diagnostic. **(1)**.
4. (3a) **RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena* (V) Duck-:42cm. **Occurrence:** Recorded in Nammal Lake (Salt Range, Pakistan), also in Pong Reservoir (Himachal) and Nayri Reservoir (Rajkot, Gujarat). Also reported from W Gangetic Plains and Assam. **ID:** Cheeks pale greyish; neck rufous; base of bill yellow. In winter, grey and white like Great Crested Grebe, but smaller with a thicker neck and dusky-grey (*contra* white) face.
5. (-) **HORNED GREBE** *Podiceps auritus* (V) Duck-:34cm. **Occurrence:** A few records from Pakistan (SE Baluchistan and N Indus valley) and Uttarakhand. **ID:** Somewhat like Black-necked Grebe but neck rufous, head triangular and with a crest; bill stouter and not upturned. Cheeks white in winter plumage. In flight, exhibits dual white patches on upperwing (*vs.* only one patch in Black-necked Grebe).
6. (4) **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis* (V) Duck-:33cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes. Pakistan, NW India. Also recorded from SW Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** Dark brown above with blackish cap. Golden cheek-plumes. Chin and throat black, foreneck dark brown. Cheeks dusky in winter plumage. See also Horned Grebe.
7. (5) **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (R) Pigeon±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Village tanks and ponds. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Small, squat, tailless. Above dark brown with crown darker. Sides of head, throat and neck chestnut. Silky, smoky-white below with dusky-brown flanks. Base of bill and gape yellowish-green. **(2)**.



PLATE 2: STORM-PETRELS AND PETRELS

1. (14) **WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Pakistan and western Indian sea coasts, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives, W Bengal, Andamans(?). **ID:** Sooty-black with a conspicuous white rump and a pale wing-band. Slender black legs with distinctive lemon-yellow webbed toes, which characteristically project beyond the short, square tail in flight.
2. (16) **SWINHOE'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma monorhis* (V) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Three records: Colombo, Lakshadweep and off Thrissur (Kerala). **ID:** Similar to Wilson's Storm-Petrel, but appears uniform sooty-brown; rump dark (*vs.* white); tail forked (*vs.* square-cut); legs are shorter and feet black.
3. (-) **MATSUDAIRA'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma matsudairae* (V?) Bulbul±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Unconfirmed sight records in the seas of the SW Subcontinent. **ID:** Larger than Swinhoe's with the white patch at base of outer primaries diagnostic. Tail forked. [Hy-PCR]
4. (15) **BLACK-BELLIED STORM-PETREL** *Fregetta tropica* (V) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Two (doubtful) records, Bay of Bengal and Car Nicobar. **ID:** Like Wilson's, but with underside including middle of underwing white. A black band along mid-belly through undertail-coverts. Flight weaker with more bat-like fluttering.
5. (-) **WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL** *Pelagodroma marina* (V) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Nicobars, south Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives. **ID:** Grey rump, white wing-lining and dark eye-patch on white face diagnostic. Below: Forewing and underparts white, tail and hindwing black.
6. (6) **CAPE PETREL** *Daption capense* (V) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Specimen from Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka in 1870; one sight report. **ID:** A black and white pelagic petrel with a dark head and tail tip, conspicuously chequered back, and two large, roundish white patches on upper surface of each wing.
7. (13b) **BULWER'S PETREL** *Bulweria bulwerii* (V) Pigeon-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Single confirmed record from Maldives. Sight reports in waters off S India and SW Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep(?). **ID:** A small brownish-black petrel, rather paler on chin and edges of greater wing-coverts. Tail long and wedge-shaped. Bill short and slim (*vs.* thick in Jouanin's). Flight weak with rapid wing beats.
8. (13a) **JOUANIN'S PETREL** *Bulweria fallax* (R) Pigeon-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Arabian Sea, Sri Lanka (specimen). **ID:** Larger than Bulwer's with broader wings, the flight more strong with long glides. Overall brownish-black with long wedge-shaped tail. Bill short and thick (*vs.* thin in Bulwer's).



PLATE 3: SHEARWATERS AND BOOBIES

1. (9) **WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus pacificus* (R) Duck-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic, warmer parts of Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** A slim and long-winged shearwater. Dark chocolate-brown above with blackish primaries and wedge-shaped tail. Face and throat dark brownish-grey. Below dimorphic in coloration with a greyish-brown (dark) or white (light) phase. Bill dark brown (*vs.* pink in similar Flesh-footed Shearwater).
2. (8) **FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus carneipes* (V) Duck-:50cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Kanniyakumari (specimens), Kerala coast (photograph), two sight records from Sri Lanka, Maldives (sight). **ID:** Bulkier than Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Dark sooty-brown or chocolate-black; sides of head and neck greyish-brown. Pinkish bill and feet; rounded tail.
3. (10) **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus tenuirostris* (V) Duck-:42cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic, records off Sri Lanka and Pakistan. **ID:** A medium sized shearwater, overall dark sooty-brown with blackish crown and primaries. Tail short. Feet dark.
4. (7) **STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas* (V) Duck-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. One definite record from Sri Lanka; reports from waters between India and Sri Lanka, and off Sri Lanka. **ID:** Easily recognised by its white face streaked with black. Upperparts grey-brown, scaly; below white. Bill pale.
5. (11) **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** *Puffinus lherminieri* (R) Pigeon-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. *Breeding:* Maldives. Lakshadweep(?), Arabian Sea. **ID:** Sooty-black above, greyish along sides of neck and breast. White below, with undertail-coverts and wing edges black. **Note:** The similar **PERSIAN SHEARWATER** *Puffinus persicus*, with records off Pakistan, Kerala and Mumbai coasts, has a larger bill, darker underwing, and streaks on flanks and axillaries.
6. (23) **MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra* (M) Duck+:80cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Pakistan. Occasionally western Indian seaboard and Sri Lanka. Lakshadweep(?), Maldives. **ID:** Largest among the boobies. Mainly white, wing quills, greater wing-coverts and tail chocolate-brown. Bill varies from blue-grey, greenish-yellow, yellow or red. Feet yellow, orange, greenish or slaty-blue. *Immature:* Head and neck dark brown; body greyish-brown.
7. (24) **RED-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula sula* (M) Duck-:41cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Maldives (breeding?), Lakshadweep(?), Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from Masked Booby by small size, whitish tail and red feet. *Immature:* Overall dull brown; bill dark.
8. (25) **BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* (M) Duck+:76cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Commonest Booby. Gujarat, Kerala and Sri Lanka coasts, Lakshadweep, Maldives and Bay of Bengal. **ID:** Chocolate-brown above with black primaries. Below, neck and upper breast chocolate-brown, rest white including under surface of black-margined wings. *Immature:* Separated from Masked Booby by the brownish (*vs.* whitish) tinge to underparts and absence of hind collar.



PLATE 4: FRIGATEBIRDS AND TROPICBIRDS

1. (31) **GREAT FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata minor* (V) Kite+:93cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Recorded from coasts of India, Lakshadweep, S and W coasts of Sri Lanka, and Maldives (breeding?). **ID:** *Male:* Overall glossy-black above and brownish-black below without any white in the plumage; red gular pouch. *Female:* The greyish throat and foreneck and white of breast not extending onto underwing separate it from the *female* Lesser and Christmas Island frigatebirds.
2. (30) **CHRISTMAS ISLAND FRIGATEBIRD** (CHRISTMAS FRIGATEBIRD) *Fregata andrewsi* (V) Kite+:95cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. One record each from Sri Lanka and Andamans(?). **ID:** The small white patch on lower belly of *male* and the extensive white on underparts extending onto the sides of wings in *female* diagnostic.
3. (32) **LESSER FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata ariel* (R) Kite+:80cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Maldives (*breeding*). Stragglers, mostly storm-blown, reported from shores of Mumbai, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobars and Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male* distinguished from all other frigatebirds, besides the smaller size, by the white extensions into underwing from the breast. *Female* has the throat and abdomen black; the breast's buffy-white extends prominently onto the underwings.
4. (18) **RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon rubricauda* (R) Tern±:39cm (without streamers). **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Tropical W Indian Ocean. Stragglers to Bay of Bengal, also Nicobars. **ID:** Overall, silky-white with black shafts to wing and tail feathers. In *adult*, red tail-streamers diagnostic. Bill red, blackish in *juvenile*.
5. (17) **GREY-BACKED TROPICBIRD** (RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD) *Phaethon aethereus* (R) Tern±:48cm (without streamers). **Occurrence:** Pelagic. N Indian Ocean. Recorded off Pakistan coast, specimens from west coast (Mumbai, Kerala), Lakshadweep, Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Upperparts white, finely barred with black. Bill coral-red, yellow in *immature*. The black primaries and white tail-streamers separate it from Red-tailed Tropicbird; and the black eye-stripe extending till hind-crown separate both adult and immature from (4) and (6), which have shorter eye-stripes.
6. (19) **YELLOW-BILLED TROPICBIRD** (WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD) *Phaethon lepturus* (R) Tern±:38cm (without streamers). **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Maldives (breeding). Stray records from Kerala, Andamans, Car Nicobar, off Sri Lanka and once inland (Cachar, Assam). **ID:** Bill orange-yellow in *adult*, dusky yellow in *juvenile*. In flight, the diagonal black band from forewing to base of tail diagnostic in *adult*. Black outer primaries; tail-streamers white.

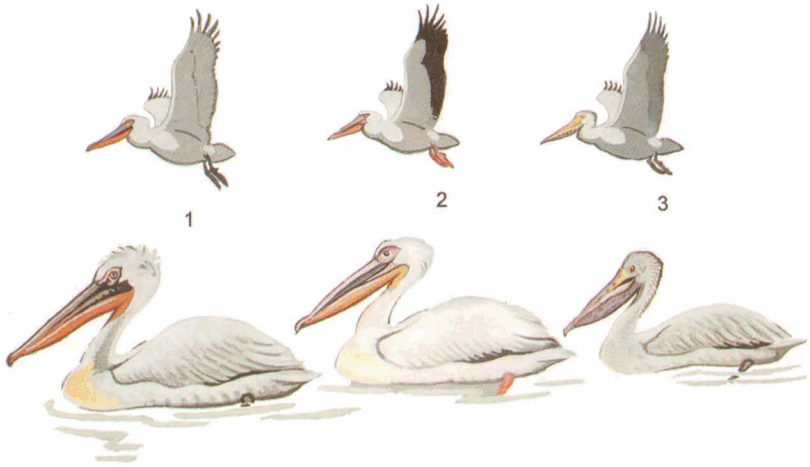


PLATE 5: PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND DARTER

1. (22) **DALMATIAN PELICAN** *Pelecanus crispus* (M) Peahen+:183cm. **Occurrence:** Large water bodies. Pakistan; S Gujarat; W and C Gangetic plains; Chilika(?); Assam valley(?); Bangladesh(?). **ID:** Like Great White while at rest at a distance, but easily differentiated in flight by lack of black flight feathers on underwing. Forehead feathers ending in a concave crescentic line. Other distinguishing characters from Great White are the dark grey (*vs.* pink) legs and feathered (*vs.* bare) face. **(5).**
2. (20) **GREAT WHITE PELICAN** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (M) Peahen+:183cm. **Occurrence:** Large water bodies. **Breeding:** Earlier Kachchh; no recent records. **Winter:** Pakistan, N and C India, Gangetic Plains, Assam valley and Bangladesh; two records from Kerala. **ID:** White tinged with rose; flight feathers black on underwing. Feathers of forehead ending in a point above the bill; pinkish to orangish (naked) eye-patch. Legs pink. See also Dalmatian Pelican. **(3).**
3. (21) **SPOT-BILLED PELICAN** *Pelecanus philippensis* (R) Peahen+:152cm. **Occurrence:** Large lakes, rivers and estuaries. Now largely restricted to Sri Lanka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa (Chilika Lake) and Assam; winter visitor to Gangetic Plains wetlands. **ID:** Smallest of the three pelicans. Drab white above with more grey on head and neck. **Immature** has greyish-brown or brownish upperparts. Flight feathers dusky on underwing. A small, untidy crest. Bill pinkish-purple with blue spots on upper mandible. Legs black. Separated from Dalmatian Pelican by smaller size, more greyish (*vs.* whitish) plumage, brownish (*vs.* pale) eyes, pinkish-purple (*vs.* orange) gular-pouch and brownish-grey (*vs.* whitish) flight feathers on underwing. **(4).**
4. (26) **GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo* (RM) Duck+:80cm. **Occurrence:** Inland waters and tidal lagoons. Subcontinent; occasionally high-altitude Himalayan lakes up to c. 3,450m; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large, bulky cormorant with a thick neck. The bright yellow gular skin, white patch on thighs, and the head, neck and crest washed with white in breeding birds are pointers. In the non-breeding season, the white in the plumage disappears and the gular skin becomes dull, and the bird is separated from other cormorants chiefly on size and the thick neck. **(6).**
5. (27) **INDIAN SHAG** (INDIAN CORMORANT) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* (RM) Duck+:63cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, rivers, reservoirs and estuaries. Subcontinent (except Himalayas); Sri Lanka. **ID:** Glistening bronze-black above and jet-black below with white tufts of feathers behind ear-coverts. In non-breeding season, distinguished from the distinctly larger Great Cormorant by size; and smaller Little Cormorant by the yellow gular skin, white-speckled (*vs.* white) throat and longer and more slender bill; eyes emerald-green. **(7).**
6. (28) **LITTLE CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax niger* (RM) Crow+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes, reservoirs, tidal creeks. Subcontinent (except Himalayas and N Pakistan); Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from Indian Shag by smaller size, shorter and stouter bill and absence of yellow gular skin. Breeders with short crest and scattered silky-white feathers and plumes on forecrown and sides of head. Throat whitish in the non-breeding season, breast brown. **(8).**
7. (28a) **PYGMY CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (V) (RM) Crow+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Vagrant to Baluchistan. **ID:** A look-alike of Little Cormorant, separated by the more brown plumage during winter. White plumes on head and neck when breeding.
8. (29) **ORIENTAL DARTER** *Anhinga melanogaster* (RM) Duck+:90cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes and reservoirs. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Unmistakable with its long slender snake-like neck and head with straight, pointed, stiletto-shaped bill. Swims with body submerged with only the snake-like head and neck above water. **(9).**



PLATE 6: EGRETS AND HERONS

1. (45-46) **GREAT EGRET** (LARGE EGRET) *Egretta alba* (RM) Peahen±:91cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, rivers. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Maldives and S Andamans. **ID:** Large, lanky, snow-white egret with blackish (tinged reddish when breeding) legs. Bill yellow (black when breeding). Breeders with ornamental plumes (aigrettes) over the back.
2. (47-48) **INTERMEDIATE EGRET** (MEDIAN EGRET) *Egretta intermedia* (RM) Village hen+:80cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, estuaries, swamps. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, S Andamans. **ID:** Separated from Great Egret by the shorter bill, head and neck (also lacks the sharp kink), the gape not extending beyond eye, and presence of aigrettes on both back and breast in breeders. Bill either yellow or black (breeding season).
3. (49) **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* (RM) Village hen± 63cm. **Occurrence:** Inland wetlands, marshes, estuaries. Subcontinent; Maldives, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Small, snow-white egret. Bill black. The yellow feet contrasting with black legs diagnostic. Aigrettes on nape, back and breast. **(20)**.
4. (50) **WESTERN REEF-EGRET** (WESTERN REEF-HERON) *Egretta gularis* (RM) Village hen±:63cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky seashores, tidal lagoons and mudflats, mangrove swamps. Pakistan; W India; SE coast, rare on NE coast; Sri Lanka. **ID:** In two colour phases: pure white or slaty-grey with white throat and fore-neck. White phase birds separated from Little Egret by the greenish (*vs.* black) legs, solitary habit and seacoast habitat. Breeding plumes on nape, back and breast as in Little Egret. **Note:** The **PACIFIC REEF-EGRET** (PACIFIC REEF-HERON) *Egretta sacra* (51), distributed in the Andaman and Nicobars and Sundarbans, is smaller, has a heavier bill, and shorter neck and legs. Also dimorphic. Breeding birds sport a bushy nuchal crest (*vs.* aigrettes in the Western Reef-Egret).
5. (44) **EASTERN CATTLE-EGRET** *Bubulcus coromandus* (RM) Village hen±:51cm. **Occurrence:** Usually associated with grazing cattle, not necessarily near water. Subcontinent, Sri Lanka; reported from Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** Non-breeders differ from Little Egret by thicker neck, heavy yellow bill, and dark legs (*vs.* black legs with yellow feet). Breeders, golden-buff on head, neck and back.
6. (35-36) **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea* (RM) Peahen+:98cm. **Occurrence:** Swamps, estuaries and rocky offshore islets, also large inland waters. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** Ashy-grey with white crown and neck and long black occipital crest. A black dotted line down middle of foreneck till breast. **(12)**.
7. (33) **WHITE-BELLIED HERON** *Ardea insignis* (R) Peahen+:127cm. **Occurrence:** Swamps, lakes and rivers. Bhutan, Nepal, NE India and Bangladesh. Sight records from Tamil Nadu, Bihar, near Delhi. **ID:** Considerably larger than Grey Heron. Dark grey; throat, belly and vent white. Breeders with greyish nape plumes and elongated breast feathers.
8. (37-37a) **PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea* (RM) Peahen+:97cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, reedy lakes and rivers. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka; records also from Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** Purplish-blue or slaty above. Crown and crest slaty-black, rest of head and neck ferruginous; black stripe on foreneck and sides of neck. Chin and throat white. Plumes on upper breast buffy-white with chestnut streaks. Rest of underparts black and rich chestnut. *Juvenile* rufescent with scaly upperparts. **(13)**.
9. (34) **GOLIATH HERON** (GIANT HERON) *Ardea goliath* (V) Peahen+:142cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes, swamps and estuaries. Records from Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Bangladesh, Sundarbans, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Last record in Sundarbans in 2005. **ID:** Like a gigantic Purple Heron, but lacks the black crown and the bill and legs are blackish (*vs.* yellowish). Black stripes on sides of neck. **(8)**.

PLATE 7



PLATE 7: HERONS AND BITTERNS

1. (38-41) **STRIATED HERON** (LITTLE HERON, LITTLE GREEN HERON) *Butorides striata* (R) Village hen±:46cm. **Occurrence:** Inland waters, swamps and mangroves. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Plumage varies from light grey to blackish. Forehead, crown and occipital crest glossy greenish-black. Cheeks, chin and centre of throat white. **(15).**
2. (42-42a) **INDIAN POND-HERON** *Ardeola grayii* (R) Village hen±:46cm. **Occurrence:** Shallow marshes, streams, paddyfields and ponds. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Largely snow-white, which is prominent in flight but effectively camouflaged by earthy-brown at rest. Very handsome in breeding plumage with head and neck yellowish-brown with long recumbent white or buff occipital crest; back turns deep maroon. **(16).**
3. (43) **CHINESE POND-HERON** *Ardeola bacchus* (RM) Village hen±:52cm. **Occurrence:** Inland waters. Assam valley, Bangladesh; Andamans; one record from Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Indian Pond-Heron in non-breeding plumage, but larger and longer billed. Breeding birds with head, neck, breast and nuchal crest dark maroon-chestnut. Back and scapulars blackish-slaty. Rest of body including chin, throat, belly, wings and tail white.
4. (53-54) **MALAYAN NIGHT-HERON** *Gorsachius melanolophus* (RM) Village hen+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Marshy pockets and streams in tropical evergreen forest. Patchy in NE India, W Ghats, Sri Lanka (migrant?), Nicobars. **ID:** Crown and bushy nuchal crest ashy-black. Above, chestnut-cinnamon finely barred with black; tail black with rufescent tip. White or sandy-rufous below, patterned with rufous and black. *Immature:* Overall grey mottled with black. Blackish crest and nape white-spotted. **(23).**
5. (52) **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (R) Village hen+:58cm. **Occurrence:** Inland waters, estuaries, coastal lagoons and backwaters. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Stocky, grey, white and black heron with a stout bill. Crown, nape, drooping occipital crest and back black, the crest with a few narrow white plumes. Crepuscular and nocturnal. A distinctive *wock* or *kwaark* is uttered from time to time while flying to and from feeding grounds. *Immature* birds brown, streaked and speckled with white. **(22).**
6. (56) **CHESTNUT BITTERN** (CINNAMON BITTERN) *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (RM) Village hen-:38cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds, flooded paddyfields, rarely coastal backwaters. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** *Male:* Chestnut-cinnamon above including bushy crest; white submoustachial-stripe diagnostic. Chin and throat whitish with a dark median stripe down foreneck. A patch of black and chestnut-buff edged feathers on upper breast. Rest of underparts pale chestnut. *Female:* Chestnut-brown above; buffy-rufous below with heavy brown streaks from middle of foreneck and breast flanked by parallel broken lines. **(25).**
7. (57) **YELLOW BITTERN** *Ixobrychus sinensis* (RM) Village hen-:38cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds, paddy and swamps. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Crown dark grey; face vinaceous-pink. Back, shades of brown; flight feathers blackish. Rump ashy-grey; tail slaty-black. Underparts largely pale yellow. *Female* and *juvenile* more dull brown with buff streaks on back. In flight, the yellowish-fawn body contrasting with black flight feathers diagnostic. **(26).**

8. (55) **LITTLE BITTERN** *Ixobrychus minutus*(RM) Village hen-:36cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes with dense reed-beds. Pakistan; N India; Kashmir up to c. 1800m; Nepal, east to Assam(?) and Bangladesh(?); Maharashtra (vagrant). **ID:** *Male:* Like Yellow Bittern, but back black with a large grey to whitish patch on closed wings. In *female*, the black of back replaced by chestnut-brown; is overall darker than female Yellow Bittern. In flight, the pale wing-panels contrasting with black flight feathers and back diagnostic. *Juvenile* like juvenile Yellow Bittern but more rufous-orange. **(24)**.

9. (58) **BLACK BITTERN** *Dupetor flavicollis* (RM) Village hen±:58cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy marshes. Subcontinent up to c. 1200m; Sri Lanka; Maldives (winter); Andamans(?). **ID:** *Male:* Slaty-grey to almost black above. A band of bright ochre-yellow on sides of neck. Chin and throat white with a rufous dotted line down the middle. Slaty-grey to brownish-black below. *Female* is a dark brown. **(27)**.

10. (59) **EURASIAN BITTERN** (GREAT BITTERN) *Botaurus stellaris* (M) Village hen+:71cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy reed-beds. Subcontinent, rare in peninsular India, Sri Lanka (one record). **ID:** A large bittern, overall yellowish-buff mottled and streaked with brown. Flight feathers darker, especially noticeable in flight. **(28)**.

Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* (Extinct?)

Separated from Indian Peafowl (bottom right) by green coloration and upstanding crest of blue-green feathers. Train coppery-bronze. Now probably extinct in the Indian subcontinent; formerly NE hill states and northern W. Bengal.





PLATE 8: STORKS, IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

1. (66) **BLACK-NECKED STORK** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* (R) Peahen+:135cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and large rivers. Scarce and very local in Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A handsome black and white stork with up-curved, massive black bill and coral-red legs. Iris brown in *male* and yellow in *female*. In overhead flight, the large size, black neck and bill, pure white underparts with a broad black diagonal band across wing diagnostic. **(34)**.
2. (60) **PAINTED STORK** *Mycteria leucocephala* (RM) Peahen±:93cm. **Occurrence:** Large marshes. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Overall white; upperwing-coverts black with white barring. Black barring on breast. Wings and tail quills black. Delicate rose-pink tertials. Bill yellow and long, slightly decurved at tip; legs orange-red. **(29)**.
3. (63) **EUROPEAN WHITE STORK** (WHITE STORK) *Ciconia ciconia* (M) Peahen+:106cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, moist grassland, harvested crop fields. Pakistan, NW India, Gangetic Plains, east to Bangladesh and Assam, south decreasingly through the Peninsula. **ID:** An all white stork except for the black scapulars and wing quills. Legs and bill red. **Note:** The similar **ORIENTAL WHITE STORK** (ORIENTAL STORK) *Ciconia boyciana* (64), a reported winter visitor to NE India, has a slightly upturned black bill and white eyes. **(32)**.
4. (65) **BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra* (M) Peahen+:106cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, rivers and small streams. Pakistan and N India, south to Peninsula; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Black above, glossed with green, bronze, and purple. Throat, neck and upper breast also blackish, white below. **(33)**.
5. (61) **ASIAN OPENBILL** *Anastomus oscitans* (R) Duck+:68cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes and marshes. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small stork resembling the two white storks but is off-white and has peculiar arching mandibles with a narrow gap in-between.
6. (62) **WHITE-NECKED STORK (WOOLLY-NECKED STORK)** *Ciconia episcopus* (R) Peahen+:106cm. **Occurrence:** Flooded grasslands, irrigated fields, marshes in forest, and also sometimes in dry grasslands. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A red-legged black stork with conspicuous white neck and undertail-coverts. Crown black. **(31)**.
7. (67) **GREATER ADJUTANT** *Leptoptilos dubius* (RM). Peahen+:130cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, carcass dumps. Now largely restricted to Assam. Formerly, N India west to Pakistan (Sind) in SW monsoon, east to Bangladesh (sporadic), and south to Deccan. **ID:** The largest and ugliest of Indian Storks. Plumage black, grey and dirty white. Naked reddish and yellow head and neck; a huge four-sided wedge-shaped bill. Naked pinkish gular-pouch distinctive. In flight, the broad black wings with a whitish band along the middle diagnostic. **(35)**.
8. (68) **LESSER ADJUTANT** *Leptoptilos javanicus* (RM) Peahen+:110-120cm. **Occurrence:** Swamps, flooded land, carcass dumps. Breeds in Assam, Gangetic plains and Sri Lanka; wanders widely over north and south India. **ID:** Like the Greater Adjutant-Stork, but smaller with a less erect carriage, has black instead of slaty upperparts and lacks the gular-pouch. **(36)**.
9. (70) **INDIAN BLACK IBIS (BLACK IBIS, RED-NAPED IBIS)** *Pseudibis papillosa* (R) Village hen±:68cm. **Occurrence:** River banks, jheel margins, stubble fields and grasslands. Endemic. SE Sind, eastwards to Bangladesh and south especially along the

eastern Peninsula. **ID:** Glossy-black with slender, curlew-like bill. White patch near shoulder. A triangular patch of brilliant red warts covering top of naked black head. Legs brick red. **(38)**.

10. (71) **GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* (RM) Village hen±:52cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and river banks. Pakistan; India south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka; Maldives. **ID:** A small, blackish ibis with feathered head and slender, downcurved bill. Breeding birds are rich dark chestnut or maroon-brown above, heavily glossed with green or purple-chestnut below. Non-breeding birds have white-streaked, brown head and neck. **(39)**.

11. (69) **ORIENTAL WHITE IBIS (BLACK-HEADED IBIS)** *Threskiornis melanocephalus* (R) Village hen±:75cm. **Occurrence:** Rivers, marshes, mangroves and inundated land. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Snow-white with naked black head, neck, and down-curved curlew-like bill. In flight, the bare blood red patches on flanks and underwing conspicuous. Breeding birds have grey scapulars and long ornamental plumes overhanging the base of neck. **(37)**.

12. (72) **EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* (RM) Duck±:60cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, rivers and jheels. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Snow-white with a distinctive long, flat, black and yellow spatulate bill. A cinnamon-yellow patch at base of foreneck and breast. Naked throat yellow-orange. *Juvenile* has black-tipped primaries. **(40)**.

Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* (Extinct?)

Last seen in Darbhanga, Bihar in 1935. Had straggled to Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. A shy and secretive bird of ponds in tall grass jungles of east India.

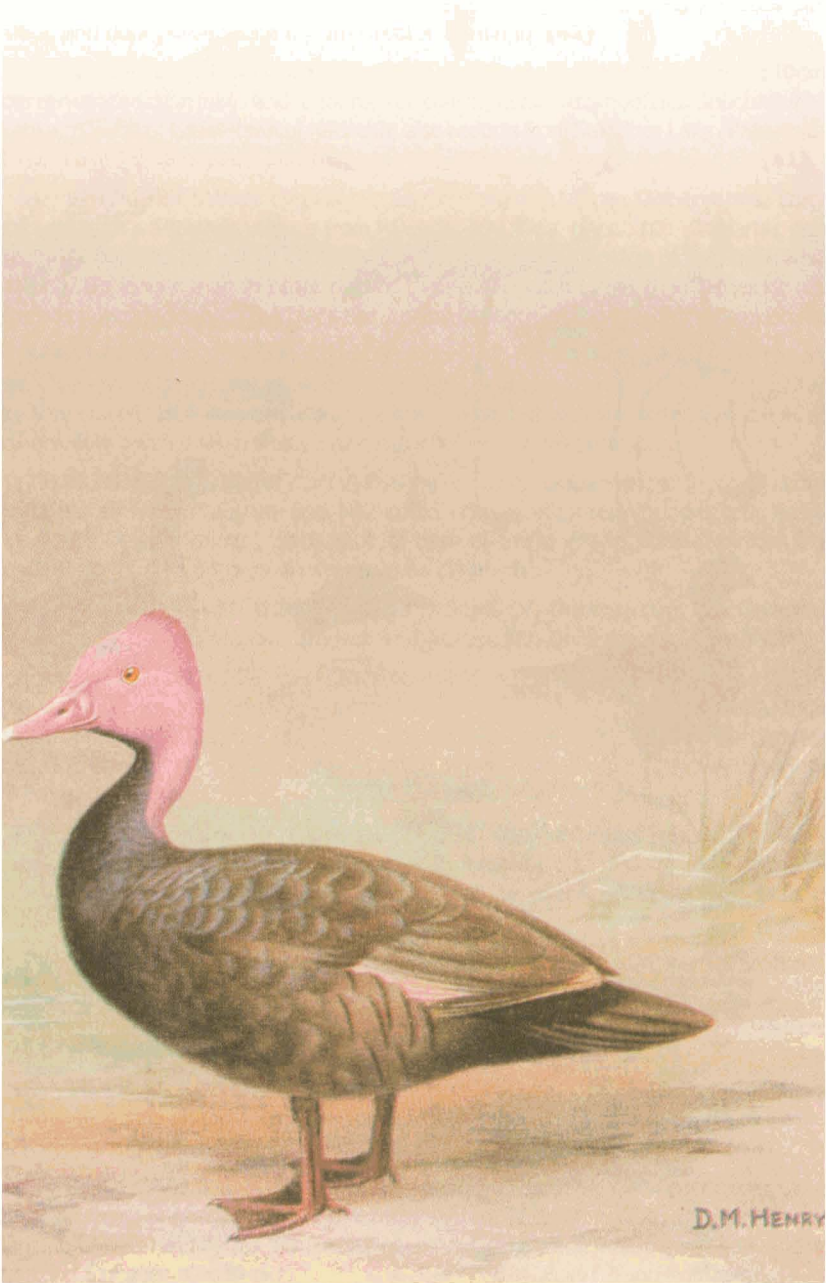




PLATE 9: FLAMINGOS, SWANS AND GEESE

1. (74) **LESSER FLAMINGO** *Phoeniconaias minor* (RM) Duck+:90cm. **Occurrence:** Brackish lakes and lagoons, sea coasts, estuaries, mudflats. NW India and Pakistan; straggler or wanders elsewhere. **Breeding:** Great Rann of Kachchh; also reports from Little Rann and Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan). **ID:** The smaller size, deeper rose-pink plumage and dark bill separate it from Greater Flamingo. **(42).**
2. (73) **GREATER FLAMINGO** *Phoenicopterus roseus* (RM) Peahen+:140cm. **Occurrence:** Brackish lakes and lagoons, sea coasts, estuaries, mudflats. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **Breeding:** Great Rann of Kachchh; also reports from Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan) and Thol Lake (Ahmedabad). **ID:** Unmistakable, see also Lesser Flamingo (1). **(41).**
3. (86) **WHOOPER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus* (V) Peahen+:152cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers. Less than a dozen old records from Pakistan, NW India, Nepal. **ID:** Very large, pure white and goose-like, but with a markedly straight and upright carriage of long neck while swimming. Bill longer than in other swans, the yellow patch larger than Berwick's and extends as a wedge towards the black tip. **Juvenile** dull grey with dark tipped, pinkish bill.
4. (84-85) **BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus bewickii* (V) Peahen+:122cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes. Three records from Pakistan, one from Delhi, and one from Kachchh. **ID:** Smallest of the three swans and very similar to Whooper Swan, but with less extensive yellow on bill, the yellow patch oval in shape. **Juvenile** smoky-grey, bill pinkish.
5. (87) **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor* (V) Peahen+:152cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels. A dozen old records all from Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** Similar to Whooper, but easily distinguished by a prominent black knob at base of the long and pointed pinkish bill. **Juvenile** sooty-brown, bill grey, the black lores diagnostic.
6. (75) **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** *Branta ruficollis* (V) Duck±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Only three reports from Madhya Pradesh and Assam. **ID:** Unmistakable. **[Hy-PCR].**
7. (80) **LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser erythropus* (M) Duck±:53cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and lakes. Pakistan, Kashmir and N India, east to Assam. Single records from Maharashtra, Orissa (Chilika) and Andhra Pradesh (Rollapadu). **ID:** Smaller, darker, with shorter bill and neck than Greater White-fronted Goose, and with slightly more white on forehead. Yellow eye-ring diagnostic.
8. (79) **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons* (M) Duck+:68cm. **Occurrence:** Large lakes. Pakistan and N India, east to Assam and Manipur; southernmost record Orissa. **ID:** Brownish-grey goose with a white patch at base of pinkish bill. Lacks eye-ring of Lesser (7).
9. (76-77) **BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis* (V) Duck+:76cm. **Occurrence:** Few records: Nepal, Punjab (Harike Lake), Arunachal, Assam(?) and SE Bangladesh(?). **ID:** Separated from Greylag in being more brown on upperparts, and by the particoloured (vs. all pink) bill and orange-yellow (vs. pink) legs.
10. (81) **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* (M) Duck+:81cm. **Occurrence:** Large jheels and lakes. Pakistan, N and C India, east to Assam valley and Manipur, south to Chilika Lake (Orissa), Sri Lanka (once). **ID:** Overall ashy-brown; pink bill and legs. **(43).**
11. (82) **BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus* (RM) Duck+:75cm. **Occurrence:** Large jheels and rivers. **Breeding:** Ladakh. **Winter:** Pakistan, N India, east to Bangladesh and south to Tamil Nadu and Kerala. **ID:** Overall pale grey with a white face, the white extending down to sides of neck. Two black bars at the back of head in *adult*. Bill and legs yellow. **(44).**



PLATE 10: DUCKS

1. (90) **RUDDY SHELDUCK** (BRAHMINY SHELDUCK) *Tadorna ferruginea* (RM) Duck+:66cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes and rivers. *Breeding:* Ladakh. *Winter:* Subcontinent, rare in S India; Lakshadweep (record of a captive bird), S Andamans (storm-blown), Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Orange-brown, paler on head and neck. Metallic-green speculum with white upperwing- and underwing-coverts. Tail and primaries black. *Breeding male* with black collar. **(47)**.
2. (91) **COMMON SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna* (M) Duck±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes and large rivers. Pakistan, N India, Nepal; south to Kachchh, N Maharashtra and Orissa (Chilika); east to Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** Strikingly coloured in white, black and chestnut. Bill bright red, knobbed at the base in *male*. Legs pink. **(48)**.
3. (89) **LARGE WHISTLING-DUCK** (FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK) *Dendrocygna bicolor* (RM) Duck-:51cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy jheels and reservoirs. Largely lowlands of NE Subcontinent; Chilika Lake. Reports also from Pakistan, south to the Deccan, Andaman and Nicobars and Sri Lanka, but mixup with Lesser Whistling-Duck probable. **ID:** Separated from smaller Lesser Whistling-Duck by the creamy-white rump, dark streak on back of neck, diffuse rusty-white collar and absence of chestnut forewing. **(46)**.
4. (88) **LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK** *Dendrocygna javanica* (R) Duck-:42cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, reservoirs, reedy ponds. Subcontinent, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** The chestnut rump and upper forewing, and the dark crown separate it from the larger Large Whistling-Duck. **(45)**.
5. (115) **COMB DUCK** (NAKTA) *Sarkidiornis melanotos* (R) Duck+:76cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy tanks in well-wooded plains. India from Nepal terai, east to Bangladesh, and south to N Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Formerly Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but now probably extinct. **ID:** Black above glossed with green and purple. Head and neck white speckled with black; underparts white. The *male* has a knob at base of bill, becoming greatly swollen during the breeding season. **(67)**.
6. (116) **WHITE-WINGED DUCK** (WHITE-WINGED WOOD-DUCK) *Asarcornis scutulata* (R) Duck+:81cm. **Occurrence:** Secluded pools, and marshes in dense forest. Formerly resident in Bangladesh, Assam, Arunachal and Manipur; now chiefly Arunachal and E Assam valley. **ID:** Overall chocolate-brown. Head and neck white, speckled with black, the *female* with a heavily speckled head. Bill dull yellow. The large white shoulder-patch and sky-blue secondaries on upperwing diagnostic. White of underwing bordered by dark brown flight feathers, conspicuous in flight. **(68)**.
7. (106) **PINK-HEADED DUCK** *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* Extinct. Duck±:60cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and swampy lowland grass jungles. Formerly resident from Bihar to Assam, Manipur and Orissa. Had straggled to Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. Last reliable record 1935. **ID:** *Male* brownish-black with partially tufted head, neck and bill pink. *Female* is duller with the head suffused with pink.



PLATE 11: DUCKS

1. (100) **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos* (RM) Duck±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Shallow jheels and marshes. N Subcontinent, south to Maharashtra. Breeding in small numbers in Kashmir. **ID:** *Male:* Head and neck glistening metallic-green separated by white collar from chestnut breast. Purple-blue speculum. Underparts grey, vermiculated with black. Legs orangish; bill yellow-orange. *Non-breeding male* and *female* brown and buff streaked. Bill orange in *female* with a black patch on upper mandible. **(54).**
2. (93) **NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* (M) Duck-:56-74cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy jheels, brackish lagoons and estuaries. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** *Breeding male's* plumage, elongated body, slender neck and long pointed pin-like central tail feathers diagnostic. Upper plumage grey; speculum metallic bronze-green. *Non-breeding male* and *female* mottled brown and buff. In overhead flight, the pointed pin-tail is a quick clue. **(50).**
3. (97-99) **SPOT-BILLED DUCK** *Anas poecilorhyncha* (RM) Duck±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and shallow reservoirs. Subcontinent up to c. 1800m in Kashmir; Andamans (once), N Sri Lanka (occasional). **ID:** Scaly patterned grey and dark brown. White border to metallic-green speculum. Coral-red legs. Two orange-red spots at base of yellow-tipped bill. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK** *Anas poecilorhyncha* (97-98) and **CHINESE SPOT-BILLED DUCK** *Anas zonorhyncha* (99). The latter, a vagrant to Assam, Manipur and Bihar, lacks the orange-red spots at base of bill, is less scaly, has double face-stripes and blue (*vs.* green) speculum. **(52).**
4. (105) **NORTHERN SHOVELLER** *Anas clypeata* (M) Duck-:51cm. **Occurrence:** All types of inland waters. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** Both sexes readily identified by the broad shovel-shaped bill and orange legs. *Male* has chestnut belly and dark green head in breeding plumage. Bill orange in *female* and *non-breeding male*. **(59).**
5. (103) **EURASIAN WIGEON** *Anas penelope* (M) Duck-:49cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy marshes. Pakistan; N and NE India, southwards to Tamil Nadu; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding male* grey with chestnut head and neck; distinctive yellow-cream patch on forecrown. Belly white in breeding and eclipse plumages. Bill small, narrow, blue-grey. *Non-breeding male* and *female* reddish-brown above and speckled with black; whitish below. **(57).**
6. (101) **GADWALL** *Anas strepera* (M) Duck-:51cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy marshes. Subcontinent, rare in S India; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** *Breeding male* brown and grey; belly white; bill, rear underparts and tail black. Crescentic markings on breast. Glistening white speculum, bordered with black and chestnut. *Female* a smaller version of female Mallard with also orange bill; the white speculum diagnostic. **(55).**



PLATE 12: DUCKS

1. (94) **COMMON TEAL** *Anas crecca* (M) Duck±:38cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and marshes. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** *Breeding male* with chestnut head and broad metallic-green mask bordered narrowly with white. Tricoloured (black, metallic-green and buff) speculum; yellow patch at rear along sides of tail. *Female* and *non-breeding male* brown with speckled brown throat. **(51).**
2. (104) **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula* (M) Duck-:41cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, reservoirs and lakes. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding male* has head and neck pinkish-brown with conspicuous broad and long white supercilium. Scapulars long, lanceolate, glossy black with median white. *Female* like Common Teal, the green and white speculum and unmarked whitish throat are pointers. **(58).**
3. (92) **MARBLED TEAL** (MARBLED DUCK) *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (RM) Duck-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy jheels. *Breeding:* Pakistan. *Winter:* NW India to Uttar Pradesh, straggling east to Assam and south to Pune (Maharashtra). **ID:** Sexes alike. Greyish-brown spotted with buff and black; whitish below. Brown eye-patch; slight nuchal crest. **(49).** **Note:** The same-sized female **MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata* (114) is also spotted on sides like Marbled Teal, but is dark brown with prominent white eye-stripe and eye-ring. The red-billed *male* is an attractive chestnut and buff duck, with a broad white supercilium, dark breast and upperparts. The chestnut wing-fans, edged with white and black diagnostic. The species is a vagrant to NE India.
4. (96) **ANDAMAN TEAL** *Anas albogularis* (R) Duck+:43cm. **Occurrence:** Swamps and tidal creeks. Endemic to Andamans. **ID:** *Breeding male* chocolate-brown and grey producing a scaly effect. Throat, foreneck, around eye and sometimes entire face white. Speculum green and black, bordered with white. *Female* duller.
5. (95) **BAIKAL TEAL** *Anas formosa* (V) Duck+:40cm. **Occurrence:** Pakistan east to Assam, Bangladesh and Manipur: A score of records in all. **ID:** *Breeding Male:* Head gaudily coloured in black, green, buff and white. Long scapulars velvety-black, white and cinnamon. Sides slaty, below white. *Female* is brown with a white patch at the base (sides) of bill; dark eye-stripe.
6. (102) **FALCATED DUCK** (FALCATED TEAL) *Anas falcata* (V) Duck-:51cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, large rivers. Pakistan; Nepal; Gujarat, N and NE India; W Bengal and Bangladesh, including Sundarbans. **ID:** *Breeding male* is strikingly peculiar and beautiful. Head metallic bronze-green and chestnut-purple with a bushy mane like nuchal crest. Very long, sickle-shaped, velvety black, grey and white feathers covering hind part of body and tail. *Female* scaly-brown; wing largely grey with a black and green speculum; short nuchal crest. **(56).**



PLATE 13: DUCKS

1. (108) **COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* (M) Duck:-48cm. **Occurrence:** Open jheels and reservoirs. Pakistan and NW India, decreasingly eastward to Bangladesh, Assam and associated states, and southward to Tamil Nadu. **ID:** *Breeding male* with chestnut-red head and neck. Back and belly silvery-grey, breast and rear black. In eclipse plumage duller, black replaced by brown. Grey forewing without much contrast in flight. *Female:* Greyish with dark brownish, head, breast and rear; pale throat. Pale stripe behind eye diagnostic. **(62).**
2. (111) **TUFTED POCHARD** (TUFTED DUCK) *Aythya fuligula* (M) Duck:-46cm. **Occurrence:** Open jheels and reservoirs. Pakistan; Nepal; N and NE India; Bangladesh; decreasingly south to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala (vagrant); Sri Lanka; Maldives. **ID:** *Male:* Jet black above with black occipital tuft. Flanks and belly white. Broad white band on trailing edge of wing in both sexes. *Female:* Overall dark brown, lighter on the belly. The occipital tuft and thinner (sometimes inconspicuous) white band behind bill help differentiate it from *female* Greater Scaup. **(64).**
3. (112) **GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila* (V) Duck:-43cm. **Occurrence:** In Subcontinent, on freshwater lakes; elsewhere largely a sea duck. Pakistan, N India, Nepal, south to Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, east to Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** Like Tufted Pochard, but without tuft and pale grey (*vs.* black) on back. White band behind bill in *female* broader than in Tufted Pochard. **(65).**
4. (107) **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** *Netta rufina* (M) Duck:-54cm. **Occurrence:** Large jheels and reservoirs. Pakistan and NW India, decreasingly eastward to Assam and southward to Tamil Nadu. **ID:** *Male:* Golden-orange head, red bill, brownish-black underparts with large white flank patches diagnostic. *Female:* Dull brown above with dark brown, slightly mopped crown. Pale face and foreneck diagnostic. **(61).**
5. (109) **FERRUGINOUS POCHARD** (FERRUGINOUS DUCK, WHITE-EYED POCHARD) *Aythya nyroca* (RM) Duck:-41cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and reservoirs. *Breeding:* Kashmir and Ladakh. *Winter:* Pakistan; NW and NE India; Bangladesh; south to Deccan, Kerala; Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** *Male:* Rich rufous and blackish-brown with white oval patch on belly and foreflanks; vent white. Duller in eclipse. Eyes white in *male*, brown in *female*. *Female* duller, more brown than chestnut. **(63).**
6. (110) **BAER'S POCHARD** *Aythya baeri* (M) Duck:-46cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and reservoirs. Rajasthan, Bihar to NE India, Bangladesh, Chilika Lake (one record), N Pakistan (vagrant). **ID:** *Male* like Ferruginous Pochard, but head and neck black glossed with green. Belly, vent and foreflanks white. *Female* is darker than Ferruginous Pochard and has a chestnut patch on face near bill.



PLATE 14: DUCKS

1. (123) **WHITE-HEADED DUCK** *Oxyura leucocephala* (M) Duck-:46cm. **Occurrence:** Large lakes. Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** Tail of stiff pointed, wire-like feathers, often carried comically upright while swimming, diagnostic. Head of *male* white in breeding season, otherwise brown with blackish bars like *female*. Peculiar sky-blue bill of drake diagnostic.
2. (118) **COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* (M) Duck-:46cm. **Occurrence:** Open reaches of swift-flowing rivers. Pakistan; Nepal; N and NE India; Bangladesh (old report). **ID:** *Male:* Black and white plumage, triangular mop-shaped head, white cheek-patch, and the large white patch on wing diagnostic. *Female* with more brown or grey; lacks cheek-patch.
3. (119) **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus* (M) Duck-:46cm. **Occurrence:** Clear Himalayan foothill streams. Pakistan; Nepal terai and N India, east to Assam and NE Bangladesh, south to Gujarat and Orissa (Chilika). Rare. **ID:** *Breeding male* predominantly white with metallic-black eye-patch and drooping nuchal crest. In flight, an easily recognised pied duck with broad black spinal band, dark tail, and black and white wings. *Female* and *Non-breeding Male:* Head and nuchal crest chestnut-red. In flight, the contrasting chestnut and white head, greyish body, and black and white wings distinctive. (69).
4. (117) **LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* (V) Duck-:42cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and large rivers. Three records from Pakistan, one each from Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Nepal and Arunachal. **ID:** *Male* (winter): The contrasting chocolate-brown and white plumage, short bill, dark cheek-patch and the long pointed tail carried horizontal while swimming, and fanned and erected under excitement, distinctive. *Female* (winter): Back and breast dull brown, rest whitish except for brown cheek-patch.
5. (114) **COTTON TEAL** (COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE) *Nettapus coromandelianus* (R) Francolin±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and ponds. Subcontinent; Andamans (straggler), Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** Smallest among the ducks with goose-like stubby bill. *Breeding Male:* Crown and back blackish-brown, the back glossed with green. Black collar around base of neck; white wing-bar. *Female* and *non-breeding male* duller and browner; *female* has a dark eye-stripe. (66).
6. (120-121) **COMMON MERGANSER** *Mergus merganser* (RM) Duck+:66cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers, lakes and fast-flowing streams. *Breeding:* Ladakh. Pakistan and N India, south to Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh and east to Assam. **ID:** *Breeding male's* head and back black with metallic green-purple gloss; rest overall greyish and vermiculated with white. Head rufous in *female* with a single pointed crest; rest of body greyish and vermiculated with white. In flight, the rufous head, grey back, blackish and white wings, thin neck, pointed red bill and red legs distinctive for eclipse *male* and *female*.
7. (122) **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator* (V) Duck+:58cm. **Occurrence:** Seas, saline lakes. Reported from coasts and lakes of Pakistan and W Bengal. **ID:** *Male* has a straggly, backwardly-directed double crest. *Breeding male* has a blotchy, chestnut band on upper breast. *Female* like female Common Merganser but head less rufous, double-crested, and upperparts are greyish-brown (*vs.* grey).



PLATE 15: KITES AND BAZAS

1. (132-134) **BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans* (R) 61cm.

a: Race *govinda* Occurrence: Chiefly urban localities. Subcontinent; Andamans (vagrant), Lakshadweep(?), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Overall dark brown, the tail more deeply forked than the other two races, but less deep than in Red Kite.

b: Race *migrans* Occurrence: Chiefly urban localities. Baluchistan. *Winter:* Sind. **ID:** Differs from race *govinda* by the black-streaked, pale head and neck. Paler brown above than *govinda*, more rufous below.

c: Race *lineatus* Occurrence: Open wooded country of Pakistan and India, south to c. 18°N. *Breeding:* Ladakh and N Kashmir, possibly throughout the Himalayas. **ID:** Separated from the other two subspecies in overhead flight by larger size and the conspicuous white underwing patch. Paler underparts without rufous tinge, the dark ear-coverts and heavy streaking are identification pointers. Tail fork very shallow.

2. (131) **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus* (V) Kite:61cm. **Occurrence:** Sight reports from Ladakh, Nepal, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Orissa. **ID:** Like Black Kite but rusty-brown above with paler head; rusty-red below. Tail bright rufous and deeply forked. Prominent white patch at base of black primaries. [**Hy-PCR**].

3. (135) **BRAHMINY KITE** *Haliastur indus* (R) Kite-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast and inland waters. Subcontinent (except Baluchistan); Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** An unmistakable small, handsome chestnut kite with white head, neck and breast. Outer primaries black tipped. Tail rounded. *Immature:* Overall brown, showing dark-tipped creamish primaries in overhead flight. **(76)**.

4. (124) **BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (BLACK-WINGED KITE) *Elanus caeruleus* (R) Crow-:33cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous biotope: thin savannah forest, grassland, cultivation; plains and hills up to c. 1300m. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep (vagrant). **ID:** A dainty ashy-grey and black raptor, the black shoulder patch conspicuous at rest, and black primaries showing in overhead flight. Hovers like a kestrel scanning the ground. **(71)**.

5. (125-126) **JERDON'S BAZA** *Aviceda jerdoni* (R) Crow+ :48cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen foothills. Range disjunct: E Himalayas, Sikkim, Darjeeling; Assam and associated states; Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh up to c. 1800m; and in S W Ghats between 150-900m in Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; Sri Lanka. One record from Eastern Ghats in Orissa. **ID:** A stocky, broad and rounded-winged raptor. Prominent white-tipped, black upstanding crest; a bold black mesial-stripe. Abdomen conspicuously barred rufous-brown and white. Tail brown with three bands, the terminal broadest. **(72)**.

6. (127-128a) **BLACK BAZA** *Aviceda leuphotes* (RM) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen foothills forest. *Summer:* Uttarakhand to Assam valley. *Winter:* S Assam hills, W Bengal, Bangladesh, Andamans, E Peninsula, southern W Ghats and Sri Lanka. Old breeding reports (?) from Kerala. **ID:** An unmistakable prominently crested, stocky black and white hawk with chestnut-barred white underparts; lower belly black. White and chestnut blotches on scapulars and flight feathers; a white breast gorget. *Female* has smaller white patch on secondaries and more chestnut bars on belly. **(73)**.

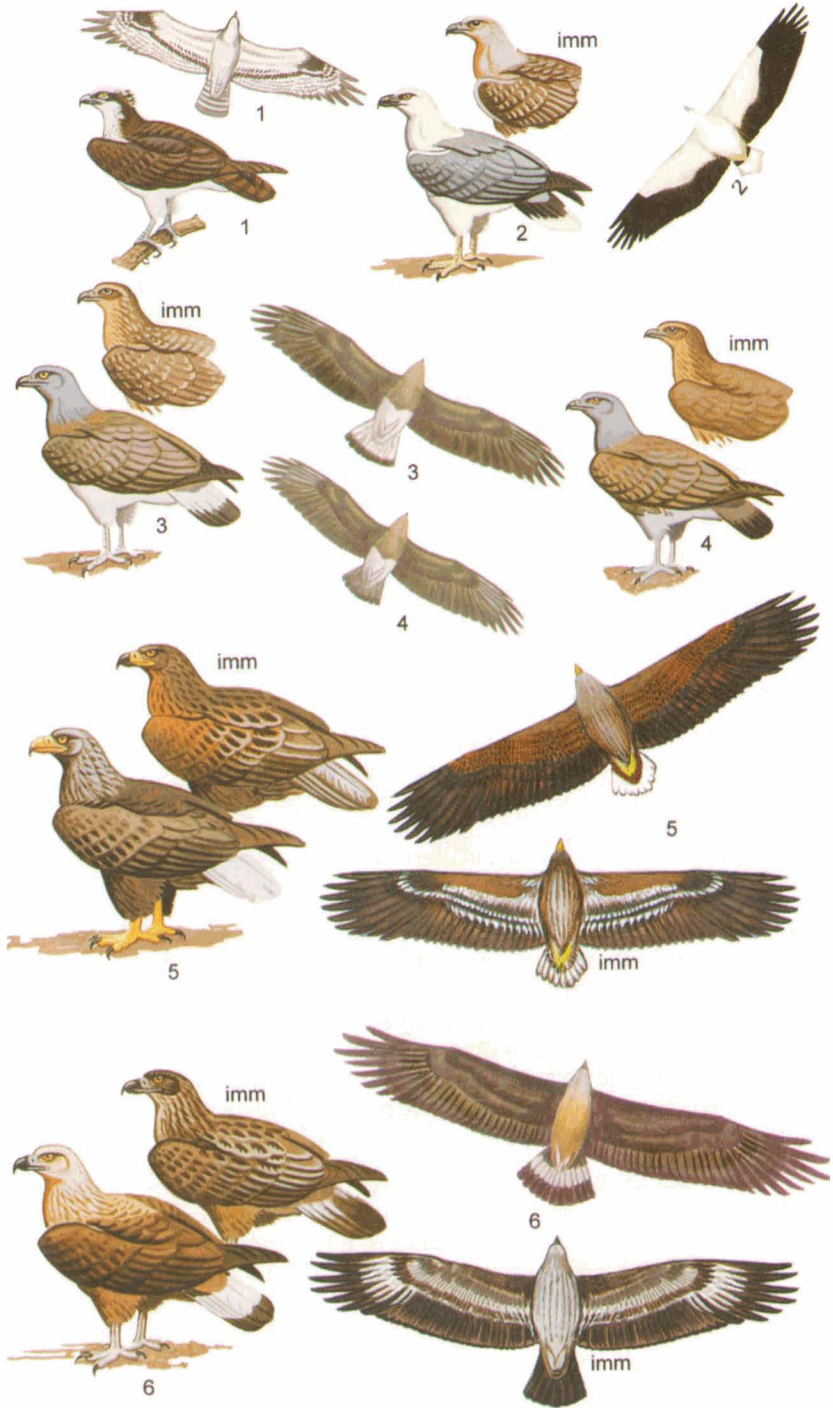


PLATE 16: OSPREY AND FISH-EAGLES

1. (203) **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* (RM) Kite-:56cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes, jheels. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **Breeding:** Rarely in the Himalayas, 2000-3800m. **ID:** Dark brown above with a slightly tufted head; broad black eye-stripe. Pure white below with a brown-streaked band across upper breast; dark carpal and wingtips. **(109)**.
2. (173) **WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (R) Kite+:66-71cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast from Gujarat to Bangladesh; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep (old record), Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Ashy-brown above with white on head, neck, underparts and terminal third of tail. In flight, the broad blackish border on trailing edge of white underwing and white wedge-shaped tail diagnostic. **Juvenile** brown with blackish-tipped tail resembling adult Pallas's, but is smaller, paler with more white in underwing flight feathers. The wedge-shaped, pale and dark-tipped tail also diagnostic. **(94)**.
3. (175-176) **GREATER GREY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE** (GREY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE) *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (R) Kite+:74cm. **Occurrence:** Rivers, lakes, reservoirs in well-wooded country. Gangetic Plains east of Delhi to Assam, Bangladesh; Nepal; south to Kerala, Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head and neck grey. Brownish above and on breast. Abdomen, flanks and tail white, the tail with a blackish terminal band. **Juvenile** pale brown with streaked head, throat and breast. See also Lesser Grey-headed Fish-Eagle **(96)**.
4. (177) **LESSER GREY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE** (LESSER FISH-EAGLE) *Ichthyophaga humilis* (R) Kite±:64cm. **Occurrence:** Clear forest streams; foothills up to c. 2400m. Base of Himalayas from Kashmir to Arunachal; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh. **Winter:** Plains of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; recent reports from Kerala and Karnataka. **ID:** Like larger Greater Grey-headed Fish-Eagle (3), but head purer grey; tail grey-brown with a broad, blackish terminal band (*vs.* white with a narrow, terminal band). In overhead flight, the tail pattern readily distinguishes it from (3). **Immature** like (3) but less streaked.
5. (172a) **WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** (WHITE-TAILED SEA-EAGLE) *Haliaeetus albicilla* (M) Kite+:69-86cm. **Occurrence:** Essentially a sea-eagle, but wanders up large rivers and to jheels and inundations. W and S Pakistan eastwards to Assam; Nepal; Bangladesh; also recorded from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala and Orissa (Chilika). **ID:** A huge, dark brown eagle with paler head, neck and upper breast, and short white tail. The long broad wings and white tail diagnostic. Besides, the wing shape and pattern (see illustration), the short whitish tail identifies *immature* birds.
6. (174) **PALLAS'S FISH-EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (RM) Kite+:76-84cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers, lakes and jheels. Pakistan; N India east through Bangladesh; south to Orissa (Chilika) in the east and Maharashtra (Mumbai) in the west. **ID:** Dark brown with pale golden-brown head and neck; broad white subterminal band across tail. In flight, the pale band across the underwing-coverts, pale patch in inner primaries and all dark tail are diagnostic for *immature* birds. See also juvenile (2). **(95)**.



PLATE 17: VULTURES

1. (186-187) **EGYPTIAN VULTURE** (SCAVENGER VULTURE) *Neophron percnopterus* (R) Kite±:64cm. **Occurrence:** Near towns and villages. Subcontinent up to c. 3600m; Sri Lanka (straggler: one record). **ID:** A small kite-like, yellow-billed vulture with naked yellow face. Overall white with black wing-quills. In flight, the wedge-shaped tail diagnostic. Young blackish-brown. **(102)**.
2. (188) **BEARDED VULTURE** (LAMMERGEIER) *Gypaetus barbatus* (R) Peahen+:122cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayas and associated northern mountains. Pakistan, Kashmir and east to Arunachal, normally 1200 to 4200m and soaring to over 7000m. **ID:** A handsome eagle-like vulture with feathered head and neck, and long wedge-shaped tail. Adult with bristle-like feathers, the 'beard', pendant under the chin. Legs fully feathered unlike vultures. In flight, the long and comparatively narrow wings and wedge-shaped tail separate it from Himalayan Griffon and eagles of the Himalayas.
3. (179) **CINEREOUS VULTURE** *Aegypius monachus* (RM) Peahen+:105cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert. Pakistan from Baluchistan to Gilgit; possibly elsewhere in the dry temperate zone along the Himalayas. Winter visitor or vagrant to S and E Pakistan, NW India, Central India and northeast till Bhutan. Two recent records from Kerala. **ID:** A huge blackish-brown vulture with naked, leaden-pinkish neck, blackish ruff and partially naked, broad angular head. In flight, the uniform dark underparts and broad wings diagnostic. Somewhat similar to *juvenile* Himalayan Griffon, but lacks the whitish bands on underwing-coverts. **(98)**.
4. (178) **RED-HEADED VULTURE** (KING VULTURE) *Aegypius calvus* (R) Peahen:-84cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, cultivation and semi-desert. Subcontinent up to c. 2000m; absent in Sri Lanka. **ID:** Readily identified by the red naked head, neck and legs. The white ruff (at base of neck) and white on upper thighs are additional pointers. In overhead flight, the red head, white ruff and thighs, thin whitish band along forewing and pale secondaries are conspicuous even at long range. **(97)**.

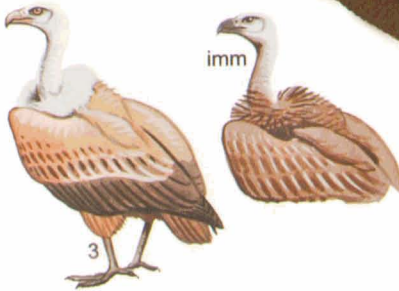
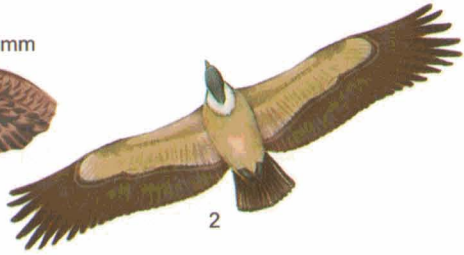
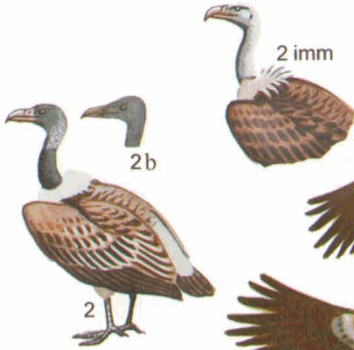
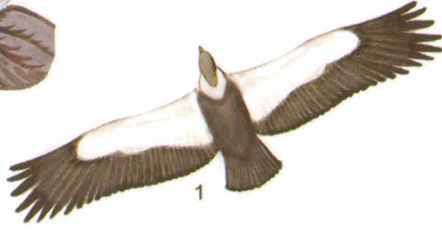
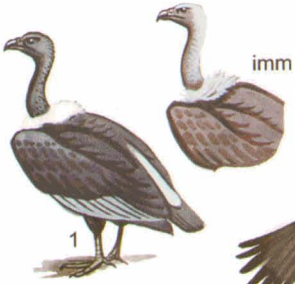


PLATE 18: VULTURES

1. (185) **WHITE-RUMPED VULTURE** (INDIAN WHITE-BACKED VULTURE) *Gyps bengalensis* (R) Peahen+:90cm. **Occurrence:** Open countryside and forests; roosting on trees. Subcontinent, up to c. 2500m; absent in Sri Lanka. Drastic decline in population since the 1990s, also the case with the Long-billed and Slender-billed vultures. **ID:** Brownish-black with naked, blackish neck and head. A whitish ruff at base of neck. The prominent white underwing-coverts, white rump and back, and the blackish head are pointers in flight. Identification clues for *immature* include the dark-brown plumage (darker above and below than Long- and Slender-billed vultures), short blackish bill, rounded head, dense white down feathers on head and neck (brown down on nape) and bare, greyish face. Underparts also more prominently streaked than the other two species. (101).

2. (182) **LONG-BILLED VULTURE** (INDIAN VULTURE) *Gyps indicus* (R) Peahen+:92cm. **Occurrence:** Open countryside; roosting in cliffs. Endemic. Rajasthan, Gujarat and peninsular India south of the Gangetic plains; absent in Sri Lanka. **ID:** Light to dark brown, feathers scalloped. The blackish head, neck and nape patchily covered with whitish-brown down-like feathers. **Note:** The **SLENDER-BILLED VULTURE** *Gyps tenuirostris* (184 - 2b) of the sub-Himalayas from Haryana to Assam, differs in having darker upperparts, a more slender bill and neck, blackish bill and cere (*vs.* horny-yellowish) and lacks down-like feathers on head and neck. *Juveniles* of both species, besides being larger, have lighter plumage and longer bills and heads than White-rumped Vulture. Down on head and neck of juvenile scanty in Slender-billed and dense in Long-billed. The Long-billed Vulture nests colonially in cliffs (however, in trees in Rajasthan) and the Slender-billed Vulture only on trees. **Note:** The distribution of the Long-billed and Slender-billed vultures do not overlap.

3. (180,183) **EURASIAN GRIFFON** (GRIFFON VULTURE) *Gyps fulvus* (RM) Peahen+:100cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert country and bare mountains. *Breeding:* Mountains of Pakistan and Kashmir. *Winter:* Rest of Pakistan, NW India, Nepal up to c. 3000m, Assam, W Bengal, Bangladesh and Deccan (occasional). **ID:** An enormous, cinnamon-brown vulture. Head covered with uniform yellowish-white down-like feathers. Easily separated from the larger Himalayan Griffon by the compact white ruff and blackish (*vs.* pale fleshy) legs. *Juvenile* is much paler than juvenile Himalayan Griffon and is chocolate-brown and heavily streaked with white.

4. (181) **HIMALAYAN GRIFFON** (HIMALAYAN VULTURE) *Gyps himalayensis* (R) Peahen+:122cm. **Occurrence:** Bare high mountains. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; c. 600-2500m. *Juveniles* wander to the adjoining plains. **ID:** The largest bird in the Himalayas. Sandy white or pale khaki above; pale brownish-buff below. Ruff 'unkept' unlike the compact ruff of Eurasian Griffon. In flight, the large size, pale underside, black tail, black trailing edges of the broad almost rectangular wings with splayed tips diagnostic. *Juvenile* is chocolate-brown and streaked white on the forewings, breast and abdomen. *Juvenile*, in overhead flight, shows whitish bands on forewing contrasting with the otherwise dark plumage. Also see juvenile Cinereous Vulture (Plate 17: 3).

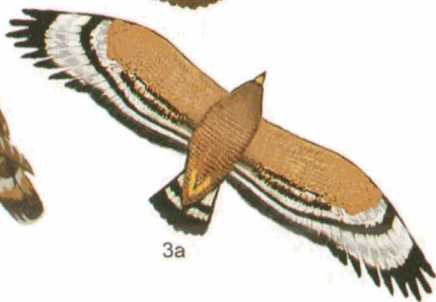
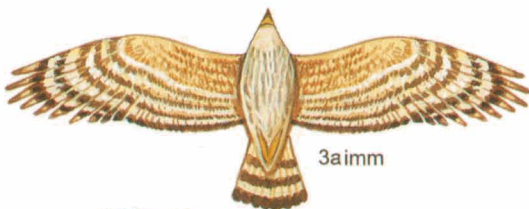
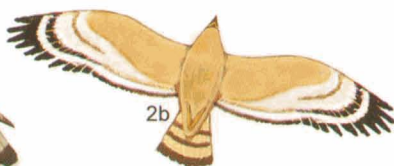
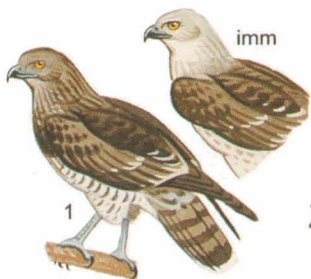


PLATE 19: SERPENT-EAGLES

1. (195) **SHORT-TOED SNAKE-EAGLE** (SHORT-TOED EAGLE) *Circaetus gallicus* (R) Kite+:66cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivated plains, stony deciduous scrub, semi-desert and hills to c. 2300m. Subcontinent; not Sri Lanka. **ID:** A thick-set brown and white eagle with large greyish owl-like head. The unfeathered grey legs, thick frowzy head, and the wings reaching end of tail are diagnostic. In overhead flight, the dark (less evident in *juvenile*) throat and neck contrasting with whitish, finely barred underparts and usually three bands on tail suggestive. **(107).**

2. (201-202) **NICOBAR SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis minimus*. A small serpent-eagle represented by two races:

a: minimus (201) (R) Kite-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Only in forest near rivers in Nicobars. **ID:** Pale brown or grey above. Breast greyish-brown unbarred in adults; underparts ocellated and barred. **Note:** Treated in *The Ripley Guide* as a race of **CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** (3); sometimes considered as a species, **CENTRAL NICOBAR SERPENT-EAGLE/SMALL SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis minimus*.

b: klossi (202) (R) Kite-:46cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic to Great Nicobar Island. Drab brown above with a coppery sheen; underparts unbarred. **Note:** Treated in *The Ripley Guide* as a species: **GREAT NICOBAR SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis klossi*.

3. (196-200) **CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis cheela* (R) Kite±:56-74cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country. Himalayan foothills and Gangetic Plains; peninsular India; Andaman and Nicobars; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Large dark brown eagle with a full rounded black and white nuchal crest, very prominent when erected. Legs, yellow and unfeathered. Underparts pale brown, ocellated and finely barred black and white. Sizes vary with the northern races larger. The race *davisoni* (3b), which frequents tidal creeks and mangroves in the Andamans, is the smallest with pale brown underparts; belly finely barred with darker zigzag lines. *Calls:* A 3-4 noted screaming *kee-kee-kee* or *kek-kek-kek-keee*. **(108).**

4. (202a) **ANDAMAN SERPENT-EAGLE** *Spilornis elgini* (R) Kite-:50cm. **Occurrence:** Inland forest clearings and sparsely wooded hillsides. Endemic to the Andamans. **ID:** Very dark chocolate-brown above and below. Chin and throat blackish, otherwise ocellated below with white spots.

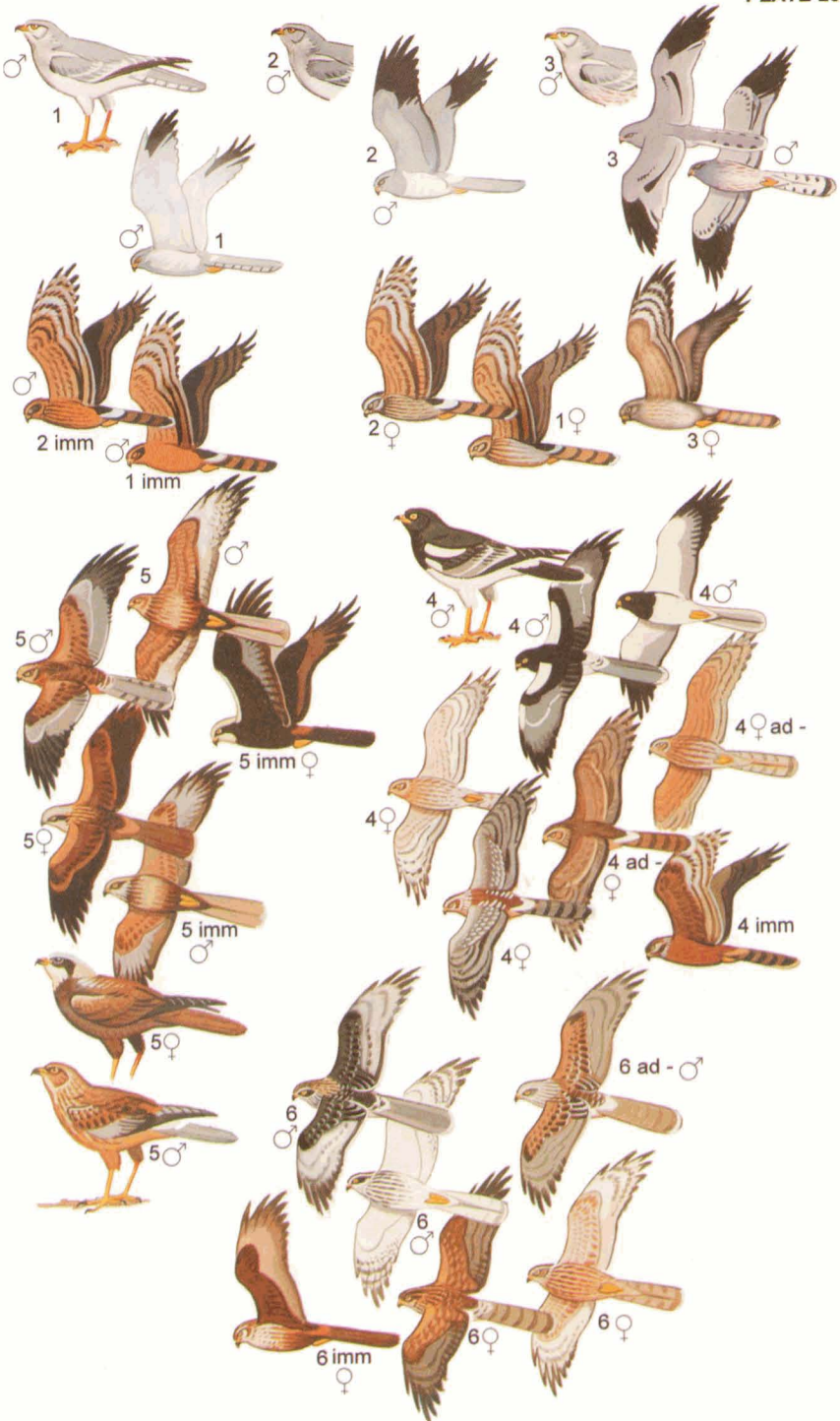


PLATE 20: HARRIERS

1. (190) **PALLID HARRIER** (PALE HARRIER) *Circus macrourus* (M) Kite-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Open country. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Andamans, Maldives. **ID:** At rest, wing tip short of tail tip and birds have a rather erect stance than (2) and (3). *Male* palest of the three grey harriers with much less black on wing tips. *Female* very similar to *female* Montagu's but usually has a darker cheek-patch and dark secondaries and tertiaries. Female less stocky than Hen, with slimmer wings and narrower white uppertail-coverts patch. *Immature* like *female*, but lacks streaks on underparts, has dark secondaries, and darker cheek-patch than Montagu's. **(103)**.
2. (189) **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* (M) Kite-:50cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, foothills to *c.* 2500m. Pakistan and N India, east to Assam and Bangladesh, south to Maharashtra. **ID:** *Male:* Like Pallid but ashy-grey instead of white on throat and upper breast. Wings rather rounded compared to other harriers. The black on wing tips as extensive as Montagu's, but wings lack the transverse black bar. The black edge to secondary also diagnostic. *Female:* The stocky build, broad wings, broad white uppertail-coverts and rather plain face help separate it from other female harriers. *Immature* birds with rufous, streaked (*vs.* unstreaked in Pallid) underparts.
3. (191) **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus* (M) Kite-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, swamps. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent (except NE); Sri Lanka, Andamans(?), Lakshadweep and Maldives?; records also from Kerala. **ID:** At rest, wing tips reach tail tip unlike Pallid; flight more leisurely. *Male* similar to Pallid but has more extensive black in primaries and has a narrow black transverse wing-bar. Rufous streaks on belly and underwing-coverts. *Female* and *immature* more slim than Hen and with narrow (*vs.* broad) white uppertail-coverts, the *immature* with rufous, streaked (*vs.* unstreaked in Pallid) underparts. Female has a paler cheek-patch than Pallid, but more than Hen. **(104)**.
4. (192) **PIED HARRIER** *Circus melanoleucos* (RM) Kite-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Open grasslands, rice fields, margins of jheels. Chiefly NE Subcontinent; breeding records from Assam Valley. Records from N Pakistan eastwards to Uttar Pradesh, southwards to Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male* an unmistakable black and white harrier; some male Eastern Marsh-Harrier somewhat similar with blackish head, but lack the white upper forewing and clear-cut separation in the black and white plumage. *Female* more greyish than other female harriers (*viz.*, 1-3 and 5) with more whitish underparts. *Immature* more dark brown above and rich rufous-brown below than 1-3. **(105)**.
5. (193) **WESTERN MARSH-HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus* (M) Kite-:56cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, flooded ricefields up to *c.* 2000m in the hills. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars(?), Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** A marsh frequenting harrier; larger than other harriers. *Male:* Dark brown with pale rufous head, neck and breast; dark rufous below. Silvery-grey tail and wings; wings black-tipped. *Female:* Chocolate-brown with a creamy-buff cap and throat, and buff leading edge to wing at shoulders. *Immature female* blackish, chocolate-brown with the pale cap and throat. **(106)**.
6. (194) **EASTERN MARSH-HARRIER** *Circus spilonotus* (M) Kite-:56cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes. Reports from NE India and Corbett National Park. **ID:** Both sexes easily separated from the Western Marsh-Harrier by the conspicuously striped nape and throat; some males largely black and white like Pied Harrier (4). See illustrations for *immature*. **[Hy-PCR]**.



PLATE 21: HAWKS

1. (144-146) **CRESTED GOSHAWK** *Accipiter trivirgatus* (R) Crow+:40-46cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous and semi-evergreen foothills forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand eastwards to Arunachal up to c. 2000m; Meghalaya and Bangladesh; lower Godavari river belt region; southern W Ghats from Goa to Kerala; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large, dark brown hawk with forehead, crown and small nuchal crest blackish-grey, the *male* with more grey on face. Tail with four dark bands. Below white, with broad, rufous-brown streaks on breast and barred underparts. Throat white with a conspicuous blackish mesial-stripe from chin to breast. *Juvenile* has streaks on face and underparts. **(78)**.
2. (136) **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis* (R/M?) Kite±:50-61cm. **Occurrence:** Forests. Breeding(?) in lower Himalayas from Kashmir to Bhutan. Sporadic in Pakistan and peninsular India (*winter*). **ID:** Almost twice the size of other hawks. Dark grey above; white, finely crossbarred with black below. White supercilium long and prominent; dark crown and cheeks. *Female* larger with brown upperparts; *juvenile* heavily streaked below.
3. (147-148) **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus* (RM) Crow-:31-36cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country, light forest, groves and orchards. Subcontinent; Andamans (vagrant); absent in Sri Lanka. Race *melaschistos* breeds in the Himalayas, from Baluchistan to Arunachal; winters in the adjoining plains. **ID:** Race *nisus* is similar to Shikra (Plate 22: 1), but is darker and slatier above, longer legged, and has barred (*vs.* unbarred) thighs. A white supercilium, absence of mesial-stripe, and the four to five blackish bands on tail are other identification clues. Race *melaschistos* is darker above and more rufous below and more like Besra, especially the *male*. The absence of mesial-stripe separates it from Besra, which has a bold mesial-stripe. **(79)**.
4. (151) **BESRA SPARROWHAWK** (BESRA) *Accipiter virgatus* (R) Crow-:29-34cm. **Occurrence:** Affects forested country in the Himalayas, NE India, Bangladesh, southwards to the dense forests in W Ghats from Mumbai south through Kerala; sparingly also in E Ghats, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male* and *female* have the darkest upperparts of all hawks. The conspicuous mesial-stripe, strongly streaked orange breast, orange-barred belly, and broad 3-4 bars on tail are other diagnostic clues. **(80)**.

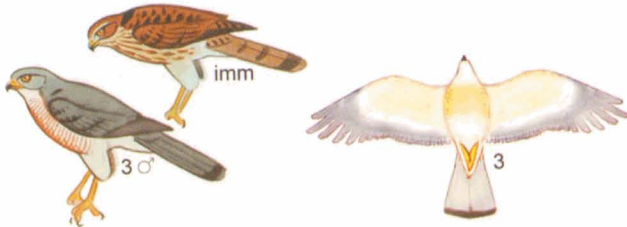
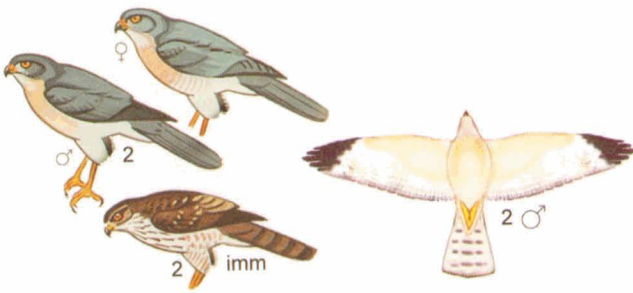


PLATE 22: HAWKS

1. (137-140) **SHIKRA** *Accipiter badius* (R) Crow-:30-34cm. **Occurrence:** Light deciduous forest and village groves, up to c. 1800m. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. Sight report from Lakshadweep. **ID:** Adult *male* pale blue-grey above; white, closely barred with rusty-brown below; indistinct mesial-stripe. *Female* larger, dark smoky-brown washed with grey above; sports a more prominent mesial-stripe than the male. The (usually) unbarred thighs and indistinct barring on uppertail separate both sexes from the Eurasian Sparrowhawk. *Juvenile* scaly, dark brown above; heavily streaked below. Sports mesial-stripe and whitish supercilium. (77).
2. (143) **CHINESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter soloensis* (M) Crow-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Nicobars, Andamans(?), Orissa(?). **ID:** Like Shikra, but slaty to ashy-black above. Below ferruginous paling to white on abdomen. Orange-yellow cere prominent. In flight, the pinkish-orange breast, white belly, black tips to primaries and the pointed wings are identification pointers.
3. (141-142) **NICOBAR SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter butleri* (R) Crow-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic to Car Nicobar and Katchall Is. **ID:** Like Shikra, but smaller with a black subterminal band on tail. Lacks or has an insignificant mesial-stripe; whitish lower belly. *Juvenile* lacks the orange-yellow cere seen in Chinese Sparrowhawk.
4. (152) **JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter gularis* (V/RM?) Crow-:29-34cm. **Occurrence:** *The Ripley Guide* accepts the specimen record from Andamans as authentic, and the others (*viz.*, breeding in Andamans, unconfirmed breeding in Nicobars, the specimen collected from Tamil Nadu) as doubtful due to taxonomic confusion especially with Besra Sparrowhawk. **ID:** *Male* and *female* are smaller and shorter-tailed replicas of the Eurasian Sparrowhawk, with a very similar profile in overhead flight. Crown is darker in both sexes; indistinct mesial-stripe.



PLATE 23: HONEY-BUZZARD AND BUZZARDS

1. (129-130) **ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (RM) Kite±:68cm. **Occurrence:** Subcontinent up to c. 1800m in the Himalayas; Sri Lanka, Andamans and Maldives(?). **ID:** Best separated from other raptors by the pigeon-like face with longish neck. Plumage highly variable, the underwing-coverts and body ranging from whitish, rufous to dark brown. A common phase is greyish-brown above with darker grey head, and pale brown below narrowly barred with white. A short, blackish nuchal crest. Underside of hindwing silvery-grey with close dark barring. Tail greyish with broad, blackish subterminal and median bands separated by pale bands. **(74)**.
2. (157) **WHITE-EYED BUZZARD** *Butastur teesa* (R) Crow± :43cm. **Occurrence:** Open dry forest, scrub and cultivation, Subcontinent. **ID:** The smallest of the buzzards. The white throat bordered by a dark stripe at the sides, the mesial-stripe, small white patch on nape, pale shoulders and white eyes are other identification clues for adult. **(83)**.
3. (155-156) **COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* (RM) Kite-:51-56cm. **Occurrence:** Recorded in winter in E Himalayas, the hills south of the Brahmaputra to Manipur; peninsular India south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu; Sri Lanka. **Breeding:** W Himalayas, from Gilgit, Kashmir eastwards; above c. 2700m. **ID:** A small buzzard with great variability in plumages ranging from blackish, brown, rufous to pale grey. Tail relatively shorter than the other buzzards. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: the migrant and near monomorphic **STEPPE BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* (155) and the resident and polymorphic **HIMALAYAN BUZZARD** *Buteo burmanicus* (156). The Steppe has the tail bright rufous (vs. more brownish in Himalayan) for brown-plumaged birds; and the feathering on tarsus is till 1/3rd (vs. usually 1/2 to 2/3rd in Himalayan). **(82)**.
4. (-) **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus* (V) Kite+:65cm. **Occurrence:** One report from C Bhutan. The white tail with a broad subterminal band (edged white), blackish belly, and large black carpal patches are identification pointers in overhead flight for adults. **[Hy-PCR]**.
5. (154) **UPLAND BUZZARD** *Buteo hemilasius* (RM) Kite+:71cm. **Occurrence:** Breeds in Ladakh. Rare winter visitor to the Himalayas, probably overlooked. Reports from Kashmir, Himachal, Punjab, Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Delhi. **ID:** Like Long-legged Buzzard, but much larger. Extremely variable in coloration, and doubtfully separated in the field from Long-Legged based on plumage alone, but tail brown (vs. rufous) with the sub-terminal and seven other bars somewhat more visible.
6. (153) **LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo rufinus* (RM) Kite±:61cm. **Occurrence:** *Summer:* Precipitous rocky ground with forest. *Winter:* Open country and cultivation. Pakistan; Himalayas east till Bhutan; N and C India; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Colour variable. The pale creamy-rufous tail with obsolete brown crossbars is an identification pointer, however, rufous and black morphs may resemble Common Buzzard. See also Upland Buzzard. **(81)**.



PLATE 24: EAGLES

1. (172) **BLACK EAGLE** *Ictinaetus malayensis* (R) Kite+:69-81cm. **Occurrence:** Partial to hill forest. Lower Himalayas up to *c.* 2700m; Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** The black plumage, narrowly grey-barred tail, bright yellow cere and legs diagnostic. The broad inner primaries and hindwing 'pinched' at body are other quick identification clues. Flies with wings held in a wide (V) above back and splayed primaries. Tail relatively longer than in other eagles. *Immature* brown to blackish with heavy streaking on breast and upper belly. **(93)**.
2. (171) **INDIAN SPOTTED EAGLE** *Aquila hastata* (R) Kite+:61-66cm. **Occurrence:** Open wooded country and cultivation. Chiefly the Gangetic plain and Nepal terai, east to Bangladesh, south to C India, and perhaps further south. **ID:** Separated from the larger Greater Spotted Eagle by paler plumage (except race *fulvescens*), flight feathers darker than forewing (*contra* in Greater), narrower wings, slightly longer tail, and normally less spotting in *immature*. In overhead flight, two (*vs.* single in Greater) white bands edge the primary-coverts. Tail and edge of secondaries white tipped in both *immature* Indian and Greater. **(92)**.
3. (170) **GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** *Aquila clanga* (RM) Kite+:64-72cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and canals. Pakistan, NW India and Nepal, east through Gangetic Plains to Bangladesh. Records also from Carnatic and Kerala. **ID:** A large, dark eagle seen in the vicinity of water. See similar Indian Spotted Eagle (2). **(91)**.
4. (167) **EASTERN IMPERIAL EAGLE** *Aquila heliaca* (M) Peahen-:81-90cm. **Occurrence:** Open treeless country. Pakistan and NW India, east to Nepal, Bhutan, W Bengal and Bangladesh. Recent reports from Rollapadu (Andhra Pradesh), Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Old breeding records from Pakistan doubtful. **ID:** A large eagle, glossy, deep blackish-brown; tawny-buff to whitish on head and neck in adult; a line of whitish patches on shoulders (scapulars); throat and foreneck blackish. Wings long and broad, held flat when soaring and gliding. Tail greyish-brown with a broad, blackish terminal band. **(89)**.

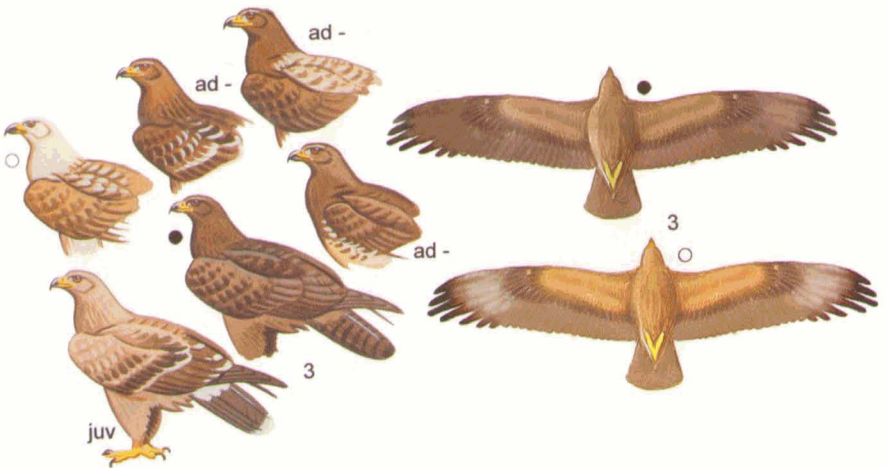
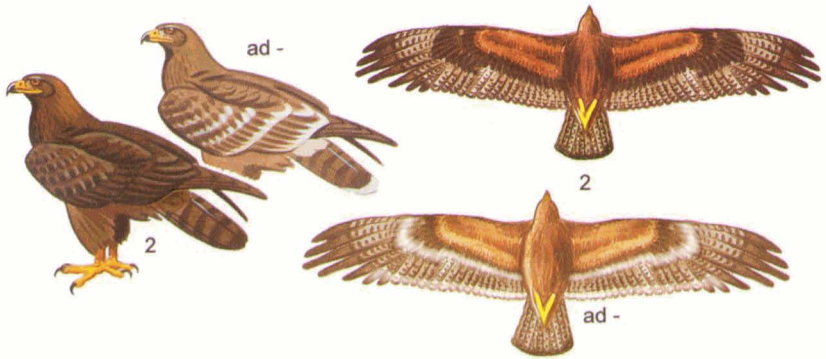
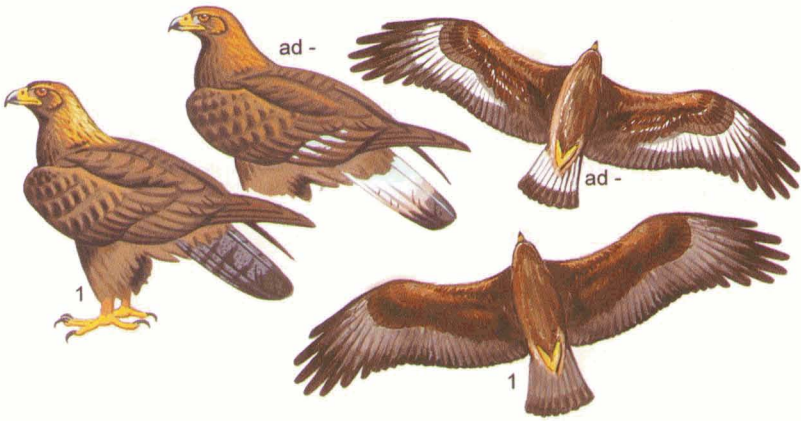


PLATE 25: EAGLES

1. (166) **GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos* (R) Peahen±:90-100cm. **Occurrence:** Rugged high mountain country, c. 1800-5000m. Baluchistan, and Himalayas east till Bhutan. **ID:** A very large eagle, deep chocolate-brown with golden or tawny-rufous hindcrown, nape and hindneck. In soaring flight, the broad wings held in a wide open (V) with widely splayed primaries distinctive. *Juvenile* has a white patch on base of flight feathers and tail.

2. (169) **STEPPE EAGLE** *Aquila nipalensis* (M) Kite+:76-80cm. **Occurrence:** Open plains, often near water. Pakistan, N and C India; also reported from some NE hill states (Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya); Bangladesh(?); rare in south Peninsula till Karnataka. **ID:** A larger version of Tawny Eagle and similarly variable in colour from deep blackish-brown to pale almost buffish-brown; yellow gape extends till rear of eye. The distinct barring on tail and flight feathers, the longer wings, and more projecting head (in flight), separate it from somewhat similar Greater and Indian spotted eagles. See also Tawny Eagle.

3. (168) **TAWNY EAGLE** *Aquila rapax* (R) Kite+:63-71cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert and dry- and moist-deciduous country. Pakistan, eastwards to Nepal, Assam and Bangladesh and south to C India; reports also from the Peninsula. **ID:** Like the larger Steppe Eagle; differences include the yellow gape extending till middle of eye (vs. till behind eye), and the barring on tail and flight feathers being indistinct (vs. distinct). **(90)**.

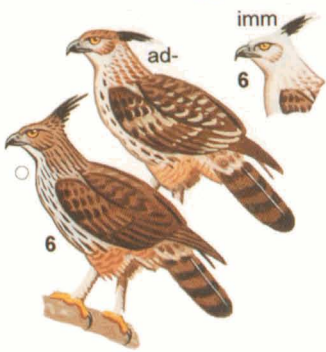
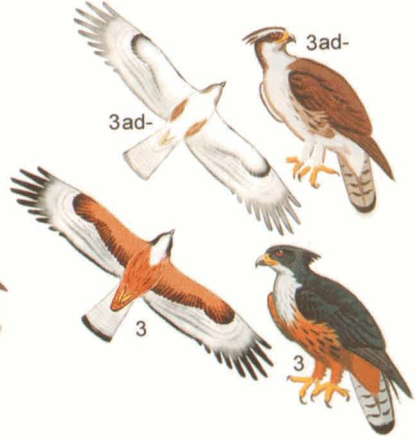
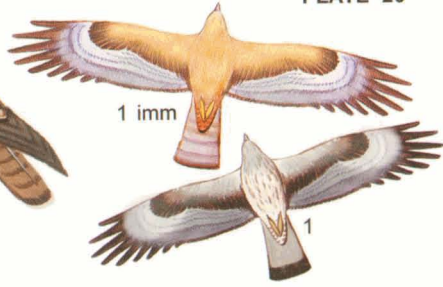
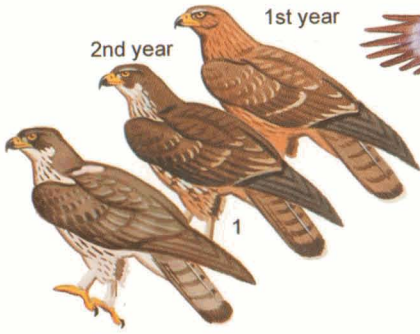


PLATE 26: EAGLES AND HAWK-EAGLES

1. (163) **BONELLI'S EAGLE** *Hieraetus fasciatus* (R) Kite+:68-72cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country. Subcontinent, up to c. 2400m in Himalayas; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Crestless, long-necked eagle with long feathered legs. Tail long extending beyond tips of closed wings. Dark umber-brown above, the whitish patch on upperback (in adult) diagnostic. White to rufous-buff below, streaked with black. In flight, the silvery white body, dark brown underwing-coverts, finely grey-barred flight feathers, and the black terminal band in tail diagnostic. **(86)**.
2. (164) **BOOTED EAGLE** *Hieraetus pennatus* (RM) Kite+:50-54cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country of hills and plains, and semi-desert. *Summer:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Nepal; above 1000m. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka; also reported from Andamans. **ID:** A smaller version of Bonelli's in two distinct plumage phases, and also a less distinct rufous morph. The pale shoulder patch, whitish patch on uppertail-coverts, and (if present), the white spot on sides of base of neck diagnostic. The wing-tips not reaching tail-tip, the dark-tipped tail, long feathered legs, and the black band along trailing edge of underwing (more prominent in light phase) are other identification clues.
3. (165) **RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE** *Hieraetus kienerii* (R) Kite±:53-61cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Range discontinuous: W Ghats from Goa south; Sri Lanka; Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Bhutan; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Upperparts glossy black; a distinct crest. Chin, throat and upper breast white, streaked with black; below rich rufous-chestnut. In overhead flight, the pale grey flight feathers and tail contrasting with white breast, and ferruginous abdomen and forewings diagnostic. In *juvenile*, the black on back replaced with brown; has overall whitish underparts. **(88)**.
4. (158-159) **MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE** *Spizaetus nipalensis* (RM) Kite+:72cm. Foothills to mountains; not dense forest. **Occurrence:** Himalayas between 600-2400m; NE hill states; occasional in northern and central Indian plains and hills in winter; S W Ghats; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Dark brown above barred with white on rump and grey on tail. The crest of few long black feathers, broad black moustachial-streak, bold mesial-stripe (obsolete in southern Indian and Sri Lankan birds), black-streaked upper breast, and four broad evenly-spaced dark bars on the tail are identification pointers. In flight, the extensive barring on underparts, mesial-stripe (except in southern Indian and Sri Lankan birds) and prominent bars on long tail diagnostic. **(84)**. **Note:** The species has been recently proposed to be split into: **MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE** *Nisaetus nipalensis* and **LEGGE'S HAWK-EAGLE** *Nisaetus kelaarti*, the latter comprising of the smaller birds of southern India and Sri Lanka.
5. (160, 162) **CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE** *Spizaetus limnaetus* (R) Kite+:70cm. **Occurrence:** Forests. Lower Himalayas (below 1800m) from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; further to Bangladesh and Andamans. **ID:** Crest rudimentary, otherwise like the prominently crested, Crested Hawk-Eagle(6), but has paler underparts, sparse barring on underwing-coverts and less broad tail-bars. The Crested Hawk-Eagle also shows a darker vent and undertail-coverts in flight. A melanistic, chocolate-brown or black form can be confused with Black Eagle (Plate 24:1), but shows paler flight feathers and tail in overhead flight, and also lacks the prominent barring on tail and flight feathers. **(85)**.
6. (161) **CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE** *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (R) Kite+:72cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and semi-evergreen forest. Gangetic Plains and Indian peninsula southwards; Sri Lanka. **ID:** See Changeable Hawk-Eagle. **(85)**.



PLATE 27: FALCONS

1. (205) **PIED FALCONET** *Microhierax melanoleucos* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Outskirts of forest and cultivation clearings up to c. 1500m. Assam and NE hill states south of the Brahmaputra, Bangladesh(?). **ID:** A diminutive shrike-like pied falcon. See also Collared Falconet. **(111).**
2. (204) **COLLARED FALCONET** *Microhierax caerulescens* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Outskirts of forest and clearings up to c. 2000m. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand east to Assam Valley and Garo Hills (Meghalaya); a sight record from Orissa. **ID:** Like Pied Falconet; forehead, supercilium, face and broad collar on hindneck white. Throat, belly and vent deep ferruginous, otherwise rusty-white below. **(110).**
3. (221) **LESSER KESTREL** *Falco naumanni* (M) Pigeon±:34cm. **Occurrence:** Open savannah country. Specimen or sight reports from Haryana east to W Bengal, south to Orissa and Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala; Maldives; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small, gregarious migratory falcon. **Male:** Ashy-grey head and tail, mantle brick-red unspotted. Tail with a broad black subterminal band, tipped white. Below pale to deep rufous with pale sparse black spotting. In overhead flight, the pale wings with black borders diagnostic. **Female** and **Juvenile:** Pale rufous above crossbarred with black; paler, black-streaked underparts. Lacks the moustachial- and eye-stripe seen in female Common Kestrel.
4. (222-224) **COMMON KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus* (RM) Pigeon±:36cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland, semi-desert, cultivation and rocky regions. **Breeding:** Pakistan; NW Himalayas; W Ghats; E Ghats(?); Sri Lanka hills. **Winter:** Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andamans(?). **ID:** Noted for its characteristic hovering at one spot. **Male:** Like Lesser Kestrel, but the mantle has black spottings and underparts are prominently streaked. **Female** and **Juvenile:** Separated from Lesser Kestrel by presence of moustachial-stripe. Claws of the Common Kestrel are black (*vs.* pale in Lesser Kestrel). **(119).**
5. (219) **RED-HEADED FALCON** *Falco chicquera* (R) Pigeon±:31-36cm. **Occurrence:** Open country with groves of trees and cultivation. Subcontinent; N Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** An elegant, grey and white falcon with a distinctive chestnut crown, nape and moustache. Rest of upperparts grey, except for blackish distal part of wing; tail with a broad black subterminal band, tipped white. Below white, streaked and barred black. **(117).**
6. (214-215) **ORIENTAL HOBBY** *Falco severus* (R) Pigeon-:27-30cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded foothills country. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; c. 1800-2400m; Kashmir(?); Muree Hills of Pakistan(?); NE India; Bangladesh; southern W Ghats (winter); Sri Lanka (straggler). **ID:** Very similar to Eurasian Hobby (7), but with breast and underparts ferruginous and fully 'hooded' without white cheeks. **(116).**
7. (212-213) **EURASIAN HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* (RM) Pigeon±:31-34cm. **Occurrence:** Open wooded country and semi-desert. **Summer:** Himalayas from Pakistan to Nepal, and probably Bhutan. **Winter:** Manipur, Bangladesh, N and C India, Maldives. **ID:** Slaty-grey with blackish crown, nape and moustache. Rusty-white below streaked with black; thighs, vent and undertail-coverts rufous. **Immature** like female Amur Falcon (Plate 28: 1), but is larger, more brown (*vs.* more slaty-grey) and is streaked (*vs.* unstreaked) on thighs. **(115).**
8. (217-218) **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* (M) Pigeon-:27-30cm. **Occurrence:** Scrubby, open country and cultivation. Rare migrant with records from Pakistan eastwards through J&K to Arunachal; NW India southwards to Maharashtra and Kerala. **ID:** **Male:** Bluish-slate above with a broad, rufous hind-collar. Tail with a broad, subterminal (white tipped) black band. Below white, tinged rufous and streaked black. **Female** and **Juvenile:** Slaty-brown scalloped with rufous; tail barred brown and rufous-grey; heavily streaked below.



PLATE 28: FALCONS

1. (220) **AMUR FALCON** *Falco amurensis* (M) Pigeon-:28-31cm. **Occurrence:** Open country and grazing land. C and E Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh; Peninsula; Maldives; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Slaty-grey above, ashy-grey below with white underwing-coverts and black flight feathers. Dark ferruginous-red thighs, vent and undertail-coverts. Orange-red eye-ring, cere and legs distinctive. *Female:* Like *immature* Eurasian Hobby (Plate 27: 7), but is smaller, more slaty-grey and unstreaked on thighs. **(118)**.

2. (216) **SOOTY FALCON** *Falco concolor* (V) Crow-:38cm. **Occurrence:** A few unconfirmed records from Baluchistan (Pakistan). **ID:** Adult unmistakable; uniformly sooty-grey above and below with prominent yellow eye-ring, cere and legs. **[Hy-PCR]**.

3. (208) **LAGGAR FALCON** *Falco jugger* (RM) Kite-:43-46cm. **Occurrence:** Dry open country and cultivation. Subcontinent, scarce in S India; absent in Sri Lanka. **ID:** Smaller and with darker upperparts than Saker. A distinct, but thin (*contra* 5) moustachial-stripe. Distinct and dark (*contra* 4) eye-stripe. At rest, wing tips almost reaching to tail tip. Below whitish with longitudinal light brown streaks from below breast. Middle tail feathers entirely brown. In flight, the white breast and dark and white markings on the lining of the pointed wings suggestive of identity. Usually flies in pairs. See also Saker Falcon **(112)**.

4. (206-207) **SAKER FALCON** *Falco cherrug* (M) Kite-:50-56cm. **Occurrence:** Desert and semi-desert. Pakistan and NW India, also recorded in Ladakh, Nepal and central part of N Bangladesh. Keeps to open country **ID:** Race *cherrug*: The largest of the Indian falcons. The large size, pale crown (and head), indistinct moustachial- and eye-stripe, and overall pale profile in overhead flight are quick identification pointers. At rest, wing tips fall much short of tail tip, *contra* till tail tip in (5) and almost reaching tail tip in (3).

5. (209-211) **PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

a: Race *peregrinator* (211) (R) Kite-38-46cm. **Occurrence:** Rugged hilly country where it breeds. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Nicobars. **ID:** Much like *calidus* (see below), but has either barred or unbarred rich rufous underparts. **(114)**.

b: Race *calidus* (209) (M) Kite-; Crow+:40-48cm. **Occurrence:** Near rivers, marshes and lagoons. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andamans(?), Nicobars(?), Sri Lanka (winter). **ID:** Head slaty-black with a distinctive black moustachial-stripe, giving a masked effect. Above grey, barred black. Below whitish narrowly barred with black. **(113)**.

c: Race *babylonicus* (210) (R) Kite-:40cm. **Occurrence:** Breeds in N and NW Pakistan and winters east to NW India. **ID:** Larger than Red-headed Falcon with less red on crown, and has sparse bars and streaks on underparts. Also larger than Merlin, which is prominently streaked on underparts. Lacks the broad subterminal band of both these species. **Note:** Sometimes considered a species **BARBARY FALCON** *Falco pelegrinoides*.

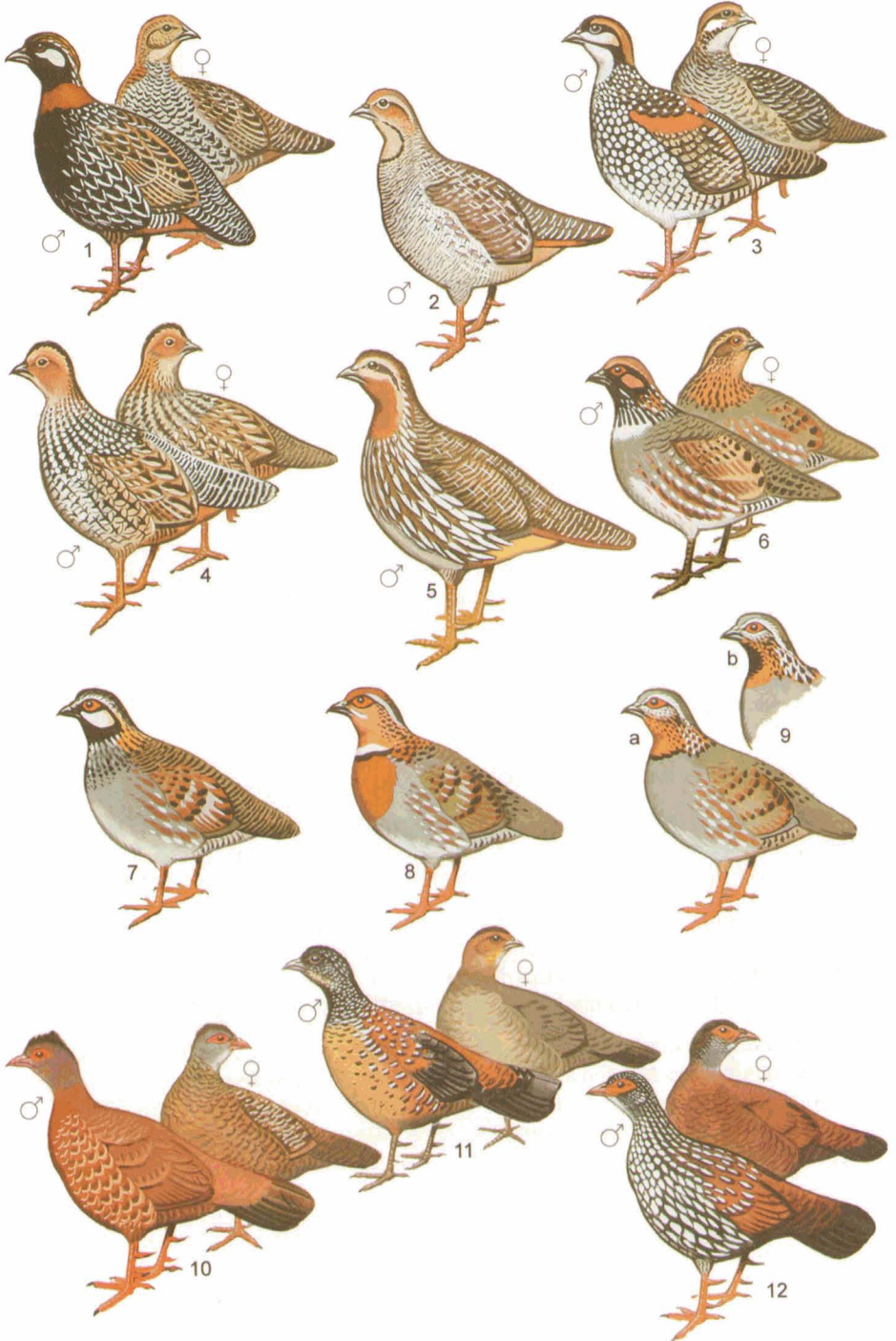


PLATE 29: FRANCOLINS, HILL-PARTRIDGES AND SPURFOWL

1. (237-239) **BLACK FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus francolinus* (R) Francolin±:34cm. **Occurrence:** Well-watered tracts with tall grass and scrub, sugarcane fields and wet cultivation. Pakistan; N and NE India; Bangladesh; Nepal; south to north Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. **ID:** *Male's* white cheek-patch, black breast, chestnut collar and undertail-coverts are identification pointers. *Female* largely brownish, the chestnut patch on hindneck diagnostic; undertail-coverts chestnut. *Calls:* A high-pitched, repeated *chik ... cheek-cheek-cherreek*. (120).
2. (244-246) **GREY FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus pondicerianus* (R) 33cm. **Occurrence:** Thorn-scrub, dry light jungle, cultivation environs. S Pakistan; India from base of Himalayas, east to W Bengal and south to entire Peninsula; S Andamans (introduced); NW Sri Lanka. **ID:** Overall grey, more rusty on upperparts. Cock with spur on leg. Yellowish-rufous throat patch enclosed in a black prominent necklace. Chestnut of tail conspicuous in flight. Lacks rufous vent, seen in somewhat similar Painted Francolin. *Calls:* Subdued clucks followed by a high-pitched and spirited *kaaletar, kaaletar, kaaletar*. (122).
3. (243) **CHINESE FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus pintadeanus* (R) Francolin:33cm. **Occurrence:** Low scrub and grassy openings in forest. Manipur. **ID:** *Male* has black moustachial-stripe separating white cheek and throat. *Female* much duller and overall brown with cheek-patch separated by a less distinct moustachial-stripe. Male has chestnut scapulars and vent.
4. (240-242) **PAINTED FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus pictus* (R) Francolin-:31cm. **Occurrence:** Dry grass and scrub. Endemic. N, C and peninsular India, absent in humid tracts of Karnataka and Kerala; Sri Lanka (now very rare). **ID:** Somewhat like female Black Francolin, but face rufous. Throat chestnut in *male*, whitish in *female*. In flight, the white-spotted plumage, blackish outertail feathers and rufous on wings diagnostic. *Calls:* Like (1) (121).
5. (247) **SWAMP FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus gularis* (R) Francolin+:37cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy grass jungle. Endemic. N India from Uttarakhnad terai eastwards; NE India; Bangladesh, Sundarbans; Nepal. **ID:** A large, long-legged francolin. Buff band above and below eye. Chin, throat and upper neck rufous; bold white streaks on underparts. *Male* with spur. *Calls:* A loud *caw-care*. (123).
6. (266-269) **COMMON HILL-PARTRIDGE** (HILL PARTRIDGE) *Arborophila torqueola* (R) Francolin-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen jungle. Himalayas, from W Himachal eastwards to Arunachal; NE hill states; 600-4000m. **ID:** Crown and nape bright chestnut in *male*, brown in *female*. Ear-coverts bright chestnut in *male*. Grey of breast separated from black of throat by white gorget in *male* and by brown gorget in *female*. Legs brownish-grey (*contra* reddish in other hill-partridges).
7. (272) **WHITE-CHEEKED HILL-PARTRIDGE** (WHITE-CHEEKED PARTRIDGE) *Arborophila atrogularis* (R) Francolin-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in wet evergreen forest and bamboo jungle. From Arunachal, south to Chittagong (Bangladesh); up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Like Common Hill-Partridge; white cheeks and pure black throat diagnostic. Sexes alike. *Calls:* A rolling whistle *whew, whew* repeated many times.
8. (273) **CHESTNUT-BREASTED HILL-PARTRIDGE** *Arborophila mandellii* (R) Francolin-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Foothills and duars from Sikkim and W Bengal to

Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram; 350-2500m. **ID:** Identification clues from other hill-partridges are the chestnut breast separated by a black (not in all races) and white gorget from the olive-chestnut chin and throat.

9. (270-271) **RUFOUS-THROATED HILL-PARTRIDGE** (RUFOUS-THROATED PARTRIDGE) *Arborophila rufogularis* (R) Francolin-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Dense secondary scrub and undergrowth in evergreen forest. Himalayas between 700-2400m; NE hill states between 600-1800m. **ID:** Race *rufogularis* (a): Chin, throat and sides of neck rufous, spotted with black. A black gorget separates throat from the slaty-grey breast. Race *intermedia* (b): Lacks black gorget of *rufogularis*. Spots on chin and throat more dense, appearing almost black. **Calls:** A loud and clear double whistle like *wheea-wu*.

10. (275-277) **RED SPURFOWL** *Galloperdix spadicea* (R) Francolin+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous scrub in broken hilly country up to c. 1250m. Endemic. Uttar Pradesh and W Nepal terai, Gangetic Plains, Peninsula. **ID:** Overall dark brown-rufous, more grey on face. Birds from Kerala are bright chestnut-rufous with scalloping absent or pale. A naked, red eye-patch in both sexes. Legs reddish. **(130)**.

11. (278) **PAINTED SPURFOWL** *Galloperdix lunulata* (R) Francolin-:32cm. **Occurrence:** Dense thorn scrub and bamboo jungle in broken terrain and rocky foothills up to c. 1000m. Endemic. Continental and Peninsula India south of the Gangetic plains; more common in the central and eastern parts of the Peninsula. **ID:** *Male:* Upperparts chestnut scalloped with white, metallic-blackish on wings and tail. Underparts buff, spotted with chestnut. *Female* is dark brown; face rufous; buff moustachial-stripe; pale throat. Legs greyish-brown in both sexes (*vs.* reddish in the other two species); lacks eye-patch. **(131)**.

12. (279) **SRI LANKAN SPURFOWL** *Galloperdix bicalcarata* (R) Francolin+:34cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, wet and dry zones, up to c. 2000m. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Cock with the white-spangled black foreparts and dark chestnut hindparts. *Female* has a blackish crown and is overall brownish; pale on face; chin whitish. Naked, red eye-patch in both sexes. Legs reddish.

Himalayan Quail *Ophryntia superciliosa* (Gray) (Extinct?)

A quail, the size of a small partridge. Recorded only from the western Himalayas between 2,000-2,500 m in the Mussoorie, Nainital area. Last obtained near Naini Tal in 1876 in long grass and brush on steep hillsides. Call is a shrill whistle. Only a few museum specimens exist.

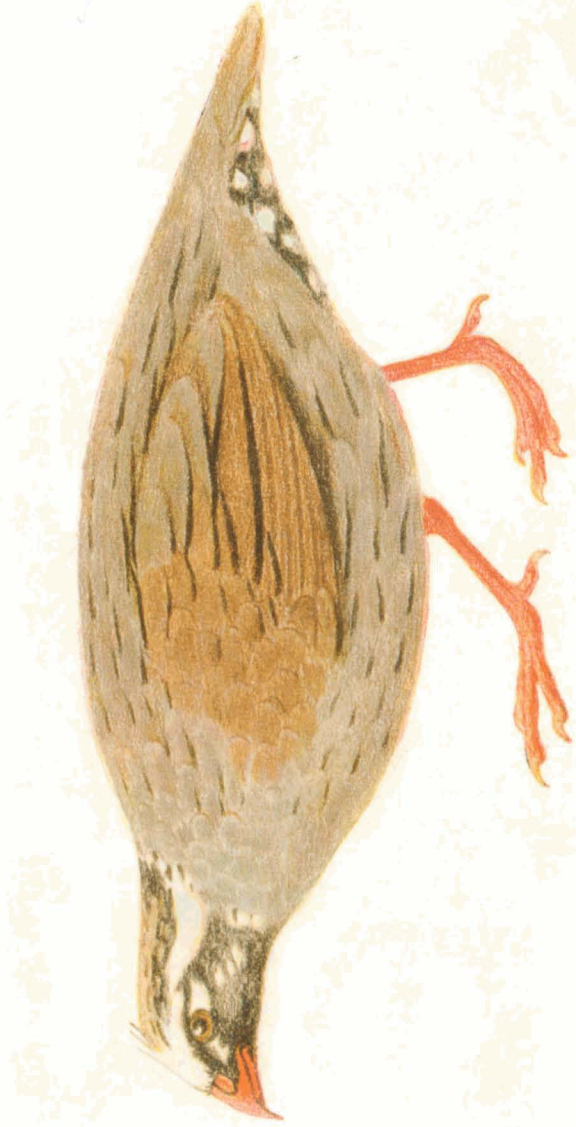




PLATE 30: BUTTONQUAILS, QUAILS, PARTRIDGES AND MEGAPODE

1. (313) **SMALL BUTTONQUAIL** *Turnix sylvaticus* (R) Quail:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Grass-and-scrub jungle. Most of Subcontinent east of Sind and Punjab; also N Pakistan; rare/vagrant to S India and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Diminutive. Crown blackish-brown with white median-stripe. Face whitish, breast rufous, belly whitish. Legs pale fleshy-white to pale blue-grey. Toes three, as in all buttonquails. See also (2) and (3). **(136)**.
2. (316-319) **BARRED BUTTONQUAIL (COMMON BUTTONQUAIL)** *Turnix suscitator* (R) Quail:-15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland, scrub and open light deciduous forest. Punjab and Uttarakhand in the west to most of continental and peninsular India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Black bars on breast and sides of neck separate it from other buttonquails; throat and centre of breast black in *female*. Distinctive white eyes; legs grey. **(138)**.
3. (314-315) **YELLOW-LEGGED BUTTONQUAIL** *Turnix tanki* (R) Quail:-15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland with scrub, bamboo jungle and standing crops. Most of Subcontinent east of Sind and Punjab; also N Pakistan; Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Diagnostic yellow legs and bill; black spots on wings and flanks. *Female* has a chestnut collar. **(137)**.
4. (253-254) **BLUE-BREASTED QUAIL** *Coturnix chinensis* (R) Quail:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy grassland and grass-and-scrub. East and south of a line from Mumbai to Simla (Himachal); Sri Lanka; Nicobars. **ID:** Diminutive dark quail with bright, yellow legs. *Male* has a striking plumage of black, white, blue and chestnut on underparts. *Female* is brownish with blackish bars on breast and flanks; much smaller than somewhat similar female Common and Rain quails. **(126)**.
5. (250) **COMMON QUAIL (GREY QUAIL)** *Coturnix coturnix* (RM) 20cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland and standing crops. *Breeding:* Pakistan, east through N India from Himalayan foothills to Bangladesh and south to C India. *Winter:* Rest of Subcontinent. **ID:** Pale brown on the back with buff spear-shaped streaks. Underparts mostly creamy-white. *Male* has two dark bands (sometimes indistinct) from ear-coverts to base of throat. The former race *japonica*, a winter migrant reported from Bhutan, Bihar, Assam and Manipur, is now treated as a species, **JAPANESE QUAIL** *Coturnix japonica* (251). *Breeding male* has rufous on throat and face; *female* very similar to female Common Quail. **(124)**.
6. (262-263) **PAINTED BUSH-QUAIL** *Perdicula erythrorhyncha* (R) Quail:-16cm. **Occurrence:** Low hilly deciduous biotope. Endemic. W Ghats from Khandala (Maharashtra) through Kerala, including associated hills of Coorg, Mysore and Shevaroy (Tamil Nadu); western Madhya Pradesh and Bihar; E Ghats in Orissa and N Andhra. **ID:** Brightly coloured quail with red bill and legs conspicuous even in flight. *Male* darker with black forehead, white supercilium and throat. Black spots on flanks diagnostic for both sexes. **(129)**.
7. (252) **RAIN QUAIL** *Coturnix coromandelica* (R) Quail:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Grass and scrub, moist grassland and standing crops. Subcontinent up to c. 2000m; Sri Lanka occasional (winter). **ID:** Like larger Common Quail, but *male* with black on breast and black-streaked flanks. *Calls:* A repeated *which-which*. **(125)**.
8. (264-265) **MANIPUR BUSH-QUAIL** *Perdicula manipurensis* (R) Quail±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Damp grasslands. Endemic. NE India and N W Bengal. **ID:** Unmistakable with the slaty-grey upperparts, white eye-patch and streaked golden-buff underparts; the *male* with forehead and throat chestnut.

9. (259-261) **ROCK BUSH-QUAIL** *Perdica argoondah* (R) Quail:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Open semi-desert and thorn-scrub country, preferably drier and stonier facies than Jungle Bush-Quail, but often overlapping. Endemic. From Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, N Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in the north through the Peninsula till Mysore (Karnataka) to Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), probably further south as commonly not differentiated from Jungle Bush-Quail and names indiscriminately used for both. **ID:** *Male* has rufous face, white supercilium and barred underparts; throat dull red (*vs.* chestnut in Jungle Bush-Quail). *Female* pale brown with a pale-white supercilium. See also Jungle Bush-Quail. **(128).**
10. (255-258) **JUNGLE BUSH-QUAIL** *Perdica asiatica* (R) Quail:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Grass-and-scrub jungle and open deciduous secondary forest. Endemic. Kashmir through the Gangetic Plains to W Bengal and south and east from Gujarat through the Peninsula, up to c. 1250m; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Both sexes separated from Rock Bush-Quail (9) by the chestnut supercilium and throat both bordered above by white; brown cheek-patch. *Female* lacks barred underparts. **(127).**
11. (280) **HIMALAYAN QUAIL (MOUNTAIN QUAIL)** *Ophrysia superciliosa* (R/Extinct?) Francolin:-25cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. Grass and brushwood on steep Himalayan hillsides in the Dehradun-Nainital region of Uttarakhand, c. 1650-2000m. Known only from a dozen records, the last in 1876. **ID:** *Male:* Slaty-brown with relatively long tail and conspicuous red bill and feet. Face and throat black with white eye-patch and supercilium. *Female:* Brownish, spotted and streaked with black. Face grey; red bill and legs. **(132).**
12. (228) **SEE-SEE PARTRIDGE** *Ammoperdix griseogularis* (R) Francolin:-26cm. **Occurrence:** Stony foothills. Pakistan, from Baluchistan and NWFP to the Salt Range and the Kirthar hills of Sind. **ID:** An orange-billed, sandy, grey-brown desert partridge. *Male* is prominently streaked on the flanks with black, white and chestnut.
13. (227) **SNOW PARTRIDGE** *Lerwa lerwa* (R) Francolin+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Alpine meadows, open bush-covered hillsides above the tree-line. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Arunachal; c. 2000 to 5000m. **ID:** Sexes alike. Close-banded in black and white above; white-streaked chestnut below. Bright red bill and legs.
14. (274) **MOUNTAIN BAMBOO-PARTRIDGE** *Bambusicola fytchii* (R) Francolin+:35cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub and edges of cultivation. Foothills of Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya and E Bangladesh up to c. 2000m. **ID:** Sexes alike, but eye-stripe black in *male*. A comparatively long-tailed, rufous-brown partridge with large black spots on flanks.
15. (234-236) **CHUKOR PARTRIDGE (CHUKAR PARTRIDGE)** *Alectoris chukar* (R) Francolin+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hillsides with grass and sparse bushes. Pakistan mountains and W Himalayas, from Chitral east to C Nepal; 1000-5000m. **ID:** Sexes alike. Pinkish grey-brown, with conspicuous rib-like buff and black bars on flanks. White throat encircled by a black gorget. Bill and legs red.
16. (248-249) **TIBETAN PARTRIDGE** *Perdix hodgsoniae* (R) Francolin±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Scattered furze, dwarf juniper and rhododendron scrub on stony hillsides. Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal, c. 3500-5500m. **ID:** Sexes alike. A grey billed and legged partridge with white forehead, supercilium and throat. The black cheek-patch, broad chestnut collar on hind-neck, black barring on breast and belly, and the chestnut bars on flanks are other diagnostic clues.
17. (225-226) **NICOBAR MEGAPODE** *Megapodius nicobariensis* (R) Village hen±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in dense forest fringe and sandy seashore above spring-tide mark. Endemic. Nicobars, old anecdotal reports from Andamans. **ID:** A brown terrestrial fowl with conspicuously large feet. Grey on head; red facial skin.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

Male with frowzy crest, brownish-buff with ocellated tail. Female smaller, duller. Dense evergreen jungle, duars and foothills. Himalayas, from Sikkim, W. Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states. A skulker. The cock has a beautiful and spectacular display during the breeding season.





PLATE 31: TRAGOPANS, MONALS AND SNOWCOCKS

1. (285) **WESTERN TRAGOPAN** *Tragopan melanocephalus* (R) Village hen±:71cm. **Occurrence:** Dense rhododendron, bamboo and other undergrowth in conifer or oak forest. Endemic. W. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Uttarakhand, Kashmir(?), Ladakh(?); seasonally c. 1350-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* Facial skin bright red; throat bright blue. The orange foreneck, and blackish underparts ocellated with white easily separate it from other tragopans. *Female:* Generally grey, vermiculated below; lacks facial-skin seen in other female tragopans.
2. (286) **SATYR TRAGOPAN** *Tragopan satyra* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 68cm, *Female* 59cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron, bamboo and other undergrowth in conifer or oak forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; seasonally c. 2000-4500m. **ID:** *Male:* Facial-skin and throat dark blue. Neck, shoulder and underparts crimson, rest vermiculated brown. *Female:* Rufous-brown with blue facial-skin.
3. (289) **TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN** (CRIMSON-BELLIED TRAGOPAN) *Tragopan temminckii* (R) Village hen±:64cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in evergreen hill forest. N Arunachal, c. 2100-3500m. **ID:** *Male* like Satyr, but face and throat bright (vs. dark) blue; large diamond-shaped spots on belly. *Female* like Satyr, but larger spotting on underparts.
4. (287-288) **BLYTH'S TRAGOPAN** (GREY-BELLIED TRAGOPAN) *Tragopan blythii* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 68cm, *Female* 59cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in evergreen forest. E Bhutan to Arunachal, NE hill states; seasonally c. 1800-3300m. **ID:** Naked, bright orange-yellow face bordered by black. Breast crimson, belly grey. *Female* greyish-brown with indistinct spotting; yellow eye-ring.
5. (290) **HIMALAYAN MONAL** (IMPEYAN MONAL) *Lophophorus impejanus* (R) Village hen+:72cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in open conifer forest interspersed with grassy glades; scrub zone above timber-line. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; seasonally c. 1800-5000m. **ID:** *Male* resplendent with a peacock-like crest, see (6). *Female* mottled-brown with a small crest; white throat; long white streaks on underparts.
6. (291) **SCLATER'S MONAL** *Lophophorus sclateri* (R) Village hen+:72cm. **Occurrence:** Dense rhododendron undergrowth in conifer forest. Subalpine zone of Arunachal, c. 3000-4000m. **ID:** *Male:* Lacks crest and less splendid than Himalayan Monal. White on back extends into tail (*contra* 5), making the cinnamon on tail appear like a band between the white tail tip and rump. Tail entirely white in W Arunachal birds. *Female* like Himalayan Monal, but lacks its crest, the white throat and long streaks on underparts.
7. (229-231) **TIBETAN SNOWCOCK** *Tetraogallus tibetanus* (R) Village hen+:70cm. **Occurrence:** Stony slopes and alpine meadows above timber-line. Himalayas, from Ladakh east to Arunachal; up to 5800m. **ID:** Sand-grey above streaked and vermiculated with buff above. Ear-coverts and throat white. Rump and most of tail rufous. White below with black streaks on flanks. In flight, shows white secondaries and brown primaries.
8. (232) **HIMALAYAN SNOWCOCK** *Tetraogallus himalayensis* (R) Village hen+:72cm. **Occurrence:** Stony slopes and alpine meadows above timber-line. W Himalayas, from N Pakistan to central N Nepal; seasonally c. 2400-5500m. **ID:** A grey and white bird with the white throat separated from the dark grey underparts by a chestnut collar. Rump and tail grey, unlike rufous in the Tibetan Snowcock. In flight, shows largely white primaries.
9. (233) **SZECHENYI'S MONAL-PARTRIDGE** (BUFF-THROATED PARTRIDGE) *Tetraophasis szechenyii* (R) Village hen±:64cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky scrub-covered ravines. Subalpine zone. Reported from Central N Arunachal, c. 3400-4600m; occurs in Tibet. **ID:** Grey-brown. Chin and throat rusty; red eye-patch. Sexes alike. [**Hy-PCR**].



PLATE 32: PHEASANTS

1. (303-306) **KOKLASS PHEASANT** *Pucrasia macrolopha* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 61cm, *Female* 53cm. **Occurrence:** Oak and conifer forests. Himalayas between 1000-4200m from NWFP (Pakistan) eastward to W Nepal. **ID:** *Male:* Head metallic-green with metallic-green horn-like plumes on either side of brown occipital crest. White patch on sides of neck. *Female:* Mottled black and brown with a white throat. Crown chestnut-buff with a shorter crest. *Calls:* A loud and ringing *kok-kok-kok*.
2. (307) **CHEER PHEASANT** *Catreus wallichii* (R) Village hen+: *Male* 90-118cm, *Female* 61-76cm. **Occurrence:** Open conifer and deciduous forest. Endemic. W Himalayas, from NE Pakistan east to C Nepal; *c.* 1500-2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Grey with rufous rump and belly; long barred pointed tail; long recumbent crest. Bright crimson eye-patch. *Female:* A dull version of the *male*; brown above and rufous below. *Calls:* A far reaching *chir-a-pir, chir-a-pir, chir, chir, chirwa, chirwa*.
3. (-) **COMMON PHEASANT (RING-NECKED PHEASANT)** *Phasianus colchicus* (EL/R?) Village hen+: *Male* 80cm; *Female* 60cm. **Occurrence:** Temperate Asia; Afghanistan. Introduced into Bhutan and Himachal (surviving?). **ID:** Both sexes like Mrs Hume's Pheasant(6), the green neck, extensive white on wings and thin bars on rufous-brown tail diagnostic for *male*. Little or no white ring around neck. *Female* is paler than Mrs Hume's and without the red eye-patch.
4. (293-298) **KALEEJ PHEASANT** *Lophura leucomelanos* (R) Village hen±: 60-68cm. **Occurrence:** Foothills forest with heavy scrub undergrowth from *c.* 300-3600m. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Several races with variations in the plumage of *male*. *Female:* Vermiculated, chestnut reddish-brown. Crimson eye-patch and a bushy, rooster-like tail in both sexes.
5. (281-284) **BLOOD PHEASANT** *Ithaginis cruentus* (R) Village hen±: 46cm. **Occurrence:** Dwarf rhododendron, juniper and bamboo undergrowth in conifer forest. Subalpine zone of E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; seasonally *c.* 1500-4700m. **ID:** *Male:* Grey above and apple-green below with pale shaft streaks; breast splashed with crimson. Mop-like crest; face, orbital-skin and vent red. *Female:* Rufous-brown; ashy-grey crest and nape; red orbital-skin.
6. (308) **MRS HUME'S PHEASANT** *Syrnaticus humiae* (R) Village hen+: *Male* 90cm, *Female* 60cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest interspersed with grassy and bracken covered slopes. SE Arunachal, through Nagaland, Manipur to Mizoram; *c.* 900-2000m. **ID:** *Male:* Steel-blue head and neck; crimson facial-skin. Underparts chestnut. Conspicuous white bars on scapulars and wings. Silvery-grey back and rump. Tail long, narrow, grey, and chestnut-banded. *Female:* See (3). *Calls:* Loud *chuck*.
7. (292) **TIBETAN EARED-PHEASANT** *Crossoptilon harmani* (R) Village hen+: 72cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron and juniper undergrowth in conifer forest interspersed with grassy hill-slopes. Reported from NE Arunachal; occurs in SE Tibet. **ID:** Overall, ashy blue-grey; red eye-patch. Elongated ear-tufts, and band across throat and nape white. [**Hy-PCR**].
8. (309-310) **GREY PEACOCK-PHEASANT** *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 64cm, *Female* 48cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen jungle, duars and foothills. E Himalayas, from Sikkim, W Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states. **ID:** Overall grey, studded with green-blue, white-rimmed eye-spots. Short frowzy crest. *Female* smaller, less spotted and without crest. *Calls:* *Kraa, kraa, kraa*.



PLATE 33: PEAFOWL AND JUNGLEFOWL

1. (311) **INDIAN PEAFOWL** *Pavo cristatus* (R) *Male* 110cm without train, *c.* 2-2.5m in full plumage; *Female* 86cm. **Occurrence:** Moist- and dry-deciduous forest, cultivation and precincts of villages. Endemic. Subcontinent east of the Indus, up to *c.* 1800m; Sri Lanka. Introduced in Sind and Andamans. **ID:** *Male:* Fan-shaped crest; blue neck and breast. Sweeping metallic bronze-green train ocellated with purplish, black-centered coppery discs or eye-spots. *Female:* Smaller, crested, train absent. Upperparts largely brown, abdomen buffy-white. *Calls:* A loud and resounding *peee-awor may-awe* **(135)**.
2. (312) **GREEN PEAFOWL** (BURMESE PEAFOWL) *Pavo muticus* (R/Extinct?) *Male* 110cm without train, *c.* 2-2.5m in full plumage; *Female* 86cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen and moist-deciduous forest up to *c.* 1000m. Now probably extinct in the Indian subcontinent; formerly NE hill states and N Bengal. **ID:** Readily separated from Indian Peafowl by overall green colour and pointed crest. **[Hy-PCR]**.
3. (301) **GREY JUNGLEFOWL** *Gallus sonneratii* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 60-80cm; *Female* 46cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous to moist-evergreen biotope; broken country interspersed with cultivation patches. Endemic. Chiefly peninsular India south of a line from Mount Abu (S Rajasthan) through W and SE Madhya Pradesh to SW Andhra. **ID:** *Male:* Overall greyish; hackles of neck distinctive in breeding season. *Female:* Brown above. Chin and throat white; rest of underparts white, boldly scalloped with black on upper breast. Legs yellow. *Calls:* A grating *kuk-ka-kurra-kuk* **(134)**.
4. (299-300) **RED JUNGLEFOWL** *Gallus gallus* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 66cm; *Female* 43cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous forest and scrub jungle interspersed with cultivation. Himalayan foothills from SW Kashmir to Arunachal; NE India; Bangladesh; Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and NE Andhra; plains to 2000m. **ID:** *Male:* Orange-red with yellowish hackles. Blackish-brown underparts. *Female:* Reddish-brown, vermiculated buff and black; lacks scalloping on breast seen in female Grey Junglefowl. Legs slaty-brown. *Calls:* Like that of the domestic rooster, but shriller and with a more abrupt ending **(133)**.
5. (302) **SRI LANKAN JUNGLEFOWL** *Gallus lafayetii* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 66-72cm; *Female* 36cm. **Occurrence:** All types of forest, lowland to highest hills. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Differs from Red Junglefowl in reddish-orange breast and shape of comb. *Female* brown above, scalloped white below. Legs yellowish. *Calls:* A staccato, musical and ringing *chick, chaw-choyik*.

PLATE 34



PLATE 34: CRANES, BUSTARDS AND FLORICANS

1. (325) **SIBERIAN CRANE** *Grus leucogeranus* (M) Peahen+:140cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and marshes. Formerly N Pakistan, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh. Stray old records from Sind, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Was wintering till the mid-1990s in Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan). **ID:** Snow-white crane with reddish face; black primaries seen in flight. **(141)**.
2. (323-324) **SARUS CRANE** *Grus antigone* (R) Peahen+:156cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and cultivation. Formerly Pakistan and N India, south to Mhow (Madhya Pradesh) and Godavari delta; Assam and Manipur. Now largely confined to Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** A very large, grey crane with naked red head and upper neck; bare ashy-green crown. **(140)**.
3. (326) **DEMOISELLE CRANE** *Grus virgo* (M) Peahen-:76cm. **Occurrence:** *Winter:* Crops, margins of jheels and tanks. Wintering in NW India, also N plains with records eastwards to Assam and Bangladesh and south to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Passage through NW and NC subcontinent **ID:** A small, grey crane with black head and neck; long, white, ear-tufts behind eyes. Black feathers of lower neck long, pointed and falling over breast. **(142)**.
4. (321) **BLACK-NECKED CRANE** *Grus nigricollis* (RM) Peahen+:156cm. **Occurrence:** High altitude damp fields and marshland. *Breeding:* Ladakh, also Sikkim. *Winter:* Bhutan (2000m+); recorded also from Arunachal, Nepal and W Bengal. **ID:** Like Common Crane, but with head, upper neck and drooping plumes over tail black. Small, white patch behind eye.
5. (320) **COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus* (M) Peahen±:140cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivated plains, jheels, and sandy river-beds. Pakistan and NW India (mainly Gujarat and Rajasthan), east to Bengal and S Nepal, south to Maharashtra and N Andhra. **ID:** Grey crane with distinctive white band from behind eye to along sides of slaty-black neck. **(139)**.
6. (322) **HOODED CRANE** *Grus monacha* (V) Peahen±:90cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes. Very few old reports from N Cachar, Assam and Manipur. **ID:** A dark slaty-grey crane with distinctive white head and upper neck. Loes, forehead and red forecrown naked, overgrown with black bristly feathers. **[Hy-PCR]**.
7. (353) **LITTLE BUSTARD** *Tetrax tetrax* (M) Village hen±:46cm. Grassland and cultivation. Mainly SW and N Pakistan and Kashmir. **ID:** *Breeding male* has a black, patterned with white neck. *Female* and *non-breeding male* sandy-buff, streaked with black. Throat white; breast buff with black crescentic markings; white below.
8. (352) **GREAT BUSTARD** *Otis tarda* (V) Peahen+:102cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland and cultivation. Pakistan (Chitral, Peshawar, N Baluchistan and N Sind); less than a dozen records. **ID:** An unmistakable, large and heavy bustard. Readily distinguished from Great Indian Bustard by absence of black crown. *Breeding male* acquires 'whiskers'.
9. (355) **HOUBARA BUSTARD (MACQUEEN'S BUSTARD)** *Chlamydotis undulata* (RM) Village hen±: *Male* 73cm, *Female* 66cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy semi-desert. *Breeding:* Baluchistan. *Winter:* Pakistan, Rajasthan, and Kachchh and Saurashtra of Gujarat. Straggler to Kashmir, Delhi and Kerala. **ID:** Sandy-buff, pencilled and vermiculated with black; prominent blackish ruff running on sides of neck. In flight, the white underparts, black ruff, and white patch near blackish wing-tip diagnostic. **(154)**.

10. (354) **GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD** (INDIAN BUSTARD) *Ardeotis nigriceps* (R) Peahen+: *Male* 122cm, *Female* 92cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland, open scrub and semi-desert. Endemic. Declining, now confined to a few sites in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Formerly Pakistan (Sind), Indian and Pakistan Punjabs, east to Orissa and south to Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Brown above, head, neck and underparts white (*male*) or greyish (*female*); crown and breast-band black. In flight, the black cap, white neck, black gorget and white spots on black shoulders diagnostic. *Calls:* Territorial *males* have a far-reaching booming call. *Female* smaller and less bulky. **(153).**

11. (356) **BENGAL FLORICAN** *Houbaropsis bengalensis* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 66cm, *Female* slightly larger. **Occurrence:** Low lying wet grassland with bushes. Uttarakhand to S Arunachal, Bihar and E Assam; old records from Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** *Breeding male* with the muppy crested head, neck and underparts velvety jet-black. A bunch of elongated plumes overhanging breast. In flight, the large size and conspicuous black, white and brown plumage distinctive. *Female:* See Lesser Florican. **(155).**

12. (357) **LESSER FLORICAN** *Sypheotides indicus* (R) Village hen±: *Male* 46cm, *Female* 51cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland with bushes and cultivation. Pakistan and India with sight or breeding records from Sind and Punjab eastwards to Bihar and southwards through the Peninsula. Recent breeding records confined to W Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, S Nepal and Andhra Pradesh. **ID:** *Breeding Male:* Black, white and brown with a tuft of spatulate-ended plumes projecting behind head. Rattling produced by flight feathers during repeated 'display leaps'. *Female:* Drab, pale brown, more dark streaked on face, neck, breast and mantle than much larger Bengal Florican. **(156).**

Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica* (Endangered)

Hen and non-breeding male is sandy-buff, mottled and streaked with black.
Breeding male sports black spatulate plumes behind head.
Affects tall grass country in the Indian Plains except the North-east.



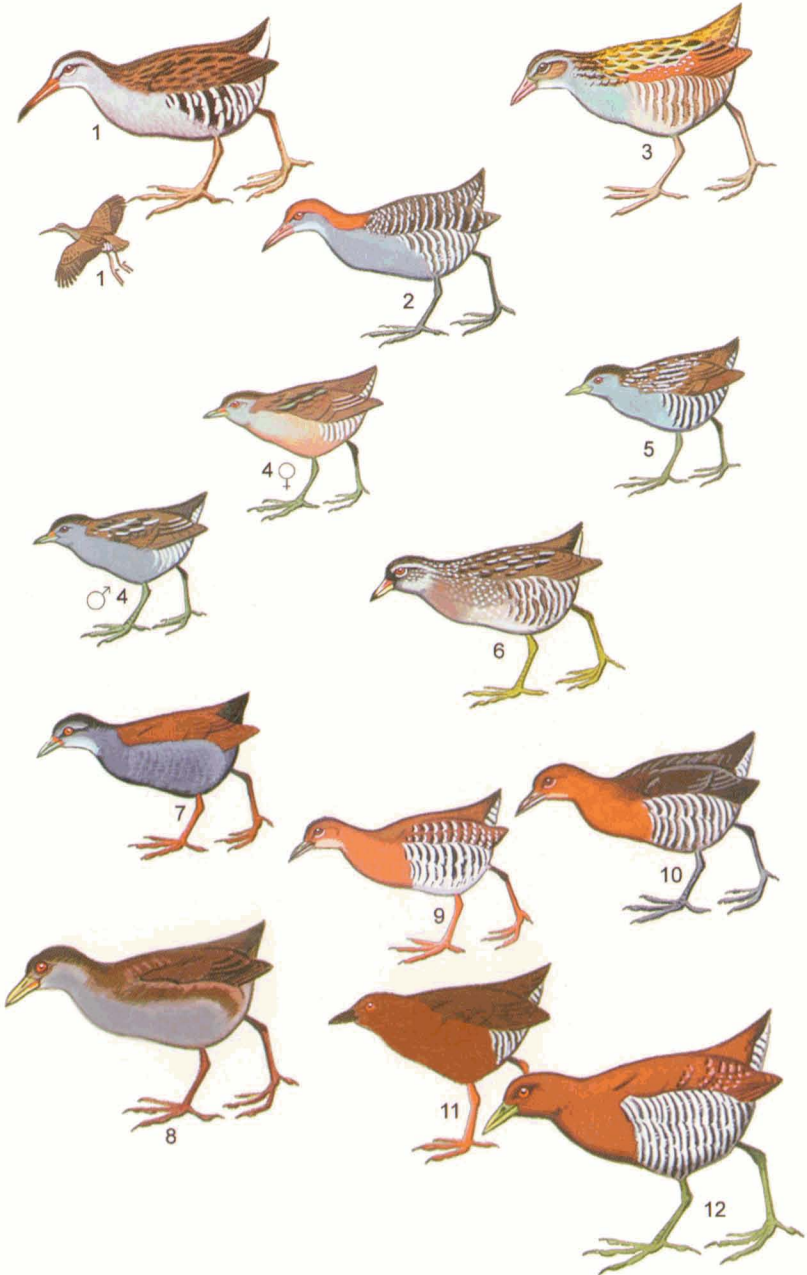


PLATE 35: RAILS AND CRAKES

1. (327) **EUROPEAN WATER-RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* (RM) Francolin:-28cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy marshes. **Breeding:** Kashmir and Ladakh(?). **Winter:** Pakistan, NW and N India east till Madhya Pradesh; recent sight records from Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh). **ID:** The comparatively long orange-red bill immediately separates water-rails from all other rails except the Slaty-breasted, which has barred (*vs.* streaked) upperparts and rufous-chestnut on crown and hindneck. **Note:** The race *indicus*, a winter visitor to terai of Nepal, NE India and Bangladesh, with one record from Sri Lanka, is now treated as a species, **EASTERN WATER-RAIL** *Rallus indicus* (328). It differs in having a distinct brownish (*vs.* clear grey) wash on breast and upper flanks, a barred (*vs.* white) vent, and more prominent eye-stripe.
2. (329-330) **SLATY-BREASTED RAIL** (BLUE-BREASTED RAIL) *Rallus striatus* (RM) Francolin:-27cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy swamps, mangroves, paddyfields. Subcontinent (except Pakistan); Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Crown and hindneck rufous-chestnut, rest of upperparts dark brown with white spots and wavy bands. Throat white; breast ashy-blue; abdomen and flanks barred white. The partly red, long bill, reddish eyes and olive-grey legs are further identity clues. **(143)**.
3. (334) **CORN CRAKE** *Crex crex* (V) Francolin:-25cm. **Occurrence:** Few records: Gilgit, Ladakh, Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Yellowish-buff streaked brown above; grey-blue supercilium. Throat white; breast ashy-grey; flanks barred with reddish-brown. Bill and legs pinkish.
4. (335-336) **LITTLE CRAKE** *Porzana parva* (M) Quail±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy reed-beds. Pakistan and W Peninsular India till Karnataka; and Bangladesh (? : confusion with similar Baillon's Crake likely). **ID:** Small crake with green legs. *Male* and *female* brown on upperparts with diagnostic twin white streaks on shoulders; red base to greenish bill. Underparts ashy-grey in *male*, barred white posteriorly. Underparts of *female* buff, barred brown and white on vent and undertail-coverts; face pale grey. **(145)**.
5. (337) **BAILLON'S CRAKE** *Porzana pusilla* (RM) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds and irrigated crops. **Breeding:** Gilgit and Kashmir; breeding reports(?) from Simla, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Nepal and Kerala. **Winter:** Subcontinent; S Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male* like male Little Crake, but has white paint-like smears above, barring on posterior underparts more extensive and distinct, and lacks red base to bill. *Female* duller. **(146)**.
6. (338) **SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana* (M) Quail+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Marshy reed-beds. Subcontinent except extreme south. **ID:** Head and neck grey, speckled with white. Hindneck and upper back brown spotted with white; shoulders, lower back, rump and tail-coverts streaked with white. Breast brownish, speckled with white. Flanks brownish-grey, speckled with white. Bill yellowish, red at base. Legs greenish.
7. (341) **ELWES'S CRAKE** (BLACK-TAILED CRAKE) *Porzana bicolor* (R) Quail+:22cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy dense grass jungle around ponds and streams. Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states south to Bangladesh; foothills to c. 2800m. **ID:** A green-billed, dark-ashy crake with chestnut upperparts. Chin white; diagnostic black tail. See also larger Brown Crake.
8. (342) **BROWN CRAKE** *Porzana akool* (R) Francolin:-28cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and grassy margins of streams. From NE Pakistan, east to Assam and associated NE states; W Bengal; Bangladesh; peninsular India except extreme south.

ID: Like Elwes's Crake (7), but considerably larger with upperparts brown (*vs.* chestnut), legs pink-brown (*vs.* reddish) and lacks the black tail. **(147)**.

9. (331) **RED-LEGGED CRAKE** *Rallina fasciata* (R?) Quail+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest. Record based on old reports from N Cachar (Assam). **ID:** Head, neck and breast cinnamon chocolate-brown. Rufous-brown above with diagnostic, black and white barring on wings. Throat and breast rufous-brown; banded black and white below. Legs coral-red. **[Hy-PCR]**.

10. (332) **SLATY-LEGGED CRAKE** *Rallina eurizonoides* (RM) Quail+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Dense jungle in well-watered country. Scarce records (probably overlooked) from the Subcontinent, mostly from Uttarakhand east, and south to the Peninsula. Common in Sri Lanka. **ID:** Akin to slightly smaller Red-legged Crake, but has slaty (*vs.* coral red) legs and lacks barring on wings. **(144)**.

11. (339-340) **RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE** *Porzana fusca* (RM) Quail+:22cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and flooded ricefields. Subcontinent, Andamans (sight reports), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like the Red-legged Crake(9) with red legs, but more ruddy with the barring on underparts starting from rear flanks; lacks barring on wings.

12. (333) **ANDAMAN CRAKE** *Rallina canningi* (R) Francolin+:34cm. **Occurrence:** Marshy jungle. Endemic to Andamans. **ID:** Like Slaty-legged Crake (10), but much larger, more glossy ruddy-chestnut, lacks white on throat, and has pale green legs.



Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

A quail-like swamp dweller. A winter visitor throughout the Subcontinent except extreme south.
A skulker, therefore overlooked. Affects reedy jheels, marshes.



PLATE 36: COOTS AND ALLIES, FINFOOT AND JACANAS

1. (346) **WATERCOCK** *Gallinula cinerea* (R) Francolin+: *Male* 43cm, *Female* 36cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, ponds and ricefields. Subcontinent from base of Himalayas and east of the Indus; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** *Breeding male* black, scalloped with brown. A bright red, fleshy horn-like projection above the crown. Bright red legs and eyes. In non-breeding season, both sexes dark brown, scalloped with fulvous. Buffy-brown below with fine dark bars. **(149)**.
2. (347-347a) **COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* (RM) Francolin+:32cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, marshes and ponds. Subcontinent; Andamans, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Blackish with white border to the closed wings. Yellow-tipped red bill; bright red frontal shield on forehead; green legs. *Juvenile* is brownish, the white border to closed wings diagnostic. **(150)**.
3. (350) **EURASIAN COOT (COMMON COOT)** *Fulica atra* (RM) Village hen±:42cm. **Occurrence:** Large jheels, lakes and reservoirs. Subcontinent; Andamans, Maldives (vagrant), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Slate-black, dumpy and practically tailless. The stout pointed ivory-white bill and horny shield covering forehead diagnostic. *Juvenile* is brownish, much more plump than (2) and lacks the white border to closed wings. **(152)**.
4. (343-345) **WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (R) Francolin±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, ponds and ricefields. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Dark slate-grey above; prominent white facial mask and underparts. Vent and undertail-coverts rufous. **(148)**.
5. (348-349) **PURPLE SWAMPHEN (PURPLE MOORHEN)** *Porphyrio porphyrio* (R) Village hen±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Marshy reed-beds and flooded ricefields. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large, purplish-blue rail with long red legs and enormous toes. The huge red bill with a frontal shield, and the white patch under the stumpy tail flashed as the bird flicks its tail with each step, diagnostic. **(151)**.
6. (351) **MASKED FINFOOT** *Heliopais personatus* (R) Duck±:56cm. **Occurrence:** Dense swampy forest. NE India; Bangladesh (Sundarbans). **ID:** Grebe-like, the massive yellow bill, black face, white stripe down sides of neck starting from behind the eyes, are identification pointers. *Female* has a white centre to the black throat and neck.
7. (358) **PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (R) Francolin±:31cm (excluding tail). **Occurrence:** Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** In breeding plumage, white and chocolate-brown with a long, sickle-shaped tail; golden-yellow on hindneck. Toes enormously long. Non-breeding birds lack the tail and are chiefly brown and white. In flight, the black-tipped white wings conspicuous. **(157)**.
8. (359) **BRONZE-WINGED JACANA** *Metopidius indicus* (R) Francolin±:30cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation. SubHimalayan Subcontinent, east of Gujarat (except as vagrant to Sind, Pakistan) and Haryana, and south till central India and along the western coastal strip, perhaps elsewhere in the Peninsula. **ID:** Head, neck and breast glossy-black. Back and wings metallic bronze-green, the stubby tail is chestnut-red. Broad white stripe from eye to nape. **(158)**.



PLATE 37: COURSERS, PRATINCOLES, SNIPES AND PAINTED-SNIPE

1. (439) **CREAM-COLOURED COURSER** *Cursorius cursor* (RM) Francolin-:23cm. **Occurrence:** Desert and semi-desert. Pakistan, Rajasthan, S and W Gujarat; also reported from S Kashmir and Haryana. **ID:** A pale version of the Indian Courser. Crown rufous in front, ashy-grey at the rear. Broad black stripe from behind eye to nape, bordered by white above. In flight, the black edge to wings contrast more sharply with the paler upperparts than in Indian Courser, and underwing fully black (*vs.* brownish and black in Indian Courser). *Juvenile* paler and spotted.
2. (440) **INDIAN COURSER** *Cursorius coromandelicus* (R) Francolin-:26cm. **Occurrence:** Dry stony plains and fallow land. Endemic. Subcontinent from Indus valley to Nepal and south W Bengal, southwards through Peninsula; extreme N and NW Sri Lanka. **ID:** A darker and more striking version of the Cream-coloured Courser. Crown rich rufous; black eye-stripe starting before eyes, bordered by white above; chestnut-brown breast and blackish belly. *Juvenile* paler and spotted. **(198).**
3. (441) **JERDON'S COURSER** *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* (R) Francolin-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub along foothills. Endemic. Formerly the Penner (Pennar) and Godavari valleys in Andhra Pradesh; was not recorded after 1900. Rediscovered in S Andhra (Cuddapah district) in 1986. **ID:** The double bands on breast and large eyes distinctive. Nocturnal. **(199).**
4. (442) **COLLARED PRATINCOLE** *Glareola pratincola*(RM) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Breeds sparingly in W Pakistan and straggling into India and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Paler than Oriental Pratincole(5) with a longer and more deeply forked tail reaching till wing-tips (*vs.* less than wing-tips in Oriental) when perched. In flight, shows white trailing edge (*vs.* no white edge in Oriental) to wings. **(200).**
5. (443) **ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** *Glareola maldivarum* (RM) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Flood-plains of rivers and near jheels. *Breeding:* Sind, N India to W Bengal, Assam and Bangladesh; Orissa, Kerala, Sri Lanka, Maldives. *Winter:* Subcontinent. **ID:** Olive-brown above; lores black, continued under eye as a narrow band looping round the rufous-buff throat. Breast brown, underparts whitish. See also Collared Pratincole.
6. (444) **SMALL PRATINCOLE** *Glareola lactea* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Large streams, marshes and coastal swamps. Subcontinent, largely east of the Indus river to Assam valley and Bangladesh and south through the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Sandy-grey with pointed swallow-like wings. In overhead flight, the whitish underparts, black wing-lining contrasting with white bases of the quills, and black-tipped squarish tail diagnostic. From above, shows black primaries, white secondaries and black patch on tail. **(201).**
7. (409) **COMMON SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago* (RM) Quail+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes. *Breeding:* Kashmir, Ladakh and Uttarakhand. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Andamans, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Differentiated from Pintail Snipe(8) in flight by having more white at tail edges, presence of white trailing edge to wings, white (*vs.* pale brown) margins to the rear scapulars, the speedy zigzag (*vs.* slower and more direct) flight, and the more rasping call when flushed. Said to be less common in southern India than Pintail, but probably overlooked due to similarity.
8. (406) **PINTAIL SNIPE** *Gallinago stenura* (M) Quail+:26cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, but often frequents more dry ground than Common Snipe. Subcontinent, roughly east of

Gujarat, W Madhya Pradesh and W Uttar Pradesh; Andamans, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** See Common Snipe. **Note:** The **SWINHOE'S SNIPE** *Gallinago megala* (407 - not illustrated), extremely similar and separable only in the hand, has 20 tail feathers with 14 (i.e., except the 6 central ones) as 'pins' (vs. 26/28 tail feathers with 8/9 outer feathers as 'pins' in Pintail Snipe). Scattered records from Assam, Manipur, W Bengal, Chennai, Mysore, Kerala, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Andamans. This species is probably overlooked due to similarity with Pintail Snipe.

9. (410) **JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus* (M) Quail±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small snipe without the pale, central crown-stripe seen in the other snipes; supercilium split. Bill shorter and stouter than in other snipes. Dark brown above with metallic-green and purple sheen. Tail brown without white tips. Mostly silent when flushed. **(183).**

10. (411) **EURASIAN WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola* (RM) Francolin+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Dense shady forest and swampy glades. **Breeding:** Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; c. 2000-4000m. **Winter:** C and S Pakistan; lower elevations of Himalayas; NE hill states; E Ghats; W Ghats south of Mysore; Sri Lanka hills; Andamans. **ID:** Large and stocky with distinctive black barring on head and fully barred underparts. Bill swollen at tip. Owl-like flapping flight with bill pointing downwards. **(184).** **Note:** The **WOOD SNIPE** *Gallinago nemoricola* (405 - not illustrated) is a woodcock-like large (30cm) snipe. Its rounded wings, heavy and direct flight and almost complete barring on underparts help separate it from the other snipes. Frequents the Himalayas, NE hill states and hills of S India and Sri Lanka. Two other snipes that occur in the Indian region are the **GREAT SNIPE** *Gallinago media* (408 - not illustrated) and **SOLITARY SNIPE** *Gallinago solitaria* (404 - not illustrated). These are about the size of the Wood Snipe, both with a small white belly patch. The Great (28cm) has much white on sides of tail, which is diagnostic. The Solitary (30cm) has broader white stripes on the back, is overall duller and more plain-faced (i.e., without bold markings) than the other snipes.

11. (429) **GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE** *Rostratula benghalensis* (R) Quail+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Reedy marshes and pools. Subcontinent, up to 1800 in the Himalayas; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Snipe-like, the *female* brighter than the *male*. **Female:** Metallic olive-green or bronze-green with buff and blackish markings. Head, neck and upper breast chestnut; white 'spectacles'. White band over shoulders to sides of breast. **Male:** A drab version of the *female* with gold-spotted upperparts. **(192).**

Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* (Critically Endangered)

Nocturnal. Distinguished from Indian Courser by two white bands across breast from neck and the white wing-bar seen in flight. No records after 1900 till rediscovered near Kadapa (Cuddapah), Andhra Pradesh in 1986 by Dr. Bharat Bhushan of the BNHS.





PLATE 38: LAPWINGS

1. (364) **NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus* (M) Francolin±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Fallow land, stubble and marshland bordering cultivation. Pakistan and NW India, east through the northern plains to Assam valley, Manipur and NE Bangladesh; also S Gujarat, straggler further south (Maharashtra). **ID:** An unmistakable, green, white and black lapwing with long, slender, upstanding pointed black crest. Rump white; tail largely black and white-tipped; vent rufous.
2. (366-368) **RED-WATTLED LAPWING** *Vanellus indicus* (R) Francolin+:33cm. **Occurrence:** Near water in open country and cultivation. SubHimalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Bronze-brown above, white below with black breast, head and foreneck. A crimson fleshy wattle in front of eyes. Prominent white band from behind eye down sides of neck to the white underparts. Bill red, tipped black. The *did you do it* call diagnostic. **(161).**
3. (365) **GREY-HEADED LAPWING** *Vanellus cinereus* (M) Francolin+:37cm. **Occurrence:** Wet ground, marshes, ploughed fields and stubble. Plains from Nepal to Bihar, NE India and Bangladesh. Straggler to Kashmir, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, S India, Andamans and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head and upper neck grey; light brown above and white below. Tail white with a black terminal band. Lower neck and breast ashy-grey bordered by a chocolate pectoral-band. Bill yellow, tipped black.
4. (362) **WHITE-TAILED LAPWING** *Vanellus leucurus* (M) Francolin-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Along jheel edges. Pakistan and N India, east to Bangladesh and south to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, N Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. **ID:** Somewhat like Yellow-wattled Lapwing, but without black cap, yellow lappets, and always seen near water. In flight, readily separated from the other lapwings by the pure white tail and black inner edge to the white wing-bar. **(160).**
5. (369) **RIVER LAPWING** *Vanellus duvaucelii* (R) Francolin±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Sandbanks and shingle beds of rivers. Foothills of Himalayas from Himachal to Arunachal; Assam valley; NE hill states; C India and NE Peninsula. **ID:** An attractive, sandy above and white below lapwing. Crown, face, throat, flight feathers, belly-patch and tail end black. **(162).**
6. (363) **SOCIABLE LAPWING (SOCIABLE PLOVER)** *Vanellus gregarius* (M) Francolin±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Dry wasteland, ploughed fields and stubbles. Pakistan, east to Bihar (and Bangladesh?) and south through Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra (irregular). Straggler to Kerala, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** Crown brown; forehead buffy-white running back as a broad white supercilium to meet on hindneck. A brown eye-stripe till ear-coverts. Breeding birds have a black and maroon patch on belly; crown black.
7. (370) **YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING** *Vanellus malabaricus*(R) Francolin-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Wasteland, stubbles and fallow fields in dry biotope. Endemic. Sind in Pakistan; and in India from Gujarat north to Himachal, east to Bihar and south throughout the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Sandy-brown with white belly, black cap, and yellow lappets of skin above and in front of the eyes. **(163).**



PLATE 39: PLOVERS

1. (383) **LONG-BILLED PLOVER** (LONG-BILLED RINGED PLOVER) *Charadrius placidus* (M) Quail+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Shingle banks of large rivers. Nepal, Assam valley and Manipur; reports also from N Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bangladesh, Andamans and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from similar Common Ringed and Little Ringed plovers by larger size, longer dark bill, the broad white forehead and brown (*vs.* blackish) lores and cheeks.
2. (378) **COMMON RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula* (M/V?) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Coasts and mudflats. Recorded from Pakistan, N India, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, SE India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from Little Ringed Plover by the slightly larger size, broader white wing-bar, yellow (*vs.* blackish) black-tipped bill, and orange (*vs.* greenish-yellow) legs.
3. (379-380) **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius* (RM) Quail-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Shingle beds in rivers, seashore and mudflats. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** Its small size, small black bill, yellow eye-ring, dusky greenish-yellow legs, and narrow white wing-bar are identification pointers. See also (2). **(166)**.
4. (381-382) **KENTISH PLOVER** *Charadrius alexandrinus* (RM) Quail-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy shores and mudflats. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, reports from Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Like immature Little Ringed Plover, but separated by blackish legs, unbroken white supercilium and the small dark patch on sides of upper breast. Shows narrow, white wing-bar in flight. **(167)**.
5. (384-384a) **LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus* (RM) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** *Summer:* Stony or sandy plains near lakes, bogs and streams. Baltistan, Ladakh, Lahul and N Sikkim. *Winter:* Seashore and mudflats. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives. **ID:** See Greater Sand Plover. **(168)**.
6. (374) **GREATER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius leschenaultii* (M) Francolin-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy shores and mudflats. Seaboard of the Subcontinent, Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** Like Lesser Sand Plover, but larger, longer billed and legged; legs greenish/yellowish (*vs.* blackish). Lacks white collar (as in 5 and 7), easily separating it from 1-4.
7. (376) **CASPIAN PLOVER** *Charadrius asiaticus* (V) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Seacoast and mudflats. Isolated records from west (Ratnagiri) and east (Point Calimere) coasts of Peninsula, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Andamans. **ID:** Easily mistaken for the Lesser Sand Plover, but the slender and higher on the legs appearance and slim bill are pointers. Legs dusky-olive. In breeding plumage, the chestnut upper breast is separated from white abdomen by a black band, which is not seen in Lesser and Greater sand plovers. **Note:** The **ORIENTAL PLOVER** *Charadrius veredus* (377 - not illustrated), another vagrant to the Indian subcontinent with records from Sri Lanka and Andamans, is larger (24 cm) with longer legs and neck, and with yellowish/pinkish (*vs.* dusky-olive) legs.
8. (371) **GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* (M) Francolin±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy seashores, tidal creeks and mudflats, less commonly inland. Subcontinent; also Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Larger, bulkier and more grey than the golden-plovers. In flight, the large black patch at axillaries ('armpits'), whitish rump and tail, besides lack of yellow in plumage separate it from the golden-plovers. **(164)**.

9. (373) **PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva* (M) Quail±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Muddy shores, ploughed fields and wet ground. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Smaller and more slender than the Grey Plover with yellow-spangled plumage; lacks black axillaries. Also see European Golden-Plover.

10. (372) **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria* (V) Quail±:27cm. **Occurrence:** Stray records from W Pakistan, Kachchh (Gujarat), Indian Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. **ID:** Has brighter gold-spangled upperparts and pure-white (vs. grey) underwing-coverts than smaller Pacific Golden-Plover. **(165)**.



Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

The black mask and long down-curved bill distinctive. Resident in the Himalayas from Gilgit to W. Arunachal at 1,700 to 4,400 m.

A stream bank dweller, the curved bill useful for probing under boulders.



PLATE 40: CURLEWS, WHIMBREL, IBISBILL, DOWITCHER AND GODWITS

1. (387-388) **EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* (M) Village hen±:58cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore and mudflats, also inland wetlands. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** Dark sandy-brown, scalloped with fulvous above and streaked with black on the whitish underparts. Bill long, slender downcurved. *Calls:* A mournful *cur-lew* (170). **Note:** The **FAR EASTERN CURLEW** *Numenius madagascariensis* (- : not illustrated), with unconfirmed reports from Bangladesh, is larger (63cm), longer billed, with dark (*vs.* white) rump, and underparts usually tinged brownish (*vs.* whitish). Shows barred underwing-coverts (*vs.* unbarred) in flight, as in Whimbrel.
2. (385-386) **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* (M) Village hen±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore and mudflats. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** A small version of Eurasian Curlew with a shorter down-curved bill. The blackish crown with three white stripes diagnostic. Underwing-coverts barred (*vs.* unbarred in Eurasian Curlew, but barred in Far Eastern Curlew). *Calls:* *Tetti-tetti-tetti-tek*. (169).
3. (433) **IBISBILL** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* (R) Francolin+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Shingle banks in large river-beds. Himalayas, from Gilgit east to W Arunachal; c. 1700-4400m (summer), lower elevations (winter). **ID:** Unmistakable, greyish-brown above, white below. Black facial mask and breast band; long down-curved red bill.
4. (403) **ASIAN DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus semipalmatus* (M) Francolin+:34cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore and mudflats. Coasts of Bangladesh, W Bengal, E India and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Has the appearance of godwits, but smaller, shorter necked and with an all black, straight, swollen towards the tip bill. In flight, shows pale wing-bar and grey bars on rump and tail. **Note:** The **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (- : not illustrated), a vagrant with two recent reports from Bharatpur (Rajasthan), is similar but has a less heavy bill with pale base; pale belly with a dark grey (*vs.* more scaly) breast.
5. (389-390) **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa* (M) Village hen±:46cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and estuaries. East and west coasts of Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** A large, sandy-brown wader, whitish below with a long slender straight bill. Bill reddish, black towards the tip. In flight, the white wing-bar and black-tipped white tail diagnostic. (171).
6. (391-391a) **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* (M) Village hen±:39cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore and mudflats. Largely coasts of Pakistan and W India; south till Sri Lanka and northeast to Bangladesh; Maldives, Lakshadweep and Nicobars. Also inland: Indus, Punjab Salt Range, Bihar and Bangladesh. **ID:** Like larger Black-tailed Godwit, but bill shorter and slightly upcurved; lacks the broad, white wing-bar, and has a barred (*vs.* black) tipped tail. (172).



**PLATE 41: OYSTERCATCHER, STILT, AVOCET, CRAB-PLOVER,
STONE-CURLEWS AND STONE-PLOVERS**

1. (360-361) **EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus* (M) Francolin+:42cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy and rocky seashore. Subcontinent; Maldives, Sri Lanka. One breeding record in Sundarbans of Bangladesh. **ID:** A pied shorebird with red bill and legs; eyes and eye-ring also red. Broad white wing-bar and black-tipped white tail conspicuous in flight. **(159).**
2. (430-431) **BLACK-WINGED STILT** *Himantopus himantopus* (RM) Francolin:-25cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, lagoons and reservoirs. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** A lanky, delicate, pied wader. Bill long, thin and black. Legs long, thin and reddish. **(193).**
3. (432) **PIED AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta* (RM) Francolin+:46cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, lagoons and mudflats, inland and on the seashore. **Breeding:** Sind and Kachchh. **Winter:** Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka (straggler). **ID:** An elegant, black and white wader with an up-curved, long and slender black bill, and long, bluish legs. **(194).**
4. (434) **CRAB-PLOVER** *Dromas ardeola* (RM) Francolin+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Mudflats and coral reefs. Coasts of the Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars (breeding?), Maldives (breeding?), Sri Lanka (scarce breeder). **ID:** A dumpy, piebald maritime wader. The white plumage with black back and wing quills, the small but distinct black eye-patch and the heavy gull-like black bill diagnostic. **(195).**
5. (436) **INDIAN STONE-CURLEW** (INDIAN THICK-KNEE) *Burhinus indicus* (R) Francolin+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Stony semi-desert. Subcontinent, from base of Himalayas and east of Indus river, except W Ghats and NE hill states; Sri Lanka (dry zone). **ID:** Sand-brown cursorial bird with large head, huge yellow 'goggle' eyes, and long yellowish legs. A broad, buffy bar between two narrow white bars and a conspicuous white patch in the dark wings seen in flight. A clear quick repeated whistling *pick-pick-pick-pick* call heard at dusk and dawn and often throughout moonlit nights are indicative of its presence. **Note:** Race (435), inhabiting West Pakistan and NW India, is now treated as a species **EURASIAN STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus oedicnemus*. **(196).**
6. (437) **GREAT STONE-PLOVER** (GREAT THICK-KNEE, GREAT STONE-CURLEW) *Esacus recurvirostris* (R) Village hen±:51cm. **Occurrence:** Essentially, rocky riverbeds, occasionally seacoasts. SubHimalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A leggy, big-headed and big-billed bird. Uniform sandy-grey above, whitish below. Bill massive, distinctly upturned black and yellow; enormous yellowish 'goggle' eyes with white 'spectacles'. In flight, shows a broad, greyish-brown wing-bar. See also Beach Stone-Plover. **(197).**
7. (438) **BEACH STONE-PLOVER** (BEACH THICK-KNEE, BEACH STONE-CURLEW) *Esacus magnirostris* (R) Village hen±:55cm. **Occurrence:** A strictly coastal species frequenting beaches, reefs and mudflats in the Andamans. Differs from Great Stone-Plover by the stouter and straighter bill, black (vs. white) forehead, grey (vs. black) secondaries on the upperwing, and white (vs. black) inner primaries.



PLATE 42: STINTS, SANDERLING AND KNOTS

1. (418) **LONG-TOED STINT** *Calidris subminuta* (M) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Tidal mudflats and inland marshes. Records from Assam, Bangladesh, W Bengal, Bihar, Nepal, Orissa, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Andamans. **ID:** A yellowish-legged stint like Temminck's, but with longer legs and neck, upright stance, and a distinct supercilium. See also Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Plate 43: 4).
2. (417) **TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii* (M) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Coastal lagoons and tidal mudflats of Subcontinent, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars, Maldives. Also inland marshes especially in N and C Subcontinent. **ID:** More greyer-brown, less mottled above and longer bodied than Little Stint. Supercilium indistinct. Diagnostic brownish-grey breast. Outer-tail feathers pure white. Legs yellowish-green. See also Long-Toed Stint. **(187)**.
3. (416) **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* (M) Quail-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Shores, mudflats and marshes of Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars and Sri Lanka. Inland especially Gangetic Plains, also Ladakh, Kashmir and Nepal. **ID:** Mottled greyish-brown above and white below. Separated from Temmick's Stint by smoke-brown outertail feathers and blackish legs. **(186)**. **Note:** Another black-legged stint, the **RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis* (415 - not illustrated), recorded along the eastern seaboard, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Pakistan (Karachi) and Bangladesh, is larger (14.5cm) with more greyish upperparts and blacker bill and legs. Throat and upper breast (besides face) is rufous during the breeding season, unlike Little Stint where only face is rufous.
4. (423) **SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* (M) Quail-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore and mudflats. Rare. Bangladesh, W Bengal, Orissa (Chilika Lake), Tamil Nadu (Point Calimere), Kerala and Sri Lanka. **ID:** The unique spatulate bill, distinctive. Largely white with dark shafted, pale greyish-brown upperparts; whitish below.
5. (414) **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba* (M) Quail ±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy shores of Subcontinent, Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives. Occasionally inland lakes: Nepal, Kashmir, Punjab and Bihar. **ID:** Separated from other waders by its whitish general colour, black shoulder, and its energetic activity of chasing waves back and forth on the shore for washed up food. In flight, the overall whitish plumage and white wing-bar diagnostic. **(185)**.
6. (428) **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (NORTHERN PHALAROPE) *Phalaropus lobatus* (M) Quail ±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Coastal waters, inland ponds and jheels. Pakistan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. On passage, inland (Baluchistan to Bihar) and off the coast of Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Grey above, white below, blackish eye-patch. Bill and legs black. **Note:** The **RED PHALAROPE** (GREY PHALAROPE) *Phalaropus fulicarius* (427), a vagrant to the Indian region, has a stout (*vs.* fine) bill.
8. (412) **RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus* (M) Quail+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Mudflats and estuaries. Records from Sind, Baluchistan(?), W Bengal, Bangladesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Great Knot (8), but has a much shorter bill, strongly barred white rump, and the spots on breast are less well defined.
7. (413) **GREAT KNOT** *Calidris tenuirostris* (M) Francolin-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Coasts and tidal mudflats. From Pakistan to Sri Lanka; Bangladesh; also reported from Lakshadweep and Andamans. **ID:** Large, stocky, grey calidrid. Greyish upperparts, boldly streaked with black; rump white. Below white, upper breast spotted with brown. Bill longer than Red Knot, and breast more strongly streaked.



PLATE 43: SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

1. (422) **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea* (M) Quail±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore, mudflats and marshes. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives. **ID:** Like Dunlin (2), but bill is much longer and more down-curved; rump is fully white; and summer plumage is completely different, mainly chestnut and rich rufous. **(189).**
2. (420-421) **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* (M) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore, mudflats and riverbanks. Pakistan; NW India; along large rivers of Gangetic system; E and W coasts of the Peninsula; Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** Like Curlew Sandpiper, but bill shorter and less down-curved. Belly with a blackish patch in summer. In flight, shows prominent white wing-bar and white on sides of rump. See also Broad-billed Sandpiper (3). **(188).**
3. (424-425) **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Limicola falcinellus* (M) Quail:17cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore, mudflats and river banks. Subcontinent, including Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from somewhat similar larger Dunlin by the pale split supercilium, black on shoulder and more scaly upperparts. Bill slightly down-curved as in Dunlin. In flight, shows white to sides of tail as in Dunlin. **(190).**
4. (419) **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** *Calidris acuminata* (V) Quail ±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Only three definite records: Gilgit, Kashmir and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A larger version of the Long-toed Stint (Plate 42: 1), but with dull green (*vs.* yellowish) legs and slightly down-curved bill. Crown rufous, indistinct in winter; prominent white supercilium. **Note:** The extremely similar **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos* (- : not illustrated), with only one (recent) record from Harike Lake (Punjab), is a little larger (21cm) and shows a sharp border between the brown-streaked breast and white belly, unlike the diffuse border in Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. **Note:** Another species with recent records from the Indian region (several records from SE Bangladesh and one from Goa) is the **GREY-TAILED TATTLER** *Heteroscelus brevipes*. It is somewhat like the short-legged Common Sandpiper (Plate 44: 8) but has yellow (*vs.* greenish-grey) legs and is grey on breast without the white incursion in front of shoulders; white supercilium.
5. (402) **RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* (M) Quail±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky seashore. Coasts of Subcontinent, Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka, Maldives. Passage through Kashmir, Gangetic Plains and NE hill states. **ID:** Dark brown, black and white wader with a black pectoral band, conical black bill and orange-red legs. **(180).**
6. (426) **RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax* (M) **Male (Ruff):** Francolin±:31cm; **Female (Reeve):** Quail+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Mudflats, marshes and wet paddy stubble. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Maldives; wintering mainly in the Gangetic Plains, coastal S India and Sri Lanka. Can be confused with Common Redshank by its orange-red (*vs.* bright red) legs, but its scaly-patterned upperparts, shorter bill, absence of broad white wing-bars, and the brown rump (bordered by white) are clues. **(191).** **Note:** Another orange-legged wader that somewhat resembles the Ruff is the **BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis* (425a - not illustrated) with records only from Goa and Sri Lanka. This species is smaller (19cm), has a short black bill, and has buff on face and underparts.



PLATE 44: SANDPIPERS

1. (393-394) **COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus* (RM) Francolin:-28cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, margins of lakes, river banks and estuaries. **Breeding:** NW Himalayas; N Sikkim. **Winter:** Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives. **ID:** Greyish-brown wader with orange-red legs and orange-red and black bill. In flight, shows a broad, white wing-bar. **Calls:** A high pitched *tyoo, tyoo* (174).
2. (392) **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* (RM) Francolin:-33cm. **Occurrence:** Wetlands, especially of N Subcontinent; Sri Lanka (rare). Partial to freshwater than Common Redshank. **ID:** More grey, longer billed and legged than Common Redshank. Wing-bar spotted brown. **Calls:** *twew-it; kree-kree*.
3. (396) **COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* (M) Francolin+ :36cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, margins of ponds, lagoons and mudflats. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives. **ID:** Largest among the sandpipers. **Winter:** The white forehead, absence of wing-bar, olive-green legs, greenish-brown, slightly upcurved bill and barred tail are identification pointers. **Calls:** *Tiwee, tiwee, tiwee*. See also (4). (176).
4. (399) **SPOTTED GREENSHANK** (NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK) *Tringa guttifer* (M) Francolin±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Sandbars and mudflats in large rivers and near coasts. SE Bangladesh. Doubtful records from Assam, Sri Lanka and Nepal. **ID:** Separated from Common Greenshank by the stouter, yellow and black bill (*vs.* greenish-brown), yellow (*vs.* olive-green) legs, shorter stature, and large spots on breast and flanks in the breeding plumage. In flight, shows unbarred (*vs.* barred) tail and white (*vs.* greyish) underwing.
5. (395) **MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis* (M) Francolin:-25cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, margins of ponds, inundated fields and mudflats. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Andamans and Maldives. **ID:** A smaller version of the Common Greenshank, but with the delicateness of the Black-winged Stilt. Bill fine and slender; legs greenish. Lacks wing-bar. (175).
6. (397) **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus* (M) Quail+ :24cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, small streams and ponds. **Winter:** Subcontinent; Andamans, Lakshadweep and Sri Lanka. **ID:** See Wood Sandpiper (7).
7. (398) **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* (M) Quail±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes, flooded paddyfields, mudflats. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Lakshadweep (sight record). **ID:** Separated from Green Sandpiper(6) by the paler brown and white-spotted upperparts, longer supercilium, more yellowish legs, and smaller and slimmer build. In flight, much lighter (*vs.* brown-black) underwing and more finely barred tail end diagnostic. Shrill *pee-pee-pee* (*contra* sharp *ti-tui* or *twee- twee-twee*) calls when flushed. (177).
8. (401) **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* (RM) Quail±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Gravel and sand bars or edges in rivers, reservoirs, lagoons and seashore. **Breeding:** Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Uttarakhand; *c.* 1800-3200m. **Winter:** Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Lakshadweep. **ID:** Short greenish-grey legs. The white shoulders, narrow, white supercilium and wing-bar, brown tail with white outertail feathers, the vibrating low flight over water, 'tail-wagging', and shrill *tee-tee-tee* call are clues. (179).
9. (400) **TEREK SANDPIPER** *Xenus cinereus* (M) Quail+ :24cm. **Occurrence:** Seashore, mudflats and lagoons. Seaboard of Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Andamans and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives. Inland during passage: NW Himalayas to Rajasthan, through the Gangetic Plains, Nepal. **ID:** Long, slender, upcurved orange-black bill and short orange-yellow legs. In flight, shows pale ashy-brown rump and white trailing edge to secondaries. (178).



PLATE 45: SKUAS, JAEGER AND GULLS

1. (445-446) **BROWN SKUA** *Catharacta antarctica* (V) Duck±:58cm. **Occurrence:** Coastal and offshore waters, Sri Lanka, SW Indian coasts, Maldives(?) and Lakshadweep(?). **ID:** A large and stout overall brown skua except for the white carpal-patch in both upper- and under-wing. Tail with middle rectrices slightly longer and projecting beyond the other tail feathers. See also South Polar Skua.
2. (446a) **SOUTH POLAR SKUA** *Catharacta maccormicki* (V) Duck±:53cm. **Occurrence:** Coastal and offshore waters. Records from Sri Lanka, Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Maldives coasts. **ID:** Smaller, more slender, shorter-legged, and overall more greyish than Brown Skua with a smaller less hooked bill. Varied plumages with pale and dark morphs. Pale morph has whitish head and underparts. Dark morph has golden-yellow hindneck, and usually pale buffy-brown underparts.
3. (448) **PARASITIC JAEGER** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (V/M?) Duck-:45cm. **Occurrence:** Pakistan coast, Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like the larger Pomarine Jaeger and separated by the straight and pointed (*vs.* spatulate) tail streamers. Also has a slimmer, darker bill and more slender wings. Dark phase wholly brown. See also Pomarine Jaeger.
4. (447) **POMARINE JAEGER** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (V) Duck-:56cm. **Occurrence:** Sight records from Pakistan (off Karachi), Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Either wholly dark brown (dark phase); or brown above including on crown and face, and rest, yellowish-white with greyish-brown undertail-coverts and pectoral collar. Tail streamers spatulate. *Immature* ranges from blackish-brown (dark phase) to variously mottled and barred plumages on whitish underparts with spatulate tail streamers projecting only slightly. See also Parasitic Jaeger (3).
5. (484) **INDIAN SKIMMER** *Rynchops albicollis* (R) Crow±:40cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers. Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems; Nepal terai; and large rivers of E and peninsular India. Vagrant elsewhere. **ID:** The pied plumage, long and pointed wings, peculiar compressed knife like orange-yellow bill with the lower mandible projecting well beyond the upper, and the bright red legs diagnostic. **(275)**.
6. (453) **PALLAS'S GULL** (GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL) *Larus ichthyaetus* (M) Duck+:69m. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Maldives. Occasionally inland on large rivers and lakes: Indus to Gangetic Plains, NE India, Bangladesh, rarely C India. **ID:** Readily recognised by its large size and solitary habit. In summer, head and neck black; broken white eye-ring. Bill stout, yellow with a bright red-black patch at angle on both the mandibles. In winter, the head is white with brownish-black streaks; a dark patch present behind the eye; and bill is black-tipped. **(204)**.
7. (449) **SOOTY GULL** *Larus hemprichii* (RM) Duck-:48cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast. Pakistan, breeding in Astola Is. (W. Baluchistan) and mouth of Indus. Sight records from Mumbai, Maldives and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A medium sized gull with dark brown head and brown breast, white collar and greyish-brown mantle. Bill yellow, tipped black and red. Lacks white collar in winter; head paler brown.
8. (451) **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** (CASPIAN GULL) *Larus cachinnans* (M) Duck±:60cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, and inland lakes and rivers of Nepal and N India. **ID:** Mantle grey. White head faintly streaked

with brown on hindneck in winter. Snow-white below. Legs and feet yellow, sometimes pink. Bright red patch near tip of lower mandible. **Note:** Species treated as a race of Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* in *The Ripley Guide*. (202).

9. (450) **HEUGLIN'S GULL** *Larus heuglini* (M) Duck±:60cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts of Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives. Inland lakes and rivers of Nepal and N India. **ID:** Mantle darker (dark grey) than Yellow-legged Gull. Has more prominent brown streaks on back of head in winter. Legs yellowish, sometimes pinkish. Difficult to separate *juveniles*, but Heuglin's has darker inner primaries and underwing-coverts. (203). **Note:** Another gull with recent records in the Indian region (Sind and Punjab, Pakistan, Delhi, eastern Nepal) that is smaller (50cm) than Yellow-legged and Heuglin's gulls is the **MEW GULL** *Larus canus* (- : not illustrated). Its bill is shorter, more slender and lacks the red spot; eyes dark.

10. (457) **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus* (V) Pigeon-:25-30cm. **Occurrence:** Recorded from Ladakh and Great Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat). **ID:** A diminutive gull, distinguished by its small size, dark eyes, blackish underwing with a white margin at the trailing edge, and tern-like movement. Brownish smudge on crown and a patch on ear-coverts. Assumes the black head during the breeding season. *Juvenile* with a dark bar across upperwing.

11. (455) **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL) *Larus ridibundus* (M) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast and estuaries, more common on west coast; also large lakes. Subcontinent, Sri Lanka and Maldives (vagrant). **ID:** Like Brown-headed Gull but smaller, has the leading edge of the wing pure white (*vs.* black with white mirrors) and brown (*vs.* white) eyes. Black spot on ear-coverts, the dark coffee-coloured head is assumed in March before migration. *Immature* is pale brown above with a pale brown cap and has a broad blackish band at tail tip. (206).

12. (454) **BROWN-HEADED GULL** *Larus brunnicephalus* (RM) Crow+:46cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast, lagoons, backwaters, estuaries, large lakes and rivers. *Breeding:* Ladakh. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** Separated from Black-headed Gull by its larger size, prominent white wing mirrors in black-edged primaries and white eyes. Brown head assumed by March before migration. *Immature* has a broad dark brown terminal band to the tail, brown mottling on the upperwing-coverts, and lacks wing-mirrors. (205).

13. (456) **SLENDER-BILLED GULL** *Larus genei* (RM) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and sea coast. *Breeding:* Baluchistan. *Winter:* Sind and Gujarat, wandering to W and SE coasts of India; also recorded in Indian Punjab and Nepal. **ID:** Difficult to separate from Brown-headed Gull in winter, but head noticeably flattened in front and elongated; neck longer; the bright red slender bill also longer; also lacks the brown spot on ear-covert. Legs are usually a brighter red.



Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*

In flight, the whitish underparts and black wing lining distinctive. Resident all over India. Gregarious, hunts insects near large water bodies. Calls reminiscent of geckos!



PLATE 46: TERNS

1. (459a) **BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* (V) Pigeon-:23cm. **Occurrence:** A few records from Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Orissa (Chilika), Andhra (Pulicat Lake) and Tamil Nadu (Point Calimere), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like White-winged Black Tern in summer, but wings grey (*vs.* white); lacks black on underwing; and rump is grey (*vs.* whitish). In winter, the black patch on sides of breast and dark ear-coverts are pointers. Tail is more forked than White-winged Tern. See also Whiskered Tern. [**Hy-PCR**]
2. (459) **WHITE-WINGED TERN** (WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN) *Chlidonias leucopterus* (M) Pigeon-:23cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and rivers. Pakistan, NW Himalayas, Nepal, Assam, Bangladesh, irregularly in the rest of the Indian peninsula; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars, Maldives. **ID:** The whitish rump and pale tail separate it from Whiskered and Black terns in winter plumage; dark ear-coverts. In summer, wings white, underwing black. See (1) and (3) for additional notes.
3. (458) **WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida* (RM) Pigeon-:25cm. **Occurrence:** Lakes, marshes, coastal lagoons and mudflats. **Breeding:** Kashmir, N India in the Gangetic Plains, Assam(?) and Bangladesh(?). **Winter:** Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A graceful silvery-grey tern; belly blackish in summer, whitish in winter. Crown flecked blackish in winter. Lacks the dark ear-coverts seen in Black Tern (1) and White-winged Tern (2) in winter. The eye-stripe till nape, and the very shallow forked tail are additional pointers. Also see Black-bellied Tern (13). (**207**).
4. (475, 477) **LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Rivers, marshes and estuaries. Pakistan, Gujarat, coasts of Maharashtra, W Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, large rivers of N India, Nepal and Bangladesh, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobars, Maldives and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from all other terns, except from Saunderson's Tern, by its diminutive size. In summer, with black cap, white forehead and orange-yellow bill and feet. In winter, the black cap is streaked white, bill black and feet dusky-red. **Note:** The **SAUNDERS'S TERN** *Sterna saundersi* (476 - not illustrated) breeds in Pakistan (Karachi); non-breeders reported from SW Gujarat, Mumbai, NW coast of Sri Lanka, Chennai, Maldives (breeding?) and Lakshadweep, but confusion with similar Little Tern possible. It differs primarily in the brownish tinge to the legs and more rounded white forehead patch. (**213**).
5. (483) **WHITE TERN** *Gygis alba* (R) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. **Breeding:** Addu and Seenu atolls in Maldives. Reported from Bay of Bengal and Andamans. **ID:** A snow-white, black-billed tern with a forked tail and blackish eyes. **Juvenile** smudged with brown on upperparts.
6. (466) **ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* (R) Crow-:38cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast. Islets off the coast of S India, Vengurla Rocks off S Maharashtra, Sri Lanka, Maldives(?) and Andamans. **ID:** Slender grey and white tern indistinguishable from the Common Tern (8) in winter except for the longer, pure white (*vs.* grey and white) outermost tail feathers. The underparts attain a pinkish tinge in summer and bill turns red towards the base.
7. (467) **WHITE-CHEEKED TERN** *Sterna repressa* (R) Crow-:35cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. **Breeding:** Vengurla Rocks off S Maharashtra coast. Reports from coasts of Pakistan, W India, Maldives, Lakshadweep and Sri Lanka(?). **ID:** A larger version of the Whiskered Tern (3), but with a deeply forked tail. In winter, forehead white, the feathers around the eye, nape and upper hindneck black or chocolate-brown.

8. (464-465) **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* (RM) Crow-:36cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers and estuaries. *Breeding:* Ladakh, Sri Lanka, Adams Bridge between Sri Lanka and India. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Maldives. **ID:** A grey-mantled tern with deeply forked tail, not projecting beyond wing-tips at rest. The largely black first primary, dusky edge of outertail feathers and the blackish bill with red base suggestive. In summer, the head is black-capped and bill turns coral-red, tipped black. **(211).** **Note:** The **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea* (466a: not illustrated), with a record from Kashmir, is very similar but throat, breast and abdomen have a greyish wash. Bill shorter and outer-tail feathers longer. Bill of breeders is all red (*vs.* red with black tip), and blackish (*vs.* blackish with red base) in non-breeders.

9. (463) **RIVER TERN** *Sterna aurantia* (R) Crow±:42cm. **Occurrence:** Large rivers and reservoirs. Subcontinent. **ID:** The deeply forked tail, red legs and yellow-orange bill diagnostic. *Summer:* Forehead, crown, nape to below eyes jet black. The smaller Black-bellied Tern (13) is very similar, but has an orange (*vs.* yellow-orange) bill and sports a black belly in summer.

10. (462) **CASPIAN TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia* (RM) Crow+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coasts, large lakes and reservoirs of saltworks. *Breeding:* Baluchistan, W Gujarat and Sri Lanka. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Maldives (vagrant). **ID:** The largest among Indian terns, and distinguished by its size, very large stout coral-red bill, shaggy black crest, black-tipped wings and black legs. In winter, crown streaked black. **(209).**

11. (478) **GREAT CRESTED TERN** (LARGE CRESTED TERN) *Thalasseus bergii* (R) Kite-:47cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars. *Breeding:* Islets off the coasts of entire seaboard. **ID:** A large sea tern with black crown and velvety-black nuchal crest; forehead and lores white. Bill large and yellow; legs black. In winter, crown speckled with black. See also (12). **(214).**

12. (479) **LESSER CRESTED TERN** *Thalasseus bengalensis* (R) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Offshore waters. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars. *Breeding:* Islets off the coasts of entire seaboard. **ID:** Like larger Large Crested Tern, but has paler grey upperparts and lacks white on forehead and lores. Bill orange (*vs.* yellow); legs black.

13. (470) **BLACK-BELLIED TERN** *Sterna acuticauda* (R) Crow-:33cm. **Occurrence:** Rivers, rarely coasts and estuaries. Subcontinent, east of the Indus and south till about Pennar (Pennar) river. **ID:** Ashy-grey above. Belly blackish in summer, otherwise underparts wholly white in winter. Forehead, crown, nape and crest glossy-black. The deeply forked tail and orange bill separate it from Whiskered Tern, which also has a black belly during summer. See also larger River Tern (9). **(212).**

14. (468-469) **BLACK-NAPED TERN** *Sterna sumatrana* (R) Crow-:33cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Andamans (breeding) and Nicobars, Maldives (breeding). Vagrant to SW India, W Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. **ID:** Pale pearl-grey and white sea-tern with a deeply forked tail, and black bill and legs. Black band commencing in front of eye and encircling sides of crown and nape diagnostic. Underparts white suffused with rosy-pink below.

15. (460-461) **GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica* (RM) Crow-:38cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels, rivers and coastal mudflats. *Breeding:* Pakistan (Baluchistan and Indus Valley), Chilika Lake (Orissa); unconfirmed breeding reports from S W Bengal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Pearl-grey and white tern

with slightly forked tail, stout black gull-like bill, and a complete jet-black crown. In winter, head almost pure white with only a dark patch behind the eye. Has a graceful, leisurely flight dropping vertically to water surface or flats to pick up prey, not plunging like most other terns.

16. (474) **SOOTY TERN** *Sterna fuscata* (R) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. Lakshadweep (breeding), Vengurla Rocks (off S Maharashtra), and probably Maldives, Andamans and W and S Sri Lanka. Has strayed inland to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar and Assam. **ID:** A darker version of the Bridled Tern (19), also having a deeply forked tail with outermost feathers white. Differs in having the white of forehead only till eyes, unlike Bridled where it extends further on. Leading edge of upperwing also more contrastingly white. Bill and feet black. *Juvenile* scaly like Bridled, but darker and with a dark brown head.

17. (481) **BROWN NODDY** *Anous stolidus* (R) Crow-:41cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. *Breeding:* Lakshadweep, Maldives. Straggler to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, SE India, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Smoky, chocolate-brown tern with white forehead, grey crown, brownish-grey neck, and blackish-brown wings and tail. Tail feebly forked and without pointed streamers. **Note:** The similar and smaller (37cm) **BLACK NODDY** *Anous minutus* (482 - not illustrated), with reports from Nicobars, Minicoy, Lakshadweep and mouth of Ganges, is slimmer and darker overall and with a more pronounced white cap. The smaller (33cm) form of this species (not illustrated), with a slimmer bill, paler and greyer upperparts and pale grey crown, is treated as a species, **LESSER NODDY** *Anous tenuirostris* (482), in *The Ripley Guide*.

18. (480) **SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (M) Crow+:44cm. **Occurrence:** Sea coast. Pakistan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Sri Lanka, also recorded in Indian Punjab. **ID:** A pale grey tern with long, slender yellow-tipped black bill; tail and rump white. A pronounced nuchal tuft. In winter, crown white-streaked; a black stripe from front of eye to nuchal tuft.

19. (471-473) **BRIDLED TERN** *Sterna anaethetus* (R) Crow-:37cm. **Occurrence:** Pelagic. *Breeding:* Islands off the Maharashtra coast (Vengurla Rocks), islands of Adam's bridge between India and Sri Lanka, Makran coast(?), Kerala, Lakshadweep, Maldives(?). Post-breeding dispersal to the coasts of Pakistan, W and E India, Andamans and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Greyish-brown above, white below; outertail feathers largely white. Forehead and supercilium white; crown, nape, and eye-stripe black. Bill and legs black. *Juvenile* has streaked crown and scaly upperparts. See also Sooty Tern (16).



PLATE 47: SANDGROUSE

1. (489) **BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles orientalis* (R) Pigeon+:39cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy semi-desert. Pakistan (Baluchistan) and NW India (Rajasthan and Gujarat). Vagrant records in Nepal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. **Breeding:** Baluchistan and Sind. **ID:** Black belly and narrow black breast-band in both sexes; lacks pintail. In flight, the black belly contrasting with whitish underwings, edged-black at the trailing ends diagnostic. **(217).**
2. (490) **CROWNED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles coronatus* (R) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Stony semi-desert. Pakistan west of the Indus. **ID:** Like Spotted Sandgrouse (6), but smaller and lacks the black belly-patch and pintail. In flight, the overall sandy underparts with a black border at the trailing edge of wings indicative.
3. (491) **LICHTENSTEIN'S SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles lichtensteinii* (R) Pigeon-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Stony semi-desert. S Pakistan (Baluchistan and Sind) west of the Indus. **ID:** Like Painted (5), the differences include the spotting (*vs.* un-spotted) on throat and face in *female* and the closely barred (*vs.* plain ochraceous-buff) throat and upper breast in *male*. Double breast-band in *male*. Bill orange in *male*, brown in *female*.
4. (487) **CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles exustus* (R) Pigeon±:28cm. **Occurrence:** Stony semi-desert and dry fallow land. Pakistan and India, east to W Bengal and south to Tamil Nadu. **ID:** A yellowish, sandy-grey pintailed sandgrouse with a narrow black breast-band and blackish-chestnut belly, the *female* with a dark, barred belly. *Juvenile* lacks the breast-band. **(216).**
5. (492) **PAINTED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles indicus* (R) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Bare, stony plateau country. Endemic. N Pakistan east of the Indus; India, from Gujarat east to W Bengal and Orissa and south to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. **ID:** A close-barred, 'pintail-less' sandgrouse. *Male* has a white forecrown divided by a black band; a broad tricoloured breast band. Belly finely barred in both sexes. Bill orange in *male*, orange-brown in *female*. See also Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (3). **(218).**
6. (488) **SPOTTED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles senegallus* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Open semi-desert. Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** An overall, sand-coloured, pintailed sandgrouse. Cheeks and throat orange, unmarked. In flight, the black stripe down centre of belly distinctive for both sexes. *Female* heavily spotted on upperparts.
7. (486) **WHITE-BELLIED SANDGROUSE (PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE)** *Pterocles alchata* (R/M?) Pigeon+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy or stony semi-desert. Pakistan, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat. **ID:** A pintailed, sand-coloured sandgrouse with the abdomen and most of underwing (except flight feathers) white. Diagnostic black stripe behind eye in both sexes. Two bands across throat-breast in *male*, three in *female*.
8. (485a) **PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE** *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* (V) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Single record, W Rajasthan. **ID:** A pintailed sandgrouse with a black belly-patch in both sexes, which contrasts with largely white underwing in flight. A gorget across breast in *male*, absent in *female*. *Female* has a diagnostic gorget below throat.
9. (485) **TIBETAN SANDGROUSE** *Syrrhaptes tibetanus* (R) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Stony, semi-desert steppes. Ladakh and Himachal, *c.* 4200-5400cm; also reported from N Sikkim. **ID:** A large, high altitude, pintailed sandgrouse with a white belly. Crown, nape and breast finely barred; also on upperparts in *female*. Face and throat orange, unmarked. In flight, the largely dark underwing contrasting with white belly diagnostic.



PLATE 48: PIGEONS

1. (516-517) **ROCK PIGEON** (BLUE ROCK PIGEON) *Columba livia* (R) 33cm. **Occurrence:** Cliffs and gorges, and around human habitation and cultivation. Subcontinent; Nicobars (introduced), Sri Lanka (locally), Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** Bluish-grey with glistening, metallic green-purple-magenta sheen on breast and around neck; two dark bars on wing; black terminal tail-band. **(226)**.
2. (515) **HILL PIGEON** *Columba rupestris* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Cliffs and gorges in high plateau country. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Sikkim; c. 3000-5500m, lower in winter. **ID:** Like Rock Pigeon, but distinguished by the paler upper plumage and whitish underparts, white patch on lower back, and the broad whitish band across tail.
3. (518) **YELLOW-EYED PIGEON** (EASTERN STOCK PIGEON) *Columba eversmanni* (M) Pigeon-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Groves of trees in cultivated country. Pakistan; NW India, east to Bihar. **ID:** Like Rock Pigeon, but smaller, paler and with short wing-bars. Dark grey rump contrasting with white lower back and yellow eye-ring diagnostic. **Note:** The **STOCK PIGEON** *Columba oenas* (not illustrated), known only from a recent record in Assam, is like the Yellow-eyed Pigeon with also short wing-bars, but is larger (33cm), dark-eyed, yellow-billed, and lacks the white lower back.
4. (513-514) **SNOW PIGEON** *Columba leuconota* (R) Pigeon±:34cm. **Occurrence:** Cliffs and steep gorges. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to E Bhutan; c. 3000-4500m, lower in winter. **ID:** The blackish head, brownish mantle, grey wings with three dark bars, black rump, and blackish tail with white band distinctive.
5. (519) **COMMON WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus* (R) Pigeon+:43cm. **Occurrence:** Forests of oak and conifers. Baluchistan, Salt Range (Pakistan) and W Himalayas; seasonally c. 800-3500m, and in winter, eastwards along the Himalayas till N W Bengal. **ID:** Grey and brown pigeon distinguished by a broken buff collar on sides of hindneck. Shows a broad whitish band across wing and a black band at tail tip in flight.
6. (521) **NILGIRI WOODPIGEON** *Columba elphinstonii* (R) Pigeon+:42cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-evergreen forest and sholas. Endemic. W Ghats and associated hills from Mumbai, south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Grey head with a conspicuous black and white 'chessboard' on rear of neck. Above reddish-brown with green and purple sheen; underparts slate-grey. *Calls:* *Who*, followed by 3 or 4 deep *who-who-who*. **(227)**.
7. (523) **ASHY WOODPIGEON** *Columba pulchricollis* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal onwards; c. 1200-3200m; NE hill states; and occasionally the adjacent plains. **ID:** Dark ashy- or slate-grey above with pale grey head. A conspicuous broad, buff collar stippled with black on sides of neck diagnostic. Green sheen on lower neck; lilac on hindneck. Greyish underparts, belly and vent buff.
8. (524) **PALE-CAPPED WOODPIGEON** (PURPLE WOODPIGEON) *Columba punicea* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded ravines with dense evergreen undergrowth or where interspersed with scrub jungle and cultivation. Bihar, E Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, N Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, W Bengal and Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** Crown and nape greyish-white. Above, rich chestnut-brown with a brilliant green and amethyst sheen. Rump slaty-grey; tail blackish-brown. Vinaceous-chestnut below. *Female* duller, head brown-grey with a lilac gloss. **(228)**.

9. (525) **ANDAMAN WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumboides* (R) Pigeon+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. Evergreen forest of Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Head pale grey with a slight metallic-green gloss on neck forming an indistinct chessboard pattern. Dark slaty upperparts; underparts greyish. Yellowish bill, red at base. *Calls:* A deep *whom*.
10. (522) **SRI LANKAN WOODPIGEON** *Columba torringtonii* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** A smaller version of the Nilgiri Woodpigeon (6) with a chessboard patch on hindneck. Head, neck, mantle and breast vinaceous-purple. Below reddish-grey, glossed with reddish-lilac. Wing glistening blackish-brown.
11. (520) **SPECKLED WOODPIGEON** *Columba hodgsonii* (R) Pigeon+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Tall evergreen and semi-evergreen forest. Himalayas; c. 1800-4000m; NE hill states. **ID:** Head and neck grey. Upperparts maroon, speckled with white on mantle and shoulders. Underparts grey, speckled with black, grey and maroon; darker below. *Calls:* A very deep *whock-whr-o-o...whroo*.
12. (506-507, 508a) **GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** *Ducula aenea* (R) Crow+:43cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest of Subcontinent; Andamans, also Nicobars (but see Note), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head, neck and underparts pale grey; chestnut-maroon vent and undertail-coverts. Above, metallic-green. **(224). Note:** The race *nicobarica* (508), restricted to the Nicobar Islands with dark blue upperparts and dark brown vent, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **NICOBAR IMPERIAL-PIGEON** *Ducula nicobarica*.
13. (509) **PIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON** *Ducula bicolor* (R) Pigeon+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, especially mangroves. Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** A bicoloured pigeon; overall creamy-white except for the black flight feathers and black on the distal part of tail.
14. (510-512) **MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** *Ducula badia* (R) Crow+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Tall evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal up to c. 2300m; NE hill states; W Ghats complex. **ID:** Head, neck and underparts creamy-white. Upperparts brownish; flight feathers blackish. Rump and uppertail-coverts ashy-grey. Dark brown band across base of tail. *Calls:* Deep booming and mournful *uk-ook....ook* or *gu-goo....goo*. **(225)**.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*

A particoloured Himalayan high altitude pigeon seen up to 4,500 m. Feeds on weeds and green shoots of crops. Breeds on cliff face holes from April to July.





PLATE 49: PIGEONS AND DOVES

1. (494) **WEDGE-TAILED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron sphenurus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Broad-leaved forest. Lower Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Arunachal and hills south of the Brahmaputra; up to *c.* 2500m. **ID:** *Male* tinged with rufous on crown and pale orange and pink breast. Maroon on shoulders; cinnamon vent. Long, all green, wedge-shaped tail diagnostic. *Female* overall green; creamy vent. **(220).**
2. (503-505) **YELLOW-LEGGED GREEN-PIGEON** (YELLOW-FOOTED GREEN-PIGEON) *Treron phoenicopterus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope. Himalayan foothills from Pakistan (Punjab) to Assam; Bangladesh; south through the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Easily distinguished from all other Indian green-pigeons by the yellow legs (*vs.* orange-red) and grey head. The yellow collar, lilac shoulder-patch and the chestnut-barred vent also diagnostic.
3. (496-500) **POMPADOUR GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron pompadora* (R) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Nepal, NE India, W Bengal, Bangladesh, W Ghats complex south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Ashy-grey on forehead, crown and nape. Chestnut maroon mantle in *male*, green in *female*. **(221).** **Note:** The species has been split into four species in *The Ripley Guide*: **GREY-FRONTED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron affinis* (496) of the Western Ghats; **ASHY-HEADED GREEN-PIGEON** (498-499) *Treron phayrei* of Nepal, NE hill states and Bangladesh; **ANDAMAN GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron chloropterus* (500) of the Andaman and Nicobars; and **SRI LANKAN GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron pompadora* (497) of Sri Lanka.
4. (495) **THICK-BILLED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron curvirostra* (R) Pigeon-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country up to *c.* 1500m. Lower Himalayas, from W Nepal to Arunachal up to *c.* 2750m; south to Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** The thick bright red and greenish bill and broad, blue-green eye-ring diagnostic. *Male* has chestnut maroon mantle, green in *female*.
5. (493) **PIN-TAILED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron apicauda* (R) Pigeon+: *Male* 42cm, *Female* 35cm. **Occurrence:** Tall forest. Lower Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal and Assam; also Meghalaya and Manipur; up to *c.* 1800m. **ID:** Overall yellowish-green with a diagnostic, long grey pintail. *Male* with a broad greyish olive-green collar on hindneck; breast washed with orange-pink. **(219).**
6. (501-502) **ORANGE-BREASTED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron bicinctus* (R) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Lower Himalayas (up to *c.* 1500m), from the Uttar Pradesh *terai* and Nepal, east to Arunachal and Bangladesh; W Ghats south of Goa; E Ghats; Sriharikota; Point Calimere; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Its slaty-grey, short tail with incomplete broad black subterminal band diagnostic; cinnamon vent. *Male* has a lilac and orange breast-band, absent in *female*. **(222).**
7. (544b) **NICOBAR PIGEON** *Caloenas nicobarica* (R) Pigeon+:41cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest. Nicobars, Andamans (South Sentinel) and Cocos (Myanmar). **ID:** Unmistakable from the glistening mane-like neck hackles and sharply contrasting white short tail. Juvenile dull, lacks hackles and has a bronze-green tail.
8. (526) **BARRED CUCKOO-DOVE** *Macropygia unchall* (R) Pigeon-:41cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest and secondary jungle. Himalayas, from Kashmir to Arunachal; south through NE hill states to Meghalaya and Manipur. **ID:** Slender, long-

tailed dove. Upperparts rufous barred with black. Tail long, brownish barred black and rufous. *Male* has hindneck highly glossed with metallic-green. *Female* has barring on head, neck and breast. (229).

9. (527-527a) **ANDAMAN CUCKOO-DOVE** *Macropygia rufipennis* (R) Pigeon-:41cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest and secondary jungle. Endemic to Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Like Barred Cuckoo-Dove, but tail unbarred. Overall rufous-brown, head and hindneck glossed with metallic lilac-purple. Head of *female* mottled with black, *male* finely barred on underparts.

10. (542-544a) **EMERALD DOVE** *Chalcophaps indica* (R) Myna+ :27cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states and Bangladesh, south to Orissa; W Ghats, southern E Ghats; Sri Lanka; Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Bronze-green above, vinaceous below. Pale grey bars on back and rump. Chestnut underwing and coral-red bill conspicuous in flight. (235).

11. (535-536) **RED COLLARED-DOVE** *Streptopelia tranquebarica* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous scrub jungle and cultivation. Subcontinent; normally below 800m in the Himalayas; Andamans; scarce or vagrant in extreme south India, east coast and Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* A small grey and pinkish-red dove. Dark ashy-grey on head and nape with a black collar on hindneck. Clay-red above, vinaceous-red below. *Female:* A miniature of Eurasian Collared-Dove with a white vent. (232).

12. (534) **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (RING DOVE) *Streptopelia decaocto* (R) Pigeon±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Dry deciduous plains country with light jungle and cultivation. Subcontinent; N Sri Lanka. **ID:** A pale grey and brown dove distinguished by a prominent, narrow black collar on hindneck. *Calls:* *ku, koo—ku, koo.* See also female (11). (231).

13. (541) **LITTLE BROWN DOVE** (LAUGHING DOVE) *Streptopelia senegalensis* (R) Myna+ :27cm. **Occurrence:** Open semi-arid biotope. Subcontinent east to Nepal, Bangladesh and Tripura; Peninsula plains, not Sri Lanka. **ID:** Small pinkish-brown and grey dove with head and neck lilac-pink, and with a miniature chessboard in black and rufous on sides of foreneck. *Calls:* A soft, pleasant *coo-rooroo-rooroo* or *cru-do-do-do-do.* (234).

14. (537-540) **SPOTTED DOVE** *Streptopelia chinensis* (R) Pigeon-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope. Subcontinent, except the arid NW region; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Pinkish-brown dove with a conspicuous black and white 'chessboard' at base of hindneck. Mantle fine-spotted. *Calls:* *Krookruk-krookruk.* (233).

15. (529) **EUROPEAN TURTLE-DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* (V) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Open cultivated country. Pakistan; also reported from Ladakh and Maldives. **ID:** See larger Oriental Turtle-Dove (16). *Calls:* Deep purring *rroorrr, rroorrr.*

16. (530-533) **ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE** *Streptopelia orientalis* (RM) Pigeon±: 33cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous biotope, mixed forest and bamboo jungle. Subcontinent, up to c. 4000m in the Himalayas; Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** Overall rich rufous with chessboard patch on sides of neck. Race *meena* is very similar to smaller European Turtle-Dove. The other races differ from European Turtle-Dove, in besides size, by lacking grey on nape-hindneck, the black-blue-grey (*vs.* black-white) chessboard patches and the blue-grey (*vs.* brownish) rump. *Calls:* *Goor...gur-grugroo.* (230).



Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

The bronze-green mantle, white rump, red bill and chestnut underwing conspicuous as it flashes past.
Resident of evergreen and moist deciduous forests throughout India.



PLATE 50: PARAKEETS AND HANGING-PARROTS

1. (553) **NICOBAR PARAKEET** *Psittacula caniceps* (R) Pigeon±: 61cm. **Occurrence:** High evergreen forests. Endemic to the Nicobars. **ID:** Very large parakeet. Overall green except for grey head with black on lores and collar. Bill red in *male*, black in *female*.
2. (554) **DERBY'S PARAKEET** (DERBYAN PARAKEET) *Psittacula derbiana* (R/EL?) Myna+: 46cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer forest and cultivation. N Arunachal, c. 2,700-3,500m. **ID:** Head violet-blue washed with green. Forehead, lores and collar black. Foreneck, breast and upper belly purplish-violet, rest green. Upperparts green, yellowish on wings and bluish on dorsal side of tail. Bill red in *male*, black in *female*. [**Hy-PCR**].
3. (545-548) **ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET** *Psittacula eupatria* (R) Pigeon+: 53cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope. Subcontinent, south to N Maharashtra and N Andhra; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. Escapees(?) reported along western India from Maharashtra south. **ID:** A large version of the Rose-ringed Parakeet with a red shoulder-patch and large red bill. *Male* has a rose-pink collar on hindneck with a black band from lower beak to the collar, both absent in *female* and *immature*. (**236**).
4. (563) **FINSCH'S PARAKEET** (GREY-HEADED PARAKEET) *Psittacula finschii* (R) Myna-: 36cm. **Occurrence:** Forest and cultivation. SE Bhutan and Arunachal, south through NE hill states to Bangladesh; up to c. 2100m. **ID:** Like Himalayan Parakeet (6), but has a paler head, and a longer and thin (*vs.* distally broad), yellowish-tipped tail. *Female* lacks the red shoulder-patch. (**240**).
5. (557-558) **PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET** *Psittacula cyanocephala* (R) Myna-: 36cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. Lowlands and hills to c. 1500m of lower Himalayas of Pakistan, east to Bhutan, south throughout the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Bright bluish-red head. A black and bright blue-green collar; red shoulder-patch. Tip of blue central tail feathers white. *Female* has a dull, grey head with a yellow collar; lacks shoulder-patch. Upper beak yellow in both sexes, as in (7). *Calls:* *Tooi, tooi* in overhead flight. (**239**).
6. (562) **HIMALAYAN PARAKEET** (GREY-HEADED PARAKEET, SLATY-HEADED PARAKEET) *Psittacula himalayana* (R) Myna+: 41cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded hillsides and valleys. Endemic. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; seasonally c. 600-2500m. **ID:** Like Finsch's Parakeet (4), but has a darker slaty head and a shorter, distally broad yellow-tipped tail. *Female* lacks the red shoulder-patch.
7. (559-560) **ROSY-HEADED PARAKEET** (BLOSSOM-HEADED PARAKEET) *Psittacula roseata* (R) Myna-: 36cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest and cultivation. Sikkim duars and east through NE hill states to Bangladesh. **ID:** Differs from Plum-headed Parakeet (5) in having the forecrown, cheeks and ear-coverts rosy-pink (*vs.* bluish-red). Crown bluish-lilac; a black collar. Shoulder-patch claret-brown. Tip of blue, central tail feathers yellow. *Female* has grey head and sports the shoulder-patch, unlike in *female* Plum-headed. Upper beak yellow in both sexes, as in (5).
8. (555-556) **RED-CHEEKED PARAKEET** (LONG-TAILED PARAKEET) *Psittacula longicauda* (R) Myna±: 47cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and cultivation. Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** The light, brick-red cheeks, duller in *female*, diagnostic. Chin and mandibular-stripe black in *male*, tinged green in *female*. Tail and primaries blue.
9. (549-550) **ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET** *Psittacula krameri* (R) Myna+: 42cm. **Occurrence:** Moist- and dry-deciduous biotope, thin jungle, orchards, cultivation and

human environments. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. Introduced to Lakshadweep, Maldives and Andamans. **ID:** Grass-green parakeet without the red shoulder patch seen in much larger and similar Alexandrine. Lower mandible red in the northern race and black in southern. The *male* has a rose-pink and black collar. **(237)**.

10. (564) **MALABAR PARAKEET** (BLUE-WINGED PARAKEET) *Psittacula columboides* (R) Myna±:38cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotopes. Endemic. W Ghats from Thane district (c. 19°N) south through Kerala and associated hills of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; c. 500-1000m. **ID:** Bluish-green with pinkish-grey head, mantle and breast; blue-green-black collar. Wings and central tail feathers blue, the tail edged yellow. Upper bill red in *male* and blackish in *female*; lower bill brownish in both the sexes. *Female* is duller and lacks the blue-green border to the black collar seen in *male*. **(241)**.

11. (551-552) **RED-BREASTED PARAKEET** *Psittacula alexandri* (R) Pigeon±:38cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous biotope, thin secondary jungle. Lower Himalayas up to c. 1500m, from Uttarakhand east to NE hill states and Bangladesh; Andamans. **ID:** Greyish-pink head with pinkish-red breast; large yellow wing-patch; black collar. *Female* with black bill, *contra* red in male. **(238)**.

12. (565) **LAYARD'S PARAKEET** *Psittacula calthropae* (R) Myna-:31cm. **Occurrence:** Low country and hill forest. Endemic to Sri Lanka; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** A short-tailed parakeet. *Male* has greyish head and upperparts; tail violet-blue with pale tip. Collar, most of wings and underparts green. *Female* like male, but with a blackish bill.

13. (568) **SRI LANKAN HANGING-PARROT** *Loriculus beryllinus* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Vernal Hanging-Parrot but with crown crimson passing into orange on nape; yellowish tinged hindneck and mantle.

14. (566-567) **VERNAL HANGING-PARROT** (INDIAN HANGING-PARROT) *Loriculus vernalis* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. E Himalayan foothills; NE hill states; E Bangladesh; the Indian peninsula in E Ghats and W Ghats (south of Mumbai); Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** A diminutive green parrot with a short square tail and rich crimson rump. Small blue patch on throat, paler in *female*. **(242)**.

Rosy-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata*

A dainty green parakeet with a rosy-pink head, the head grey in female.
Claret-brown patch on shoulder in both sexes. Yellow-tipped tail.





PLATE 51: CUCKOOS

1. (590-592) **ASIAN KOEL** *Eudynamys scolopaceus* (R) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Lightly wooded country, towns and villages. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Andaman and Nicobars (winter visitor?), Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Glistening metallic-black with yellowish-green bill and crimson eyes. Distinctive shrieking, crescendo calls of *kuuu-kuuu*. *Female:* Dark brown above, profusely spotted with white. Below white, barred with blackish-brown.
2. (572) **LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO** *Hierococcyx sparverioides* (RM) Crow-:38cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest. Himalayas, c. 900-3200m; NE hill states; Bangladesh. *Winter:* Base of Himalayas; E and W Ghats; Andaman and Nicobars; Lakshadweep (vagrant). **ID:** Generally ashy-grey and brown above. Tail brown banded with black and tipped rufous-white. Throat white, streaked with ashy and rufous. Rufous upper breast; ventrally white barred with brown. *Calls:* Like Common Hawk-Cuckoo (4), but less maniacal.
3. (575) **WHISTLING HAWK-CUCKOO** *Hierococcyx nasicolor* (R) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen forest. Lower E Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh; c. 600-1800m. **ID:** A slender, grey hawk-cuckoo with unbarred white belly (*vs.* barred in 2 and 4) and rufous breast. Eyes orange (*vs.* yellow in the other two hawk-cuckoos). *Calls:* Repeated *gee-whizz, gee-whizz*. **Note:** Earlier treated as conspecific with **HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO** *Hierococcyx fugax*.
4. (573-574) **COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO** (BRAINFEVER BIRD) *Hierococcyx varius* (R) Pigeon±:34cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and semi-evergreen forest, groves and gardens. Endemic. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A smaller and smaller-billed version of the Large Hawk-Cuckoo; more ashy above, Breast rufous and unstreaked (*vs.* streaked) and barring on underparts more fine. *Calls:* Loud shrieking, repeated, maniacal *pipeeah, pipeeah*. **(245)**.
5. (586) **ASIAN EMERALD CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx maculatus* (R/M/V?) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. Apparently summer visitor to Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states. *Winter:* Vagrant to Andaman and Nicobars, Tamil Nadu, C India and Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Brilliant glossy-green except for white abdomen, barred with metallic-green. *Female:* Emerald-green with golden-rufous crown and nape; below, banded white and bronze-brown. Tail green above tipped black and edged white, chestnut with black bars below.
6. (587) **VIOLET CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* (R/M/V?) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Secondary evergreen forest. Status uncertain. Reports from Himalayan foothills of Bhutan, NE hill states; Bangladesh, Andaman and Nicobars, Chennai. **ID:** *Male:* A replica of the Asian Emerald Cuckoo with glistening violet replacing the glossy-green of upperparts. *Female:* Greenish-bronze above, banded white and bronze-green below. Face white (*vs.* rufous-brown in 5)
7. (582-583) **BANDED BAY CUCKOO** *Cacomantis sonneratii* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen wooded country. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal, up to c. 2400m; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; most of Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Reddish-brown above, cross-banded with brown. Below and face whitish with fine wavy brown cross-bars; dark eye-band. Tail rufous, tipped white. The white supercilium and dark eye-band are pointers to differentiate from hepatic phases of Grey-bellied and Rufous-bellied plaintive cuckoos. *Calls:* *Wee-ti-tee-ti*. **(248)**.

8. (585) **RUFIOUS-BELLIED PLAINTIVE CUCKOO** (PLAINTIVE CUCKOO) *Cacomantis merulinus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country. E Himalayas up to c. 2000m; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; W Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra. **ID:** Slim ashy-grey and brown cuckoo with white-tipped, barred blackish tail. Belly and vent rufous-buff to rusty-red; undertail-coverts white, barred. Sexes alike, but *female* has a hepatic phase with more rufous wash on underparts than hepatic phase female Grey-bellied Plaintive Cuckoo. **Calls:** *Pee pee, pee peepipipipi*.

9. (584) **GREY-BELLIED PLAINTIVE CUCKOO** (GREY-BELLIED CUCKOO, INDIAN PLAINTIVE CUCKOO) *Cacomantis passerinus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest, well-wooded country and cultivation. Endemic. Subcontinent, largely absent in drier parts of NW India and Pakistan; Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** An overall grey cuckoo with white vent and undertail-coverts. Sexes alike, but *female* has a hepatic phase with underparts more whitish than hepatic phase female Rufous-bellied Plaintive Cuckoo. **Calls:** Plaintive single repeated whistle *piteer* or *kiveer*. (249).

10. (581) **SMALL CUCKOO** (LESSER CUCKOO) *Cuculus poliocephalus* (RM) Myna+:26cm. **Occurrence:** *Summer:* Himalayas, NE hill states and Assam. Seasonally, through the E and W Ghats of the Peninsula; Sri Lanka; Bangladesh. **ID:** Slaty-grey above; below white and barred with black. Sexes alike, but *female* has a hepatic phase. Smaller than similar Indian and Common cuckoos. **Calls:** Husky chattering, sounding like *that's your choky pepper*.

11. (576) **INDIAN CUCKOO** *Cuculus micropterus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen biotope in the Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like smaller Small Cuckoo and same-sized Common Cuckoo, and easily separated from them by the more widely spaced crossbars on underparts. *Female* like male with brown-rufous tinge on throat and upper breast; no hepatic phase. *Juvenile* is brown and white, and heavily mottled. **Calls:** Its 4-syllabled call 'crossword puzzle' unmistakable. (246).

12. (577-579) **COMMON CUCKOO** (EURASIAN CUCKOO) *Cuculus canorus* (RM) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. *Summer:* Himalayas; NE hill states. Seasonally, most hilly regions of the Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** Dark ashy-grey above. Tail blackish-brown, spotted and tipped with white. Pale ashy-grey on throat and breast. Narrowly cross-banded with black on white ventrally. *Female* with rufous tinge on breast; also has a hepatic phase unlike Indian Cuckoo. The oft-repeated *cuckoo* call is unmistakable. (247). **Note:** The **ORIENTAL CUCKOO** *Cuculus saturatus* (580-580a - not illustrated), which breeds in the Himalayas and NE hill states, wintering in Andaman and Nicobars and largely absent over the rest of the Subcontinent, is very similar but can be separated by the 4-note Common Hoopoe like call, darker upperparts and broader bars on underparts. *Hepatic female* is barred on rump unlike in hepatic female Common Cuckoo.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

A diminutive splendidly plumaged cuckoo. Male largely violet, female greenish-bronze.
Distribution largely eastern India, but uncertain.





PLATE 52: CUCKOOS, MALKOHAS AND COUCALS

1. (570-571) **PIED CRESTED CUCKOO** (JACOBIN CUCKOO, PIED CUCKOO) *Clamator jacobinus* (RM) Myna±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous lightly wooded country. Resident in W and S Peninsula and Sri Lanka; seasonally rest of the Subcontinent; Lakshadweep (vagrant); not Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** A pied cuckoo with a prominent pointed crest. Roundish white wing-patch; white tips to tail. **(244).**
2. (569) **CHESTNUT-WINGED CRESTED CUCKOO** (RED-WINGED CUCKOO) *Clamator coromandus* (R) Crow+:47cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous foothill forest and scrub jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh. *Winter:* E and W coast forests of S India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Glossy-black above; white collar on hindneck; wings chestnut. Throat and upper breast rusty, ventrally white. **(243).**
3. (595) **BLUE-FACED MALKOHA** (SMALL GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA) *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris* (R) Crow-:39cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub and secondary jungle. Endemic. Peninsular India, from Gujarat east to Orissa and south to Kanniyakumari; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Bright green bill, blue eye-patch and long, broad, graduated tail with conspicuous white tips diagnostic.
4. (593-594) **GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA** (LARGE GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA) *Phaenicophaeus tristis* (R) Pigeon±:51cm. **Occurrence:** Dense shrubbery in evergreen and moist-deciduous biotopes. Uttarakhand to NE hill states, Bangladesh, Bihar, E Madhya Pradesh, E Ghats and N Orissa; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Like much smaller Blue-faced Malkoha, but with crimson eye-patch. Bill larger and yellowish-green. **(252).**
5. (596-598) **SIRKEER MALKOHA** *Taccocua leschenaultii* (R) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous secondary forest and scrub-and-bush jungle. Endemic. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Earthy-brown and rufous with fine, black streaks on head and breast. Bill stout, bright cherry-red and yellow. Broad white tips to the graduated, cross-rayed, blackish tail conspicuous in flight. **(254).**
6. (599) **RED-FACED MALKOHA** *Phaenicophaeus pyrrocephalus* (R) Crow+:46cm. **Occurrence:** Tall evergreen forests. Endemic to Sri Lanka. Records from southern Kerala and Tamil Nadu considered doubtful. **ID:** Above black, glossed with green and blue. Crown, nape and neck flecked with white. Tail bronze-green with white terminal bands. Throat and breast black, otherwise underparts white. Its most distinctive diagnostic characters are the bare red face and heavy apple-green bill.
7. (605) **LESSER COUCAL** *Centropus bengalensis* (R) Crow-:33cm. **Occurrence:** Forests, scrub jungle and tall grasslands. Himalayan submontane terai from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh; Bihar and Orissa; and W Ghats from N Karnataka to Kerala. **ID:** Like Greater Coucal, but much smaller with chestnut (vs. black) underwing-coverts and duller chestnut upperparts. *Juvenile* and *non-breeding male* brownish, streaked and barred, the latter with chestnut wings and strongly streaked head and mantle. **(256).**
8. (600-602) **GREATER COUCAL** *Centropus sinensis* (R) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous scrub jungle and gardens. Subcontinent, south of the Himalayas and east of Indus valley except Thar Desert; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A clumsy, crow-like glossy, black bird with chestnut wings and long, broad black tail. *Immature* birds barred dark brown and rufous. See also Lesser Coucal (7). **(255).**

9. (604) **SRI LANKAN COUCAL** (GREEN-BILLED COUCAL) *Centropus chlororhynchos* (R) Crow±:43cm. **Occurrence:** Humid forests. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like larger Greater Coucal but with pale apple-green instead of black bill.
10. (603) **ANDAMAN COUCAL** *Centropus andamanensis* (R) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and mangroves. Endemic to Andamans (and Coco Is., Myanmar), and possibly, Nicobars. **ID:** Like Greater Coucal in appearance, but with the whole body greyish-brown and with chestnut-bay wings of variable intensity.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

A clumsy, glossy-black bird with conspicuous chestnut wings and graduated black tail.
A sedentary parochial species of scrub jungle.





PLATE 53: OWLS

1. (614) **PALLID SCOPS-OWL** *Otus brucei* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Arid semi-desert and stony foothills country. Pakistan. Have been recorded sporadically in India from Haryana, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Ahmednagar and Ratnagiri. **ID:** A pale grey, finely streaked scops-owl without any rufous in plumage. Ear-tufts inconspicuous unless raised under excitement.
2. (611-612) **MOUNTAIN SCOPS-OWL (SPOTTED SCOPS-OWL)** *Otus spilocephalus* (R) Myna±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest. Himalayan foothills and duars, NE hill states; up to c. 2700m. **ID:** A small, yellow-eyed, greyish- or rufous-brown scops-owl with barely streaked underparts; white spots on plumage. *Calls:* Distinctive, metallic cowbell-like *tunk...tunk* or *phew...phew* calls phased ½ to 1 second, repeated at intervals of 6 or 7 seconds throughout the night. **Note:** A somewhat similar scops-owl endemic to the Andaman and Nicobars, is the **ANDAMAN SCOPS-OWL** *Otus balli* (613 - not illustrated). It also has greyish- and rufous-brown plumages and is finely black-speckled on underparts. It frequents settlements, cultivation and even enters bungalows.
3. (616-618b) **ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL** *Otus sunia* (RM) Myna:-19cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and deciduous forest. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Slim, usually yellow-eyed, scops-owl with highly variable plumage in shades of brown, rufous and grey. Heavily streaked on crown and underparts. *Calls:* Monotonous 3-note *uk-kook-kruk*. (259). **Note:** *The Ripley Guide* treats the race (618b) in the Great Nicobar Island as a species: **NICOBAR SCOPS-OWL** *Otus alius*. **Note:** The mostly grey, yellow-eyed **EURASIAN SCOPS-OWL** *Otus scops* (615 - not illustrated), a winter visitor to Pakistan, W India and Maharashtra, is similar to grey-plumaged Oriental Scops-Owl. Its call is described as similar to an erratic peal of small bells.
4. (619-624) **COLLARED SCOPS-OWL** *Otus bakkamoena* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like smaller Oriental Scops-Owl (3) and separated, other than by size, by the prominent pale collar at base of hindneck, brownish-red (vs. yellow) eyes, and the longer ears. (260). **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **INDIAN SCOPS-OWL** *Otus bakkamoena* (620-623) and **COLLARED SCOPS-OWL** *Otus lettia* (619, 624). The Collared Scops-Owl is distributed in the Himalayas from N Pakistan to Arunachal, Assam, NE hill states and Bangladesh, while the Indian Scops-Owl occurs in the rest of the Subcontinent and Sri Lanka. The calls of the Indian Scops-Owl and Collared Scops-Owl are described as a mellow *what* repeated every 3 seconds and a mellow *hoot* repeated every 15-20 seconds respectively. The Collared Scops-Owl has a paler bill than Indian Scops-Owl and the eyes are darker brown.
5. (638) **CHESTNUT-BACKED OWLET** *Glaucidium castanonotum* (R) Myna:-19cm. **Occurrence:** Moist forest. Endemic to Sri Lanka. Differentiated from the similar Jungle Owlet (8), which also occurs in Sri Lanka, by the bright chestnut mantle and wings and streaked flanks. *Calls:* *kraw, kraw, kraw*.
6. (639-641) **ASIAN BARRED OWLET** *Glaucidium cuculoides* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Broadleaved or conifer forest and subtropical evergreen jungle. Outer Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; up to c. 2700m. **ID:** Larger than similar barred owls (5, 7 and 8); abdomen and flanks whitish and with broad, dark streaks. *Calls:* A rapid *wowowowowowowo* of c. 4-7 seconds duration.

7. (635) **COLLARED OWLET** *Glaucidium brodiei* (R) Quail±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous or conifer forest. Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); c. 900-3200m. **ID:** A diminutive miniature of the Asian Barred Owllet. From behind, the hind collar and the two black spots on the nape resemble an owl's face. The spotted (*vs.* barred) crown further distinguishes it from (5), (6) and (8). **Calls:** A pleasant 4-note bell-like whistle, *toot—tottoot—tooo*, in runs of 3 or 4.
8. (636-637) **JUNGLE OWLET** *Glaucidium radiatum* (R) Myna±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous forest and mixed secondary jungle. Endemic. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A diurnal owl. Differs from similar owls (5-7) by uniform barrings on flanks (*vs.* whitish with dark streaks) and usually barred on belly also. **Calls:** *Kao, kao, kao...kaokuk, kaokuk, kaokuk.* (265).
9. (665) **BOREAL OWL** *Aegolius funereus* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine juniper forest. Known only from a record of a breeding female with a fledgling from Lahul (Himachal) and a sighting from N Pakistan. **ID:** Like Spotted Owllet, but larger with a square-headed face bordered by dark brown.
10. (648-649) **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert, rocky country up to c. 4600m. Baluchistan, north to NWFP, Baltistan, Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim. **ID:** Like Spotted Owllet, but larger with white-streaked (*vs.* barred) reddish-brown underparts. **Calls:** A plaintive *piu*.
11. (653) **FOREST OWLET** *Heteroglaux blewitti* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Moist and dry-deciduous forest especially near streams. Endemic. Few authentic records till 1914, from Basna (Madhya Pradesh), Khariar (Orissa) and W Khandesh (Maharashtra). Rediscovered in 1997 and now known to occur in W Khandesh, Melghat (Maharashtra) and Khaknar (Madhya Pradesh). **ID:** Diurnal and crepuscular owl. Like Spotted Owllet but larger and more slaty-grey above. A well marked brown collar across throat. Spots on head very faint. Underparts whitish with barred flanks. **Calls:** *Ou-hu* or *kweek, kweek..kweek*.
12. (650-652) **SPOTTED OWLET** *Athene brama* (R) Myna±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Neighbourhood of villages, ruins and village groves of old trees. Most of the sub-Himalayan Subcontinent. **ID:** A nocturnal, white spotted, squat little owl, greyish-brown and with a rounded head. Small white spots on crown and barred underparts diagnostic; yellow eyes. **Calls:** Harsh screeches of *chirurr, chirurr*, followed by *cheevak, cheevak, cheevak.* (267). **Note:** The **SERENDIB SCOPS-OWL** *Otus thilohoffmanni* (see half title page) is a newly described owl from Sri Lanka. It is a small (17cm), un-eared, rufous owl, lightly speckled with black.
13. (642-645, 647) **BROWN HAWK-OWL** *Ninox scutulata* (R) Pigeon±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country, neighbourhood of villages. Subcontinent, from the foothills of Uttarakhand east to the NE hill states and Bangladesh; Peninsular hills; Andaman and Nicobars; Sri Lanka; not Pakistan. **ID:** 13b: Hawk-like owl, dark greyish-brown above; white forehead; white spots on shoulders (scapulars). Throat and foreneck fulvous, streaked with rufous brown. Below white with rufous streaks. Tail barred black and tipped white. **Calls:** Distinctive, soft *oo..uk, oo..uk, oo..uk* in runs of usually 9 to 13 calls. Race *obscura* (645: 13a), occurring in Andamans (and Nicobars?), which is very dark brown with obscure marking on underparts and with white-barred vent, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*, **HUME'S HAWK-OWL** *Ninox obscura*. **Note:** Another hawk-owl of Andamans **ANDAMAN HAWK-OWL** *Ninox affinis* (646 - not illustrated), is

smaller (28cm) and similar to the lighter phase (13b) of Brown Hawk-Owl, but has more white on face and throat, lacks white on scapulars, and has distinct chestnut streaks on underparts.

14. (609-610a) **ORIENTAL BAY OWL** *Phodilus badius* (R) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Dense, evergreen submontane forest. Nepal to SE Arunachal; Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur; W Ghats of Kerala; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A chestnut-bay owl with very short ears. Chestnut above spotted with black and buff. Tail chestnut, barred black. Forehead and facial disc vinaceous-pink surrounded by a white ruff tipped black and chestnut; chestnut patch around eye. **(271)**. **Note:** Birds of W Ghats of Kerala and Sri Lanka (610, 610a) are treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **SRI LANKAN BAY OWL** *Phodilus assimilis*.

15. (606-607) **COMMON BARN-OWL** (BARN OWL) *Tyto alba* (R) Crow-:36cm. **Occurrence:** Buildings and ruins. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large round head and conspicuous ruff of stiff feathers surrounding a conically pinched facial disc. Above, golden-buff and grey finely stippled with white and black. Silky-white below, spotted with dark brown. **(257)**. **Note:** Race (607) of the Andamans, with an overall rufous hue including on the underparts, is treated as a species, **ANDAMAN BARN-OWL** *Tyto deroepstorffi* in *The Ripley Guide*.

16. (608) **EASTERN GRASS-OWL** (GRASS OWL) *Tyto longimembris* (R) Crow-:36cm. **Occurrence:** Tall grass jungle and grassy depressions. Himalayan submontane tracts up to c. 1800m: Uttar Pradesh, east to Assam and south through Bangladesh, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh; also S Indian hills in lowlands. **ID:** An unmistakable first cousin of the Barn Owl. Darker brown upperparts with dark bars on wings. Tail largely white and buff, and barred (*vs.* unbarred) with brown. **(258)**.



PLATE 54: OWLS

1. (627) **INDIAN EAGLE-OWL** *Bubo bengalensis* (R) Kite-:54cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hills with outscoured steep-sided ravines; well-wooded country. Subcontinent; no records from Bhutan, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID:** A large, dark brown, large-eared owl, streaked and mottled with tawny-buff and black. Large orange eyes; feathered legs. **Calls:** A deep resonant *bu bo*, also rendered as *tu-whooh*. **Note:** The **EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL** *Bubo bubo* (625-626a - not illustrated), earlier treated as conspecific and occurring in Baluchistan, Himalayas of N Pakistan, E Nepal and Arunachal, is larger (56 cm) and paler than the Indian Eagle-Owl.
2. (628-629) **FOREST EAGLE-OWL** (SPOT-BELLIED EAGLE-OWL) *Bubo nipalensis* (R) Kite±:63cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen and moist-deciduous forest up to c. 2100m. Himalayan submontane tracts from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; W Ghats complex in S India; Shevaroy Hills (Tamil Nadu); Sri Lanka. **ID:** The very large, barred ears-tufts, prominent large spots on the belly, yellow bill and brown eyes separate it from other eagle-owls. Legs fully feathered. **Calls:** A low deep moaning hoot. **(262)**.
3. (630) **DUSKY EAGLE-OWL** *Bubo coromandus* (R) Kite±:58cm. **Occurrence:** Wooded, well-watered country with groves of large leafy trees. Most of the Subcontinent south of Himalayas to N Peninsula; a few reports further south in Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Like Indian Eagle-Owl, but more grey or sooty with fine streaks on underparts. Eyes pale yellow. **Calls:** A deep resonant *WO, Wo, wo, wo-o-o-o-o*. **(263)**.
4. (658-660a) **BROWN WOOD-OWL** *Strix leptogrammica* (R) Kite-:50cm. **Occurrence:** Dense semi-evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from Pakistan Punjab east to Arunachal; NE hill states, c. 750-2450m; Bangladesh; E and W Ghats; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A mid-sized, finely-barred, brown owl. Whitish (rufous in Peninsula race) facial disc framed with brown. Prominent white supercilium; no ear-tufts. **Calls:** A low double hoot *tu-whooh*. **(269)**.
5. (655-657) **MOTTLED WOOD-OWL** *Strix ocellata* (R) Kite±:48cm. **Occurrence:** Wooded plains country, groves of densely foliated ancient trees in village environs. Endemic. Most of N India, east of Gujarat and Jammu to W Bengal; peninsular India. **ID:** A mid-sized, 'earless' owl, mottled and vermiculated above with reddish brown, black, white and buff. Facial disc white, concentrically ringed with black. A prominent white collar on foreneck. Ventrally golden-buff barred with black. **Calls:** A loud eerie quavering *chuhuo-aa*. **(268)**.
6. (661-662) **TAWNY WOOD-OWL** *Strix aluco* (R) Crow+:46cm. **Occurrence:** Forests of oak, pine and fir. Baluchistan to Chitral and east through Himalayas to Kashmir; further eastwards to Arunachal (but see note); c. 1200-1400m. **ID:** A mid-sized, brown owl with whitish facial disk, no ear-tufts and close barred and streaked underparts. **Calls:** Loud *oo...hoo..hoo-ho-ho-ho-hoo*. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **TAWNY WOOD-OWL** *Strix aluco* (661) and **HIMALAYAN WOOD-OWL** *Strix nivicola* (662), the former restricted to NW Himalayas is paler with streaked (vs. mottled) upperparts and with an almost unbarred tail.
7. (654) **HUME'S OWL** (HUME'S WOOD-OWL) *Strix butleri* (V) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Oases and nearby rocks or ruins. A single exceptional record from Makran coast; not otherwise known from Asia. **ID:** Somewhat like Tawny Wood-Owl (6),

but conspicuously paler and smaller with only faintly streaked underparts; eyes orange (vs. brown in Tawny Wood-Owl). [**Hy-PCR**].

8. (663) **NORTHERN LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus* (RM) Pigeon+:37cm. **Occurrence:** Hill forests (summer), grassy lowland jungle (winter). *Breeding:* Baluchistan and Kashmir up to c. 2000m. *Winter:* Pakistan and NW India; a report from Kerala. **ID:** A slim, medium-sized owl, mottled grey-brown above; buff below, boldly streaked and barred blackish. Two long, upstanding black and buff ear-tufts. Eyes yellow. *Calls:* Moaning oo - oo - oo.

9. (664) **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus* (M) Pigeon+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Open undulating grasslands, scrub and marshes; plains and hills up to c. 1400m. Subcontinent; occasional in Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** A medium-sized, very diurnal owl. Overall pale buff and heavily streaked with dark brown. Darker greyish head; facial disc buff intermixed with black, bristly feathers. Two very short upstanding ear-tufts. Eyes yellow. In flight, shows black carpal-patch on the whitish underwing. (**270**).

10. (631-632) **BROWN FISH-OWL** *Ketupa zeylonensis* (R) Kite-:56cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded and well-watered country. Subcontinent south of the Himalayas, scarce/absent in the arid NW; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large rufous-brown eared owl, heavily streaked above with black. Pale fulvous below with fine wavy, brown cross-bars and bold blackish streaks. Legs naked as is typical of fish-owls. *Calls:* A deep hollow sounding *hwoum*, *hoo*, *wu-whoo*, and variations of these.

11. (633) **TAWNY FISH-OWL** *Ketupa flavipes* (R) Kite±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Forest near streams. Himalayan foothills up to c. 1500m from Kashmir to Bhutan, Arunachal(?); NE hill states; NE Bangladesh. **ID:** Like Brown Fish-Owl and differentiated by the richer rufous plumage and absence of fine cross-barring on underparts. *Calls:* A deep *whoo-hoo*; also a cat-like mewing. **Note:** The **BUFFY FISH-OWL** *Ketupa ketupu* (633a - not illustrated), distributed in Assam plains and Bangladesh, is similar but smaller (50 cm), duller, less boldly marked, and has whitish 'eye-brows'.

Common Barn-Owl *Tyto alba*

Usually spends the day dozing in a dark hollow in some ruin or ancient tree.

It is often seen flying ghost-like over the blaze of a city's illumination after dark, uttering its distinctive screech from time to time. Closely related and similar in looks is the Eastern Grass-Owl *Tyto longimembris*, a tall grassland species.





PLATE 55: FROGMOUTHS AND NIGHTJARS

1. (666) **SRI LANKAN FROGMOUTH** *Batrachostomus moniliger* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest and secondary jungle. Endemic. W Ghats from Mumbai southwards; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A cryptically coloured nightjar-like bird with an enormously wide gape and broad, horny swollen bill aptly suggestive of the name. See Hodgson's Frogmouth for other diagnostic features. **Calls:** Uncertain: *cooroo*, *cooroo*, *cooroo*, or *ahwoo* repeated monotonously every 2 or 3 seconds.
2. (667) **HODGSON'S FROGMOUTH** *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Subtropical, evergreen foothill forest. E Himalayas, from Sikkim to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** *Male* brown to grey with larger white spotting on scapulars, breast and underparts than the smaller and more greyish Sri Lankan Frogmouth; crown also more heavily streaked. *Female* more rufous than Sri Lanka Frogmouth with large white spots on scapulars and breast.
3. (674) **SYKES'S NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* (RM) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Stony wastes and open hillsides, semi-desert, also sandy grass areas. **Summer:** Sind (Pakistan), Kachchh (Gujarat), Indian Punjab and Haryana. **Winter:** Records from Delhi, Kanpur, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and south to about Goa. **ID:** A small, sandy-grey nightjar, darker only than Egyptian Nightjar (5). Finely vermiculated above with wavy bars of light brown. White throat-band broken; white (buff in *female*) spots on three primaries. *Male* has white (buff in *female*) at ends of two outertail feathers. **Calls:** *Cluck cluck* when flushed, otherwise *prrrrr*.
4. (673) **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR** (EURASIAN NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus europaeus* (M) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest or bush-covered hillsides. **Summer:** N Baluchistan, Rawalpindi and the Salt Range in Pakistan; also Gilgit, Baltistan, Kashmir and Uttarakhand. **Winter:** Makran, Sind and Kachchh; straggler to Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. **ID:** Smaller than Indian Jungle Nightjar (6) and less heavily marked. Greyish-brown, the *male* with a white wing-patch; distal end of two outer-tail feathers tipped white (buff in *female*); white throat-band incomplete; buff scapular-stripe. *Female* lacks white patch in wings. **Calls:** A continuous purring.
5. (673a) **EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus aegyptius* (M/V) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert. A summer visitor to Baluchistan. **ID:** Palest of all Indian nightjars. Lacks white in wings and tail and has a complete white throat-band.
6. (670-672a) **INDIAN JUNGLE NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus indicus* (RM) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous jungle. Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; and rest of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Andamans. **ID:** Broad, black streaks on head and scapulars diagnostic; throat-band broken. Outer, four tail feathers spotted subterminally white in *male*; two small white (buff in *female*) spots on wings. **Calls:** A quickly repeated *chuck chuck chuck* in unbroken runs of 50 or more, sometimes ending with *wowo*, *wowo*, *wowo*. Also a less rapid *chuckoo chuckoo chuckoo* in runs of 3 to 14. **(272) Note:** The two migrant races (670, 672a), with broader black streaks on forehead and mantle and broader tail bands, are together treated as a species, **GREY NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus jatoka*, in THE RIPLEY GUIDE.
7. (682) **FRANKLIN'S NIGHTJAR** (SAVANNAH NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus affinis* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Scrubby hillsides, light deciduous forest and grass jungle. Subcontinent, east of Punjab Salt Range, Rajasthan and Gujarat. **ID:** The complete buff coloured 'V' from shoulders to half way down, the largely unspotted mantle, and the

completely white (brown in *female*) outertail feathers of *male* diagnostic. White throat-band, mostly broken; large white (buff in *female*) patch on wings. *Calls*: A loud, sharp, penetrating single note *sweesh* uttered at intervals of 3 or 4 seconds during flight or from a perch. **(275)**.

8. (680-681) **INDIAN LITTLE NIGHTJAR** (COMMON INDIAN NIGHTJAR, INDIAN NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus asiaticus* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence**: Dry-deciduous scrub-jungle. Subcontinent, east of the Indus valley; a few records from NE India; Sri Lanka. **ID**: A small nightjar, narrowly but distinctly, black streaked above. The clear rufous collar at sides of neck and the largely unmarked central tail feathers diagnostic. Broken white throat-band; white to distal edges of two tail feathers; three, small, white wingspots. *Calls*: A rather ventriloquistic *chuck-chuck-chuckrr*, repeated *ad nauseam*. **(274)**.

9. (675, 678) **LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (LONG-TAILED NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus macrurus* (RM) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence**: Moist-deciduous biotope: mixed bamboo and secondary scrub forest. NE Pakistan, eastwards to Arunachal and southwards to Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. **ID**: Large, brownish-buff forest nightjar with a complete white throat-band. Distal half of the two, outer-tail feathers white in *male*, pale yellowish-buff in *female*. Narrow white (buff in *female*) wing-patch. *Calls*: A distinctive, loud, resonant *chaunk chaunk chaunk* uttered from the ground or a tree, the calls prefaced by frog-like croaks. **(273)**. **Note**: The former races (676, 677) in southern India and Sri Lanka now form a species **JERDON'S NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus atripennis*. This species is smaller, also with a complete white throat, and the call is a loud chuckling *avroo* or *averoo* repeated every 2 seconds or so in runs of 15 minutes. The former race in the Andamans (679) is also now treated as a species **ANDAMAN NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus andamanicus*. *Calls*: *Gro, groggrog* and *quoffrr...quofferr*.

10. (668-669) **GREAT EARED-NIGHTJAR** *Eurostopodus macrotis* (R) Crow-:41cm. **Occurrence**: Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest and bush jungle. Disjunct populations: Sikkim(?), Assam, NE hill states and Bangladesh up to c. 1650m; and resident/winter visitor(?) to W Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu up to c. 900m. **ID**: A very large, handsome dark nightjar, with two distinctive erectile ear-tufts, complete white throat-band and blackish breast. *Calls*: A 2-/3-note whistle *whi-wheeew* uttered chiefly in flight.



Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

A forest nightjar with remarkably camouflaging plumage of the Himalayan foothills and the north-eastern region south till Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Crepuscular and nocturnal. Feeds on insects. Call is a distinctive, loud, resonant *chaunk chaunk chaunk*.



PLATE 56: SWIFTS

1. (692) **INDIAN WHITE-RUMPED SPINETAIL** (WHITE-RUMPED SPINETAIL, WHITE-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL-SWIFT) *Zoonavena sylvatica* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Endemic. Distribution not clearly understood. Lower Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Assam; NE India(?); Bangladesh(?); Indian peninsula from E Madhya Pradesh, E Maharashtra and N Andhra; also W Ghats from Goa south. **ID:** Small forest swift very like Little Swift (5), but the white belly in addition to white rump diagnostic, also lacks the white throat of Little Swift.
2. (691) **BROWN-THROATED NEEDLETAIL** (BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL-SWIFT) *Hirundapus giganteus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. NE hill states; W Ghats; Salem (Tamil Nadu); Sri Lanka; Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Large blackish-brown swift. Throat brown, lores white. Undertail-coverts, vent and flanks white, rest of underparts blackish.
3. (689-690) **SILVER-BACKED NEEDLETAIL** (GREY-THROATED NEEDLETAIL-SWIFT, SILVER-BACKED NEEDLETAIL-SWIFT) *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** C Nepal terai (c. 600m); NE hill states. **ID:** Glossy-black except for pale brown back-patch, as in (4). Chin and throat a poorly demarcated greyish-white. Undertail-coverts, vent and flanks white, rest of underparts dark brown.
4. (688) **WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL** (WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL-SWIFT) *Hirundapus caudacutus* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Vicinity of cliffs. Himalayas; NE hill states to Bangladesh; c. 1200-4000m. Reported from Maldives. **ID:** 'Silver-backed' like (3), but differentiated easily from it and the other needletails by the distinct white throat.
5. (702-706) **LITTLE SWIFT** (HOUSE SWIFT) *Apus affinis* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Around buildings and cliffs. Most of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka; Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** A small, smoky-black swift with white rump and throat, and short square tail. Wings are broader and less long and sickle shaped than other swifts. **(278).**
6. (683-684) **HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET** *Aerodramus brevirostris* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open areas near forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh; Andaman and Nicobars; up to c. 3600m. **ID:** A small, slender, shallow-forktailed, brown swift with a pale rump. Usually distinguished from other swifts by the occasional interludes of laboured bat-like fluttering while in normal hawking flight. **Note:** The **EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET** *Aerodramus fuciphagus* (686 - not illustrated), restricted to Andaman and Nicobars, is very similar but smaller (12cm) and with a more shallow forked tail.
7. (685) **INDIAN SWIFTLET** (INDIAN EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET) *Aerodramus unicolor* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Caves in cliffs and rocky off-shore islets. Endemic. W Ghats from Maharashtra to Kerala and W Tamil Nadu; Sri Lanka; up to c. 2200m. **ID:** A tiny, slender, blackish-brown swift with a slightly forked tail and rapidly-flapping bat-like flight. Like Himalayan and Edible-nest swiftlets, but has a darker rump. **(276).**
8. (687) **WHITE-BELLIED SWIFTLET** (GLOSSY SWIFTLET) *Collocalia esculenta* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Buildings, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Distinguished by its small size, narrow wings, glossy blue-black upperparts, slightly forked tail and white belly.
9. (698) **DARK-RUMPED SWIFT** (DARK-BACKED SWIFT, KHASI HILLS SWIFT) *Apus acuticauda* (RM) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Vicinity of high cliffs. Meghalaya, Mizoram

and E Bhutan; single records from Nepal and Andamans. **ID:** A deep metallic-black swift with a deeply forked tail. Throat white streaked with black; below, black, squamated with white.

10. (697) **PALLID SWIFT** *Apus pallidus* (M) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Coastal cliffs, also inland. Makran coast and east to Sind (winter); also reported from Maldives and Sri Lanka(?). **ID:** Pale brown above, paler below; moderately forked tail; whitish throat patch diffused at edges. Pale scalloping on underparts.

11. (696) **COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus* (M) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Cliffs. Pakistan from N Baluchistan to Chitral and east in the Himalayas; Kashmir and Ladakh (up to c. 5700m) to Lahul (Himachal); Assam; also reported from Gujarat, Maldives and Andamans. **ID:** Uniformly dark brown or sooty-black with white throat and deeply forked tail. Occasionally, has pale crescentic marks on belly.

12. (699-701) **PACIFIC SWIFT** (FORK-TAILED SWIFT) *Apus pacificus* (RM) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayas; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh; SW Ghats; reports also from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. **ID:** Blackish-brown above with a broad white rump; tail deeply forked. Squamated or mottled black and white below. Chin and throat whitish.

13. (693-695) **ALPINE SWIFT** *Tachymarptis melba* (RM) Bulbul+:22cm. **Occurrence:** High cliffs. N Baluchistan; Himalayas; W Ghats from Nasik south; Eastern Ghats; Madhya Pradesh; Sri Lanka. In winter, recorded in many areas of the Subcontinent. **ID:** A large, sooty-brown swift with very long, narrow, pointed wings; tail slightly forked. White below with a brown band across breast. **(277)**.

14. (707-708) **ASIAN PALM-SWIFT** *Cypsiurus balasiensis* (R) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Associated with palms, especially *Borassus*. Sub-Himalayan India; Lakshadweep; Sri Lanka; Bangladesh; not Pakistan and Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** The long and slender curved wings and the thin forked tail (conspicuous when the bird banks in flight) diagnostic. **(279)**.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

A slender blue-grey swallow-like bird with a prominent backward curving frontal crest, erected while perched. Resident throughout the Indian Union except barren areas. Feeds on flying insects. Nest made of papery bark held together by its saliva attached to a thin horizontal branch not visible from below. A single egg is laid





PLATE 57: TROGONS, BEE-EATERS AND ROLLERS

1. (713-715) **RED-HEADED TROGON** *Harpactes erythrocephalus* (R) Myna+: 35cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. Uttarakhand, eastwards to Arunachal; NE hill states; E Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Head, neck and breast crimson. Underparts scarlet; white breast-band. Black and white vermiculations on wing-coverts. Black and white undertail. *Female:* Head, neck and breast dull orange-brown; rest as in *male*. **(282)**.
2. (716) **WARD'S TROGON** *Harpactes wardi* (R) Pigeon±:40cm. **Occurrence:** Tall subtropical forest. E Himalayas of Bhutan to Arunachal; c. 1500-3000m. **ID:** *Male:* Bill pinkish; pinkish patch on forehead. Maroon above and on throat and breast; crimson ventrally. Crimson-pink undertail. *Female:* Dark olive-brown above, and on throat and breast; primrose-yellow ventrally, including on undertail. Yellow patch on forehead.
3. (710-712) **MALABAR TROGON** *Harpactes fasciatus* (R) Myna±: 31cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. Endemic. S Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh; W Ghats; E Ghats of Orissa and N Andhra; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Head and breast black, separated from crimson-pink underparts by white gorget. Upperparts yellowish-brown; wings blackish with white barring. Undertail whitish in both sexes. *Female:* Head, breast and upperparts brownish; ventrally orange-brown. Long white-bordered brown tail. Peculiar mewing call is the first indication of its presence. **(281)**.
4. (744-745) **CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER** *Merops leschenaulti* (R) Bulbul±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed moist-deciduous forest near streams. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand to NE hill states; Bangladesh; E and W Ghats; Andaman and Nicobars; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Crown, hindneck and mantle bright cinnamon-chestnut. Throat yellow, bordered by a rufous and black gorget. Grass-green above, paler below. Rump and central tail feathers bluish; lacks 'pintail'. **(292)**.
5. (753) **BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER** *Nyctornis athertoni* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Secondary evergreen and moist-deciduous forest, forest edges. Himalayan foothills from Himachal east to NE hill states and Bangladesh; also E and W Ghats, and in suitable biotopes in Peninsula. **ID:** A large grass-green bee-eater with pale blue forehead and light blue elongated throat feathers, conspicuous in profile. Ventrally buff, streaked green. Lacks 'pintail' and eye-stripe seen in other bee-eaters. **(296)**.
6. (747) **BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER** *Merops persicus* (RM) Bulbul+:31cm. **Occurrence:** Near jheels and tanks, and sandy seashores. Pakistan, W Rajasthan and Kachchh (Gujarat), east to Haryana and Delhi. **ID:** Like same-sized Blue-tailed Bee-eater (9), but has a green tail and is overall more green. **(293)**.
7. (746) **EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster* (RM) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, cultivation and near lakes. **Breeding:** Baluchistan, north to Chitral and east to Kashmir; c. 900-2100m and foraging up to c. 3600m. Passage migrant through the Makran coast, Sind, Punjab, Rajasthan and W Himalayas. Straggler in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala(?), Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** Chestnut and yellow above; wings blue-green tipped black. Cheek and throat yellow separated from the blue underparts by a narrow black gorget.
8. (749-752) **LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER (SMALL GREEN BEE-EATER)** *Merops orientalis* (R) Sparrow+:21cm. **Occurrence:** Open country and cultivation. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** An overall grass-green, pintailed small bee-eater. The

intensity of rufous on head and hindneck varies with the races. Throat is verditer-blue bordered below by a black gorget. **(295)**.

9. (748) **BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER** *Merops philippinus* (RM) Bulbul+: 31cm. **Occurrence:** Open country near streams, jheels, and reservoirs. Breeds and/or seasonal in N Pakistan, N and C India, and patchily over the Subcontinent. Winters in S Peninsula, Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars and Maldives (vagrant). **ID:** Like Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (6), but easily separated by the bright blue rump and tail, and larger yellow patch on throat. **(294)**.

10. (754) **EUROPEAN ROLLER** *Coracias garrulus* (RM) Pigeon±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Wooded parkland and cultivation, barren hills and arid tracts. **Breeding:** From Baluchistan to Chitral and Kashmir. Passage migrant through Pakistan and NW India, and W and C Peninsula till Maharashtra and Andhra. **ID:** Easily separated in flight from Indian Roller by the blue-black flight feathers and uniformly light blue underparts. **(297)**.

11. (755-757) **INDIAN ROLLER** *Coracias benghalensis* (R) Pigeon±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, cultivation, gardens and light deciduous forest. Subcontinent; Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Face, throat, breast and upper belly rufous-brown with fine white stripes. Crown, abdomen, vent and undertail-coverts pale blue. Wings and tail blue, banded with darker blue. In flight, the dark and pale blue wings flash as brilliant bands. Birds of NE India and Bangladesh are darker, lack streaks on face, throat and breast, and have a black bill. **(298)**.

12. (758-762) **ORIENTAL BROAD-BILLED ROLLER** (DOLLARBIRD) *Eurystomus orientalis* (R) Pigeon±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation clearings in evergreen and semi-evergreen forest. Disjunct populations: Himalayan foothills from Haryana east to Arunachal, NE hill states and Bangladesh; W Ghats from C Karnataka south; Sri Lanka (rare); Andamans. **ID:** Overall dark blue-green generally with a blackish head; red eye-ring. White streaks on throat and upper breast. A large pale blue wing-patch conspicuous in flight. Orange-red bill and legs. **(299)**.

Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus*

A brilliantly coloured bird with a square ended tail. Male with crimson-pink underparts divided from black breast by a white gorget. Essentially a forest bird. Sluggish and somewhat crepuscular. Female with orange-brown instead of crimson-pink underparts.





PLATE 58: KINGFISHERS AND HOOPOE

1. (717-718) **HIMALAYAN PIED KINGFISHER** (GREATER PIED KINGFISHER, CRESTED KINGFISHER) *Ceryle lugubris* (R) Crow±:41cm. **Occurrence:** Along streams in well-wooded areas. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?). **ID:** *Male:* Prominent black, spotted-white erectile crest. Upperparts, wings and tail white, barred black. Whitish below; a pectoral band of black spots tinged rufous. *Female* smaller with cinnamon underwing-coverts and axillaries, visible in flight.
2. (719-720) **LESSER PIED KINGFISHER** *Ceryle rudis* (R) Myna+:31cm. **Occurrence:** Jheels and slow-flowing streams. Most of sub-Himalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A black and white, black-billed kingfisher easily identified by its habit of hovering over water. Black, streaked-white crest; blackish eye-band. Double black gorget across white breast; a single gorget, broken in the middle in *female*. **(283)**.
3. (727a) **RUFIOUS-BACKED DWARF KINGFISHER** (ORIENTAL DWARF KINGFISHER) *Ceyx rufidorsa* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Indian record based only from a specimen collected in Sikkim in 1909. **ID:** Like Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, but has rufous-orange (*vs.* blue-purple) upperparts and lacks the blue patch behind the ear-coverts.
4. (727, 728) **BLACK-BACKED DWARF KINGFISHER** (THREE-TOED DWARF KINGFISHER) *Ceyx erithaca* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen biotope. Nepal, Assam, north W Bengal and Bangladesh; W Ghats from Mumbai south; Andaman and Nicobars; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Orange head, upperparts blue-purple, orange-red below. Coral red bill and legs. A deep blue and white patch behind the ear-coverts. **(286)**.
5. (725-726a) **BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER** *Alcedo meninting* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Small streams in evergreen or bamboo forest. E Himalayan foothills; Assam; NE hill states; W Bengal, Bihar and Orissa; W Ghats south of Belgaum; Andamans; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from the larger Small Blue Kingfisher (6) by its overall darker plumage and blue (*vs.* rufous-rusty) ear-coverts. *Immature* has rufous ear-coverts like in (6), but lacks the blue moustache seen in both adult and immature (6) and in adult Blue-eared **(285)**.
6. (722-724) **SMALL BLUE KINGFISHER** (COMMON KINGFISHER) *Alcedo atthis* (RM) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Along streams, canals, ponds and seashore. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep (vagrant), Maldives(?). **ID:** Brilliant blue back and rump conspicuous in flight. Rusty-red below; chin and throat white. Ear-coverts rusty-red, ending in a white patch on neck. Greenish-blue 'moustache' from mandible to neck. **(283)**.
7. (721) **BLYTH'S KINGFISHER** (GREAT BLUE KINGFISHER) *Alcedo hercules* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Solitary, rare and keeps to shady, fast-flowing streams in dense evergreen jungle. E Himalayan foothills from E Nepal onwards (up to *c.* 1200m); Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Like Small Blue Kingfisher but larger and darker; ear-coverts greenish-blue (*vs.* rusty-red). *Female* has a much more reddish lower bill.
8. (739) **BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER** *Halcyon pileata* (R) Myna+:30cm. **Occurrence:** Mangrove swamps, creeks and estuaries. Primarily along coasts from Mumbai to Bangladesh; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka; occasionally far inland.

Vagrants(?) along coasts of Pakistan, Gujarat and Lakshadweep. **ID:** Velvety-black crown separated from the cobalt-blue mantle by white collar; pale rusty-buff below. Large, white wing-patch conspicuous in flight. Bill coral red. **(290).**

9. (733-734) **RUDDY KINGFISHER** *Halcyon coromanda* (R) Myna+:26cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen jungle at streams and pools, mangrove swamps. The terai and duars from Nepal to Assam; NE hill states to Bangladesh; W Bengal; Andamans; up to c. 1800m; a record from N Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Upperparts cinnamon with a bluish-white rump conspicuous in flight. Underparts rufous. Bright red bill and feet. **(288).**

10. (740-743) **COLLARED KINGFISHER** *Todiramphus chloris* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Mangrove swamps. Disjunct populations: S Maharashtra and Goa, and possibly further south; Orissa, W Bengal and Bangladesh; and Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Crown and upperparts greenish-blue. A prominent white nuchal collar running into the white of underparts. Black eye-stripe encircling the crown. Short white supercilium and white patch under the eye. **(291).**

11. (730-732) **STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** *Pelargopsis capensis* (R) Pigeon+:38cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country near streams and irrigation channels. Uttarakhand and south of Himalayan foothills eastwards to S Nepal, NE India and Bangladesh, to Central India and south to Kerala; Sundarbans; Andaman and Nicobars; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large kingfisher with an enormous, blood-red bill. Head brown with a buff collar separating it from the brilliant greenish-blue upperparts. Ochraceous-buff below. Head completely ochraceous-buff in race *intermedia*. **(287).**

12. (729) **BROWN-WINGED KINGFISHER** *Pelargopsis amauroptera* (R) Pigeon+:36cm. **Occurrence:** Tidal rivers, creeks and mangrove swamps. W Bengal and Orissa, coastal Bangladesh. **ID:** Head, neck and underparts brownish-yellow. Wings and tail dark brown. Back and rump bright pale blue. Bill large, red.

13. (735-738) **WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER** (WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER) *Halcyon smyrnensis* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Waterbodies, cultivation and edges of forest often away from water. Most of Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head, neck and lower underparts chocolate-brown; rest of upperparts turquoise blue. Chin, throat and centre of breast white. Large white wing-patch prominent in flight. Bright coral-red bill. **(289).**

14. (763-766) **COMMON HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* (RM) Myna+:31cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest and near villages. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** Fawn-coloured with black and white zebra-like markings on wings, the proportion of white/black varying with the races. Black and white-tipped crest, fan-shaped when erect, and falling to a point behind the head when folded. Beak long and gently curved. **(300).**

Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A dapper little kingfisher with brilliant blue back and rump conspicuous in flight. Occurs throughout the Subcontinent. Usually seen singly perched on a favourite stalk or bund at the water's edge.





PLATE 59: HORNBILLS

1. (768) **MALABAR GREY HORNBILL** *Ocyceros griseus* (R) Kite±:59cm. **Occurrence:** Open evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Endemic. W Ghats from Mumbai south. **ID:** A brownish-grey hornbill without casque on bill. Tail blackish with broad white tips except for the central pair. Bill of *male* horny-yellow with a brownish-red tinge except at the tip. Bill of *female* waxy-yellow with irregular slate patches along culmen and base of lower mandible.
2. (769) **SRI LANKAN GREY HORNBILL** *Ocyceros gingalensis* (R) Kite±:59cm. **Occurrence:** Lowland evergreen or deciduous woodland, wooded gardens. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Malabar Grey Hornbill, but with white underparts and outertail feathers. Bill cream-yellow in *male*, blackish in *female*.
3. (767) **INDIAN GREY HORNBILL** *Ocyceros birostris* (R) Kite±:61cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest and groves near cultivation. Endemic. From Pakistan Punjab and S Gujarat, east to N W Bengal from Himalayan foothills and south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Brownish-grey, paler underparts, whitish on belly and flanks. Has a pointed casque; bill blackish at base and pale yellow at the distal end. Tail long and graduated, the black and white tipped pattern conspicuous while alighting. **(301)**.
4. (773) **NARCONDAM HORNBILL** *Aceros narcondami* (R) Kite+:66cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic to Narcondam Is. (Andamans). **ID:** *Male:* Head and neck rufous, gular-pouch bluish-white, tail white; rest of body plumage black and glossed with green. *Female:* Overall black except for bluish-white gular pouch and white tail.
5. (770) **WHITE-THROATED BROWN HORNBILL** (BROWN HORNBILL) *Ptilolaemus austeni* (R) Kite+:76cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. E Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya(?), Nagaland(?), Manipur(?) up to c. 900m. **ID:** Brown above, rufous below. *Male* has white on cheeks, throat and sides of neck. *Female* lacks white on throat and neck, and is more brown and less rufous below. Tail brown, tipped white except for middle pair of rectrices.
6. (776) **GREAT PIED HORNBILL** (GREAT HORNBILL) *Buceros bicornis* (R) Peahen+:130cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Lower Himalayas up to c. 2100m, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; NE and SE Bangladesh; W Ghats from Khandala south through Kerala and W Tamil Nadu, up to c. 1500m. **ID:** The largest Indian hornbill. The large horn-shaped yellow-and-black bill with its concave casque, black wings with a white bar across, white tail with subterminal black band diagnostic. *Male* has blood-red eyes and blackish eye-ring. *Female* smaller with smaller bill and casque. Pearly-white eyes and red eye-ring. **(307)**.
7. (772) **WREATHED HORNBILL** *Aceros undulatus* (R) Peahen+:110cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and edges of clearings, up to c. 2400m. Sub-Himalayan duars and foothills from N Bengal and Bhutan east to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?). **ID:** Corrugated bill and casque diagnostic. *Male* with forehead, crown and nape chestnut passing into black on hindneck; gular pouch bright yellow with a black stripe. Face, neck and foreneck buffy white; tail white; rest of plumage black. *Female* all black except for white tail and dark-blue gular-pouch with a black stripe. **(304)**.
8. (775) **MALABAR PIED HORNBILL** *Anthracosceros coronatus* (R) Peahen±:92cm. **Occurrence:** Remnant evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Endemic. Extreme SE

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, W Bengal south through Orissa and N Andhra; W Ghats south of Mumbai (Phansad); some sites in the Satpuda range; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Oriental Pied Hornbill (9), but with the outertail feathers all white and has more black on casque. Casque of *female* similar in shape without black at the posterior edge. Also see Oriental Pied Hornbill. **(306).**

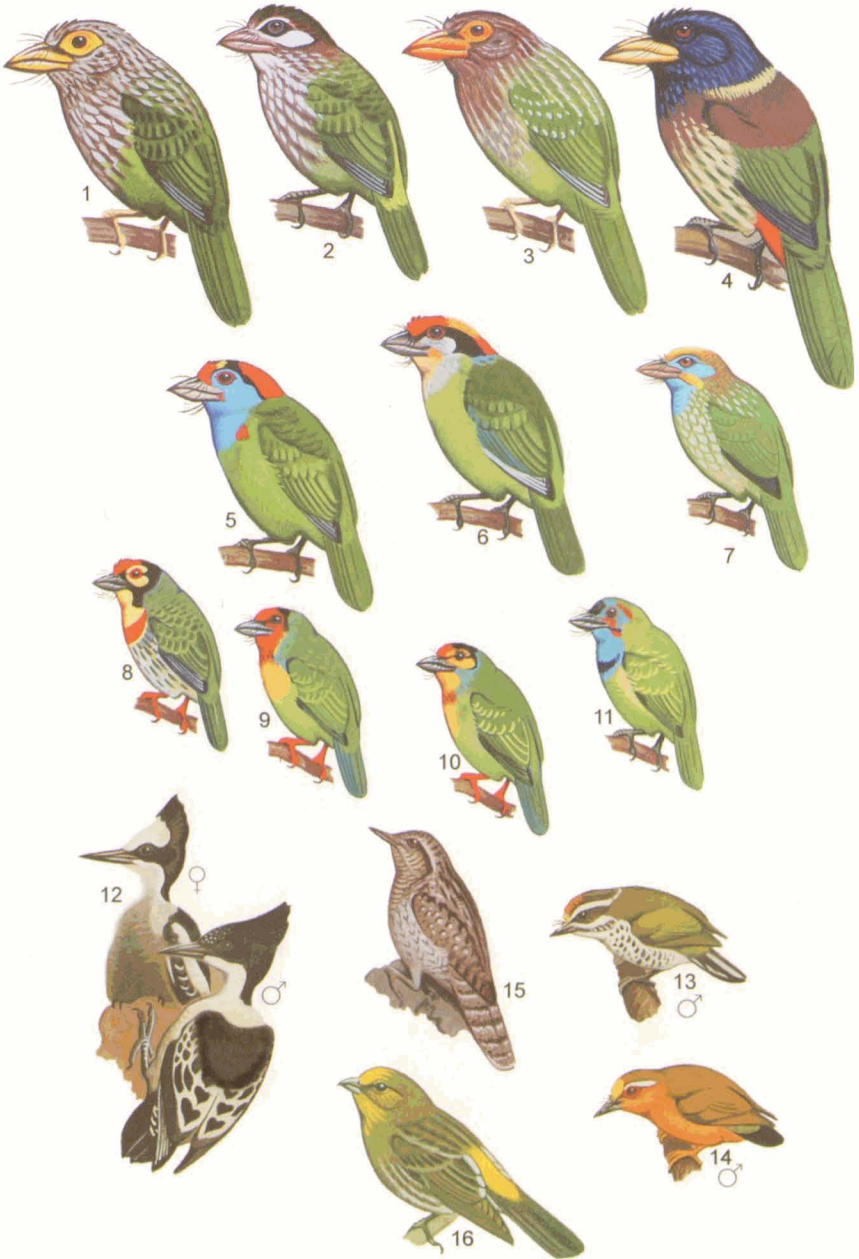
9. (774) **ORIENTAL PIED HORNBILL** *Anthracoceros albirostris* (R) Peahen-:89cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and remnant evergreen forest. Uttarakhand and Haryana to Arunachal; south to Manipur, hills of Bangladesh and Bihar, Bastar, E Ghats of Orissa and N Andhra Pradesh. **ID:** A pied hornbill; bill wax-yellow with a high single-point casque, tipped black. Outertail feathers black, tail end is white tipped. *Female* has a smaller more rounded casque with black extending into bill. **(305).**

10. (771) **RUFIOUS-NECKED HORNBILL** *Aceros nipalensis* (R) Peahen+:122cm. **Occurrence:** Tall evergreen forest up to c. 1800m. E Himalayan foothills from Sikkim to Arunachal; Nepal(?); NE hill states; Bangladesh(?). **ID:** *Male:* Head, neck and breast rufous changing to maroon on abdomen; black above. Outer primaries tipped white; terminal portion of black tail white. Gular pouch orange-scarlet in both sexes. *Female* black except for white on tip of primaries and distal half of tail. **(303).**

Narcondam Hornbill *Aceros narcondami*

Endemic to Narcondam Island in the Andamans. The species status is a cause for concern and the possibility of introducing it to other similar islands in the group needs serious and urgent consideration.





**PLATE 60: BARBETS, WRYNECK, HONEYGUIDE
AND WOODPECKERS**

1. (783-784) **LINEATED BARBET** *Megalaima lineata* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and light secondary forest, gardens. Lower Himalayas (up to c. 1000m) from Uttarakhand east through Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh to N Orissa. **ID:** Like Brown-headed Barbet (3), but head paler, more broadly pale streaked, eye-patch yellow (*vs.* orange) and bill yellowish (*vs.* orange-brown). *Calls:* A repeated *kurok* or *kutork*. **(310)**.
2. (785) **WHITE-CHEEKED BARBET** *Megalaima viridis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest, gardens and groves. Endemic. W Ghats complex from Narmada river south through Kerala and to Shevaroy and Chitteri hills in Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Smaller than Lineated and Brown-headed barbets, the white cheek-patch and brown bill diagnostic. *Calls:* A repeated *pucack* or *pukrak*. **(311)**.
3. (780-782) **BROWN-HEADED BARBET** *Megalaima zeylanica* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded moist- and dry-deciduous country, often entering gardens within city limits. Endemic. Subcontinent from foothills of Himalayas, except the NW and NE regions; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head, throat, neck and upper breast brown, streaked with white. Orange eye-patch; bill orange-brown. *Calls:* A repeated *kuteroo*. **(300)**.
4. (777-779) **GREAT BARBET** *Megalaima virens* (R) Myna+:33cm. **Occurrence:** Subtropical, evergreen and moist-temperate forest, c. 1000-3000m. Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam. **ID:** A gaudy, large barbet with prominent heavy yellow bill, violet blue-black head and scarlet vent. *Calls:* A persistent, loud *pee-lio*. **(304)**.
5. (788) **BLUE-THROATED BARBET** *Megalaima asiatica* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Light deciduous and evergreen forest and groves. Lower Himalayas (up to c. 2000m) from Rawalpindi and Kashmir east to Arunachal; south to Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Kolkata (W Bengal); Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** Blue throat and face. The crimson of forehead and crown interrupted by a black and yellow patch; crimson patch at sides of breast. *Calls:* A repeated *kutoorook*. **(312)**.
6. (787) **GOLDEN-THROATED BARBET** *Megalaima franklinii* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest, c. 600-2400m. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam. **ID:** Crimson and golden crown; greyish-white cheeks and throat, the throat with a golden-yellow patch. Broad blackish eye-band from bill to nape. *Calls:* A repeated *pukuo*.
7. (786) **YELLOW-FRONTED BARBET** *Megalaima flavifrons* (R) Myna-:21cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest and orchards of lowlands. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Golden-yellow forehead and malar-stripe; verditer-blue face and throat. Breast boldly scalloped with emerald-green. *Calls:* A repeated *kwear*.
8. (792) **COPPERSMITH BARBET** *Megalaima haemacephala* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope. Most of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Yellow on throat and as a patch around eye; crimson breast and forehead. Green streaked yellowish underparts; green above. *Calls:* A repeated *tuk, tuk, tuk*. **(314)**.
9. (790) **MALABAR SMALL BARBET (MALABAR BARBET, CRIMSON-FRONTED BARBET)** *Megalaima malabarica* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. Evergreen forest, up to c. 1200m.

Occurrence: Endemic. W Ghats complex from Goa south. **ID:** Like Sri Lankan Small Barbet (10), but with throat, foreneck and upper breast also crimson, the breast streaked with black. *Calls:* Like Coppersmith Barbet (8). **(313).**

10. (791) **SRI LANKAN SMALL BARBET** (CRIMSON-FRONTED BARBET) *Megalaima rubricapillus* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Open wooded country. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Malabar Small Barbet (9), but with face, throat, foreneck and upper breast orange-yellow. Crimson forehead; crimson specks on breast. *Calls:* A repeated *poop-op-op-op*.

11. (789) **BLUE-EARED BARBET** *Megalaima australis* (R) Sparrow±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest up to c. 1200m. E Himalayan foothills, terai and duars; NE hill states; Assam valley and hills; E Bangladesh. **ID:** Separated from all similar barbets by the black forecrown; crimson patch behind eye and bill; blackish gorget. *Calls:* A harsh, repeated *koo-turr*.

12. (856) **HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Hemicircus canente* (R) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and secondary evergreen forest. W Ghats from Kerala north to Tapti river (Gujarat) and east to Madhya Pradesh and Orissa; Bangladesh; Assam; NE hill states. **ID:** A small, squat, crested, predominantly black and buff woodpecker. Forehead and crown black in *male*, the forehead speckled with white. Forehead buffy-white in *female*, and white with black spotting in *juvenile*. Short and broadly rounded tail; heart-shaped black spots on tertials. **(325).**

13. (798-799) **SPECKLED PICULET** *Picumnus innominatus* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and semi-evergreen forest up to c. 2000m. Lower Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states, W Bengal and Bangladesh; W Ghats south of Goa; E Ghats in Orissa and N Andhra. **ID:** Yellow-olive above; white, spotted-black below. Black eye-band and moustachial-stripe. Tail black and white. Forecrown yellow and orange in *male*. **(316).**

14. (800-801) **RUFIOUS PICULET** (WHITE-BROWED PICULET) *Sasia ochracea* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-evergreen and deciduous secondary scrub and bamboo jungle. Lower Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; up to c. 2100m. **ID:** Olive above, rufous below. Golden forehead (not in *female*); broad white supercilium; stumpy black tail.

15. (796-797a) **EURASIAN WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* (M) Bulbul-:19cm. **Occurrence:** Thorn jungle, open deciduous scrub and cultivation. Subcontinent, absent/scarce in extreme south; Sri Lanka(?). **ID:** Slim, silvery grey-brown bird, streaked, speckled and vermiculated with black and fulvous above. Whitish below, cross-barred. Tail with 3 or 4 conspicuous bands.

16. (793-795) **YELLOW-RUMPED HONEYGUIDE** *Indicator xanthonotus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer, dry deciduous or subtropical wet forest with cliffs and combs of rock bees. Himalayas, from Hazara east to Arunachal; Assam, Nagaland, Manipur; c. 1500-3500m. **ID:** Sparrow-like olive-brown bird with a rather stout finch-like bill. Glistening orange-yellow forehead, throat and rump.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

A small grass-green dumpy barbet with crimson breast and forehead. Widely distributed throughout the Indian Union. Like other barbets, it is entirely arboreal and frugivorous and one of the common birds of the countryside as well as cities.





PLATE 61: WOODPECKERS

1. (851-854) **INDIAN PYGMY WOODPECKER** (BROWN-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos nanus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Groves, deciduous and semi-evergreen forest; up to c. 1200m. Endemic. Subcontinent, except Himalayas, Pakistan, NW and NE India, and Bangladesh; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A very small woodpecker with white eyes. Forehead and crown dark brown. Broad white stripe from above eye down sides of neck, bordered above with a thin scarlet streak in *male*. Underparts brownish-white, streaked with black (but not in the Sri Lankan race). Central tail feathers spotted unlike in (2). **(324)**.
2. (848-850) **GREY-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos canicapillus* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open tropical semi-evergreen forest up to c. 1700m. Lower Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Separated from Indian Pygmy Woodpecker (1) by the unspotted central tail feathers. Male of E Himalayas has a red nape.
3. (842-843) **BROWN-FRONTED PIED WOODPECKER** (BROWN-FRONTED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos auriceps* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Pine, oak and deodar forest. Baluchistan, north to Chitral and east along the Himalayas to Nepal; c. 1000-3100m. **ID:** Forehead a diagnostic umber-brown. Crest golden-yellow and crimson, not in *female*. Brownish-black above barred with white. Below white, streaked with black, yellow and crimson-pink.
4. (855) **EURASIAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** *Picoides tridactylus* (EL/R?) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer and deciduous forest. Probable in Arunachal; occurs in adjoining Tibet. **ID:** Generally black and white without crimson in the plumage. Crown yellow in *male*, black in *female*. **[Hy-PCR]**.
5. (841) **STRIPE-BREASTED PIED WOODPECKER** (STRIPE-BREASTED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos atratus* (R) Bulbul±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Pine and oak forest; up to c. 1500m. Assam and NE hill states. **ID:** Separated from Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (7) by whiter face and throat, and boldly black streaked underparts. Crown red in *male*, black in *female*.
6. (847) **YELLOW-FRONTED PIED WOODPECKER** (YELLOW-CROWNED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert to moist-deciduous biotope. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent, west to Indus river and east to Assam(?), W Bengal and Bangladesh; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Brownish-black above spotted or barred with white. Crown and forehead brownish-yellow. Crest scarlet in *male*, golden-brown in *female*.
7. (845-846) **FULVOUS-BREASTED PIED WOODPECKER** (FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos macei* (R) Bulbul-:19cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest and wooded country up to c. 2000m. Himalayan foothills and terai east to Bhutan; NE India; Bangladesh; Bihar and Orissa to E Ghats in N Andhra Pradesh; Andamans. **ID:** Like Stripe-breasted Pied Woodpecker (5) but with throat and face pale rufous-brown and only faintly streaked black on breast. Crown red in *male*, black in *female*. **Note:** The race in the Andamans (846: 7b), with white underparts, heavily spotted breast and barred tail, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **SPOT-BREASTED PIED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos analis*.
8. (832-833) **RUFIOUS-BELLIED WOODPECKER** *Hypopicus hyperythrus* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Subtropical pine and moist temperate forest. Himalayas,

from N Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); *c.* 800-4100m. **ID:** Crown and nape crimson in *male*, black spotted-white in *female*. Above, barred black and white. Below, bright chestnut; undertail-coverts crimson.

9. (838-839) **DARJEELING PIED WOODPECKER** (DARJEELING WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos darjellensis* (R) Myna±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Pine, oak, rhododendron and subtropical wet forest, *c.* 1700m to timberline. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states. **ID:** A larger version of the Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (10) with the red on nape not extending to sides of neck and lacking the rufous patch on breast.

10. (840-841) **CRIMSON-BREASTED PIED WOODPECKER** (CRIMSON-BREASTED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos cathpharius* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; usually 800-3000m. **ID:** Diagnostic features include the crimson (black in *female*) of nape and hindneck extending to sides of neck in *male*, black streaked fulvous and crimson underparts, crimson (prominent or diffuse) patch on breast and white wing-patch.

11. (834) **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (GREAT PIED WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos major* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, pine and subtropical wet forest. Assam; NE hill states; *c.* 2000-3000m. **ID:** Like Himalayan Pied Woodpecker (12), but with black crown and red restricted to nape in *male*; nape black in *female*. Also differs in having a black, broken gorget on breast. See illustrations for differences in markings on face and sides of neck.

12. (836-837) **HIMALAYAN PIED WOODPECKER** (HIMALAYAN WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos himalayensis* (R) Myna±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Hill forest of fir and oak. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to W Nepal; *c.* 1500m and above. **ID:** Crown and crest crimson in *male*; predominantly black above with white scapulars. Underparts fulvous (12a) or white (12b), unmarked. Differs from Great Spotted Woodpecker (11) by the black moustachial streak not joining the mantle and absence of gorget.

13. (835) **SIND PIED WOODPECKER** (SIND WOODPECKER) *Dendrocopos assimilis* (R) Myna-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Dry scrub jungle. Indus valley; Baluchistan (up to *c.* 2000m.); Salt Range and foothills of Kohat and Rawalpindi. **ID:** Scapulars, throat, breast and abdomen white. Lower abdomen, vent and undertail-coverts crimson. Crown and nape crimson in *male*, black in *female*.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

A diminutive woodpecker with soft short rounded tail. Occurs singly or in pairs in the Himalayas from Murree eastwards. Seen amongst the hunting parties of small birds in the moist deciduous and semi-evergreen biotope.



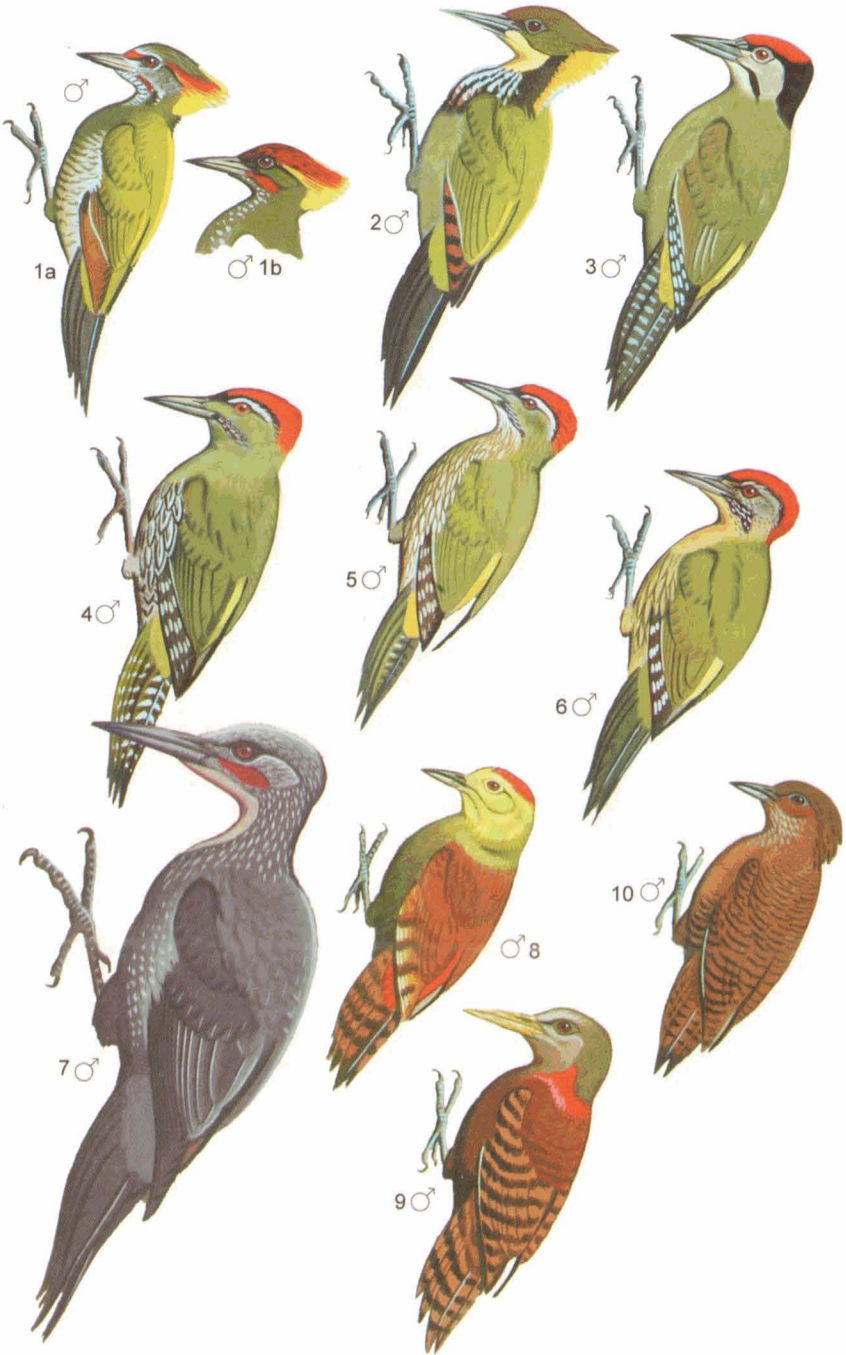


PLATE 62: WOODPECKERS

1. (814-817) **LESSER YELLOWNAPE** (SMALL YELLOW-NAPED WOODPECKER, LESSER YELLOW-NAPED WOODPECKER) *Picus chlorolophus* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and evergreen secondary jungle. Himalayas, up to c. 2100m; NE India and Bangladesh; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa; N and C Eastern Ghats, also Nalamalais; W Ghats south of Narmada, also Shevaroy; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Yellowish-green above with a golden-yellow crest. Forehead, moustachial-streak and supercilia crimson. Flight feathers brown without bands (*contra* banded in Greater Yellownapes). Tail brownish-black. *Female* with crimson restricted to a short broad line behind eye to nape. The peninsular race, *chlorigaster* (1b), is smaller, darker green with the extent of crimson on head much greater in both sexes. (319).
2. (812-813) **GREATER YELLOWNAPE** (LARGE YELLOW-NAPED WOODPECKER, GREATER YELLOW-NAPED WOODPECKER) *Picus flavinucha* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed evergreen and deciduous forest. Himalayan foothills, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; Assam, Meghalaya, W Bengal, Bangladesh; up to c. 2400m; hills of S Bihar, Orissa, N Andhra (Vishakhapatnam). **ID:** Conspicuous golden-yellow crest. Flight feathers brown, banded with black; tail black. Chin and throat lemon-yellow in *male*, rufous-brown in *female*. Black streaked upper breast in both sexes, rest of underparts unmarked.
3. (809-811) **GREY-FACED WOODPECKER** (BLACK-NAPED GREEN WOODPECKER) *Picus canus* (R) Pigeon±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Moist, subtropical and temperate forest. Himalayas, 2100-3500m; NE hill states, Orissa, W Bengal, Bangladesh, Sundarbans. **ID:** Forehead and forecrown crimson; hindcrown and nape black. Throat and face grey; underparts unmarked. In *female*, forehead, crown and nape black. Tail heavily barred with white.
4. (806-807) **SCALY-BELLIED WOODPECKER** (LARGE SCALY-BELLIED GREEN WOODPECKER) *Picus squamatus* (R) Pigeon+:35cm. **Occurrence:** Open, evergreen mixed oak and pine forest, and orchards. N Baluchistan; W Himalayas east to C Nepal; c. 1000-3300m. **ID:** Throat and breast unstreaked; belly boldly scalloped with black. Tail heavily barred with white. *Female:* Crimson of crown replaced by black.
5. (808) **STREAK-THROATED WOODPECKER** (LITTLE SCALY-BELLIED GREEN WOODPECKER) *Picus xanthopygæus* (R) Myna+:29cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-evergreen, moist-deciduous and sal forest. Base of Himalayas from Himachal to Assam; Meghalaya; NW Bangladesh; Peninsula forests; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker (4), but has streaked chin and throat. Tail greenish-brown, faintly barred with white. *Female:* Crimson of crown replaced by black. (318).
6. (-) **STREAK-BREASTED WOODPECKER** (STREAK-BREASTED GREEN WOODPECKER) *Picus viridanus* (R) Pigeon-:30cm. **Occurrence:** Coastal scrub, mangroves, also hill forest. SW Bangladesh and Sundarbans. **ID:** Similar to (4) and (5) and differentiated by the black, unbarred tail; olive-yellow foreneck and most part of breast unstreaked. *Female:* Crimson of crown replaced by black. **Note:** This species had earlier been misidentified as the **LACED WOODPECKER** *Picus vittatus* (see *The Ripley Guide*).
7. (828-829) **GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER** *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (R) Crow+:51cm. **Occurrence:** Sal and tropical semi-evergreen forest. Himalayan terai

and foothills from Himachal to Arunachal, up to *c.* 1200m; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Slaty-grey with buffy-yellow throat and foreneck. *Male* with crimson moustachial-stripe.

8. (827) **PALE-HEADED WOODPECKER** *Gecinulus grantia* (R) Myna±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous bamboo and scrub jungle up to *c.* 1000m. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (hills). **ID:** Head pale golden to yellowish olive-brown, with crimson-pink patch on crown (absent in *female*). Dull crimson above; dark brownish-olive below.

9. (857) **BAY WOODPECKER** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* (R) Pigeon-:27cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal up to *c.* 2000m; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Barred rufous and black woodpecker with a large, scarlet patch on sides of neck. Bill greenish-yellow. *Female* lacks the scarlet patch.

10. (802-804) **RUFIOUS WOODPECKER** *Micropternus brachyurus* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous biotope. Base of Himalayas from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE India and Bangladesh; west to Bihar and central Madhya Pradesh; south to N Andhra; W Ghats; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Smaller and smaller-billed than Bay Woodpecker. Maroon above, finely barred. Dusky-olive below, the feathers of throat scalloped. *Male* has a crescent crimson patch under the eye. **(317)**.

Indian Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus*

A diminutive brown and white woodpecker of Peninsular India. The male has scarlet streaks on sides of hindcrown. Seen in pairs in association with roving bands of small insectivorous birds in light deciduous and bamboo forest and secondary jungle and groves around cultivation.



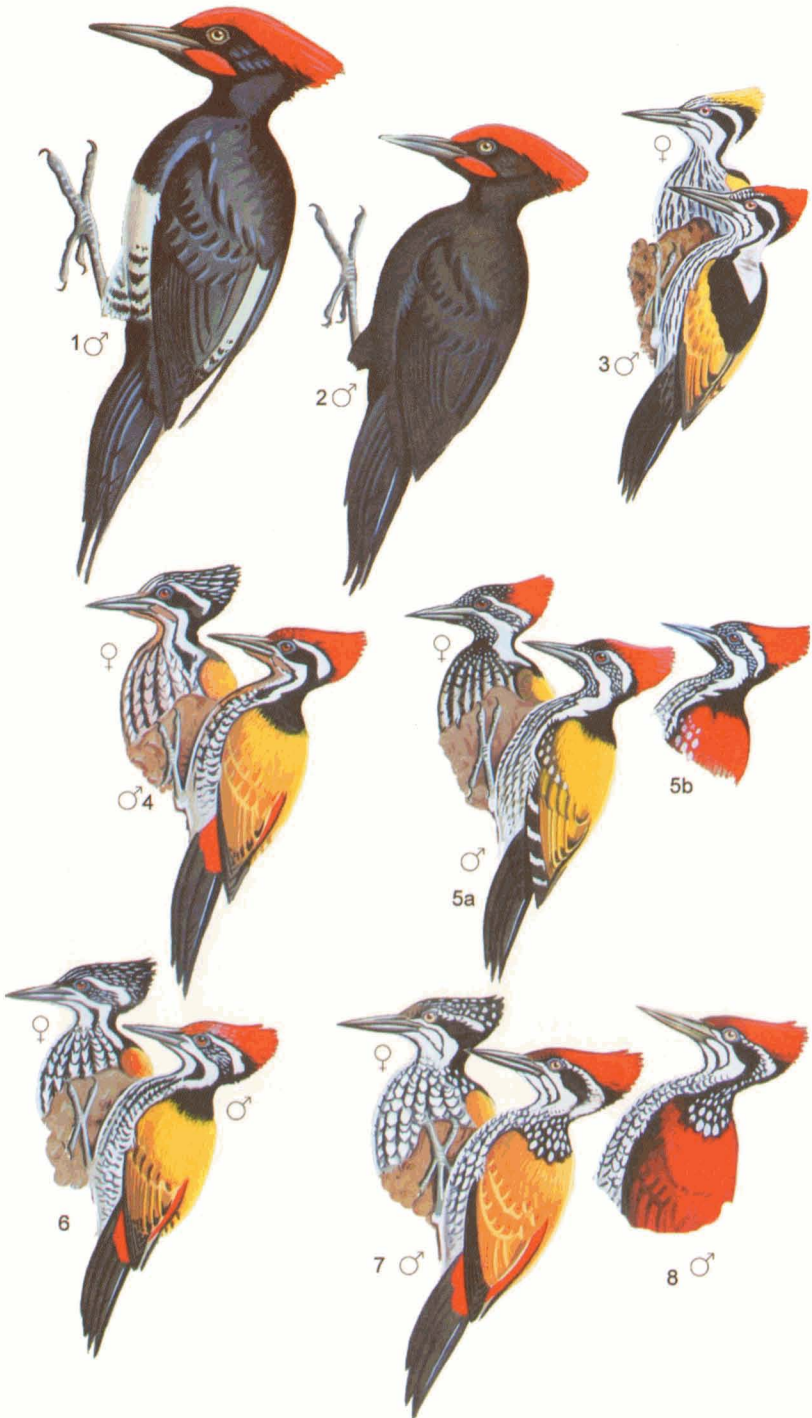


PLATE 63: WOODPECKERS

1. (830) **WHITE-BELLIED BLACK WOODPECKER** (WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER, GREAT BLACK WOODPECKER) *Dryocopus javensis* (R) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest up to c. 1200m. The entire W Ghats complex; eastern Madhya Pradesh, Orissa; N Eastern Ghats. **ID:** Large black woodpecker with white belly and rump. *Male* with crimson forehead, crown, nuchal crest and 'moustache'. *Female* has crimson confined to nape. **(322).** **Note:** Another large (46cm), entirely black woodpecker with a red crest and white (*vs.* black) bill is the **TIBETAN BLACK WOODPECKER** *Dryocopus martius* (831a), which occurs in Tibet; one report each from N Pakistan (old) and W Bengal (recent).
2. (831) **ANDAMAN BLACK WOODPECKER** (ANDAMAN WOODPECKER) *Dryocopus hodgii* (R) Pigeon+: 38cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic to Andamans. **ID:** Like larger White-bellied Black Woodpecker, but without white in plumage. Female lacks crimson on forecrown and 'moustache'.
3. (858-859) **BLACK-BACKED FLAMEBACK** (WHITE-NAPED FLAMEBACK) *Chrysocolaptes festivus* (R) Pigeon-:29cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest. Endemic. From W Uttarakhand and C Rajasthan, east to Bihar and W Bengal; forests of Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from other flamebacks by the white (V) on upper mantle contrasting with the black on lower mantle and back. Crown and crest crimson in *male*, golden-yellow in *female*. **(326).**
4. (824) **HIMALAYAN FLAMEBACK** (HIMALAYAN GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER) *Dinopium shorii* (R) Pigeon±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Tall deciduous and semi-evergreen forest, up to c. 2900m. Himalayan foothills and terai from Himachal and Haryana, eastwards to Bihar and W Bengal; NE hill states; hills of Bangladesh; locally in peninsular hills. **ID:** Like (5), but rump crimson; pure black eye-stripe. *Female* without crimson on head. Has a split moustachial-stripe like Greater Flameback (7), but gap brownish (*vs.* whitish).
5. (818-823) **BLACK-RUMPED FLAMEBACK** (LESSER GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER) *Dinopium benghalense* (R) Myna+:29cm. **Occurrence:** Dry and moist-deciduous biotope. Entire Subcontinent; also Sri Lanka. **ID:** Rump black (*vs.* crimson in 4, 6 and 7). Spotting on throat and shoulders, and barring on upper primaries are additional pointers. Crown and crest crimson in *male*; *female* has crimson only on crest. 5b: Race *psarodes* (823), endemic to Sri Lanka, has the gold of upperparts replaced with crimson. **(320).**
6. (825-826) **COMMON FLAMEBACK** (COMMON GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER) *Dinopium javanense* (R) Myna±:28cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. SW India from Goa south to hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu; Assam(?), NE hill states(?); Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** Separated from very similar larger Himalayan Flameback (4) by the single moustachial streak (*vs.* split) and white-spotted (*vs.* black) eye-stripe.
7. (860-862) **GREATER FLAMEBACK** (GREATER GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER) *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayan foothills, from Haryana eastwards to NE India and Bangladesh; Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, N Andhra; W Ghats. **ID:** Its large size, very long bill, scaly black and white pattern of hindneck diagnostic among flamebacks. *Male* crimson on crown, crest and rump; *female* has crimson only on rump.
- 8: (863) **CRIMSON-BACKED FLAMEBACK** *Chrysocolaptes stricklandi* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Wet forests and well-wooded areas up to 2100m. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like (7), but has the gold of upperparts replaced with crimson. Tail with 3 or 4 bands. *Female* lacks crimson on head. Much larger and longer-billed than the crimson-backed race of (5) of Sri Lanka, which lacks spotting on hindneck.

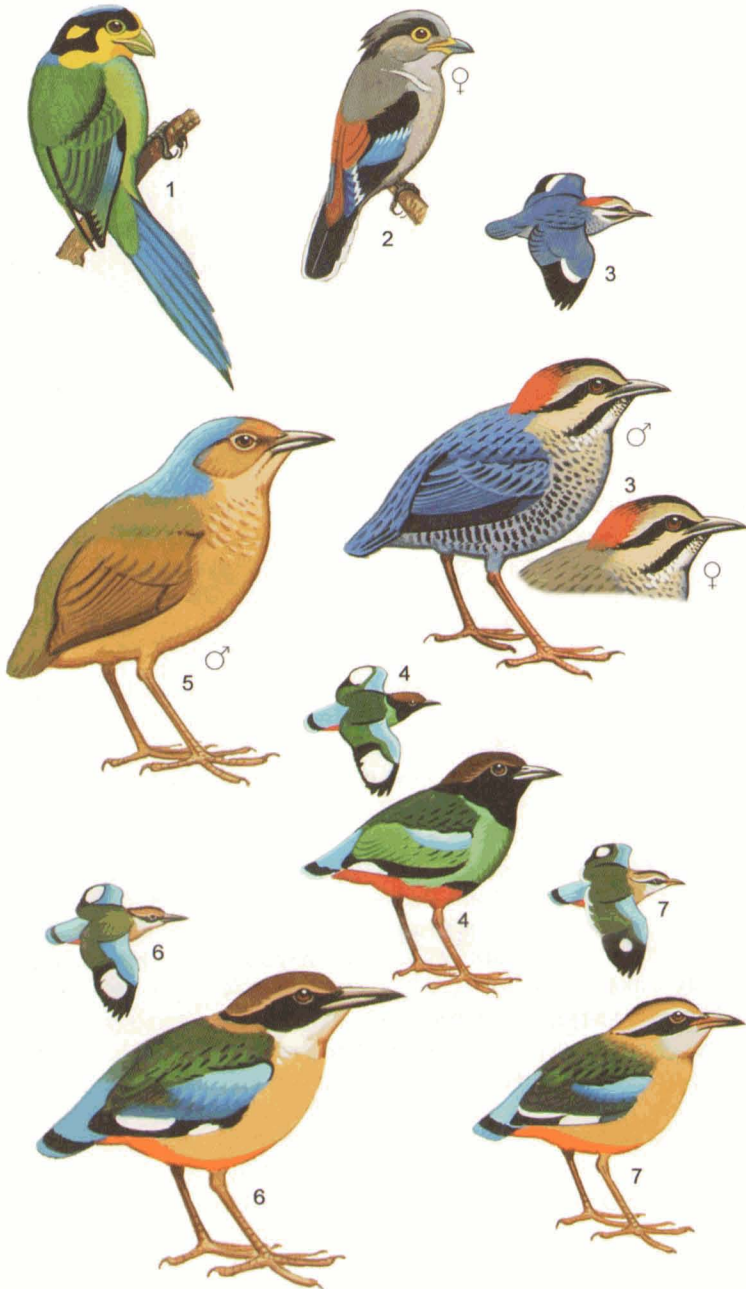


PLATE 64: BROADBILLS AND PITTAS

1. (865) **LONG-TAILED BROADBILL** *Psarisomus dalhousiae* (R) Bulbul+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical and subtropical evergreen forest. E Himalayas west to Uttarakhand; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh (hills); up to c. 2000m. **ID:** Grass-green with long, blue graduated tail. Crown black with an oblong yellow spot on sides and a bright blue patch in the centre. Bright yellow on throat and sides of neck. A white patch on the black underwing seen in flight. **(327)**.
2. (864) **SILVER-BREASTED BROADBILL** (HODGSON'S BROADBILL) *Serilophus lunatus* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forest. Himalayas of W Bengal to Arunachal, also Nepal(?); NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh hills(?); up to c. 1700m. **ID:** Ashy-grey with a short, recumbent crest overhanging the nape; rump chestnut. Wings black with contrasting chestnut-blue and white panels. Tail black, lateral rectrices white-tipped. Yellow eye-ring. *Female* with a white necklace, absent in *male*.
3. (871) **BLUE PITTA** *Pitta cyanea* (R/M) Quail+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and bamboo forest. Bhutan(?); NE hill states; Bangladesh (hills); up to c. 2000m. **ID:** Mantle blue in male, olive in *female*. Greenish-grey on head, scarlet nuchal crest. Black crown, eye- and malar-stripe. Underparts barred whitish; buffy in *juvenile*.
4. (869-870) **HOODED PITTA** *Pitta sordida* (R) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen secondary forest and scrub jungle. From Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 2000m; Nicobars. **ID:** Head and throat black; rufous-brown crown and nape. Mantle and wings green; forewing and rump torquoise-blue. Primaries black with a large white wing-patch. Belly and vent crimson. **(330)**.
5. (866) **BLUE-NAPED PITTA** *Pitta nipalensis* (R) Quail+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical and subtropical secondary evergreen and bamboo jungle. E Himalayas, from E Nepal onwards; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh (hills); up to c. 2000m. **ID:** A large pitta, greenish-brown above, plain fulvous below. Nape and hindneck bright blue in *male*, the blue wash on hindneck less in *female*. **(328)**.
6. (868) **MANGROVE PITTA** *Pitta megarhyncha* (V) Quail+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Single record from Bangladesh (Barisal) and Sundarbans. **ID:** A large pitta. Green above, forewing and rump purplish-blue. Crown brown; black mask; throat and sides of neck whitish. Underparts dark buff; belly and vent red. See also Indian Pitta.
7. (867) **INDIAN PITTA** *Pitta brachyura* (R/M) Quail±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub jungle, light deciduous or dense evergreen forest. Endemic. Breeds in Himalayan foothills, and roughly from S Gujarat to S W. Bengal; winters in S Peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Mangrove Pitta, but smaller, shorter billed, has a median crown-stripe (*vs.* absent), supercilium whitish (*vs.* buff), and shows a smaller white wing-patch in flight.

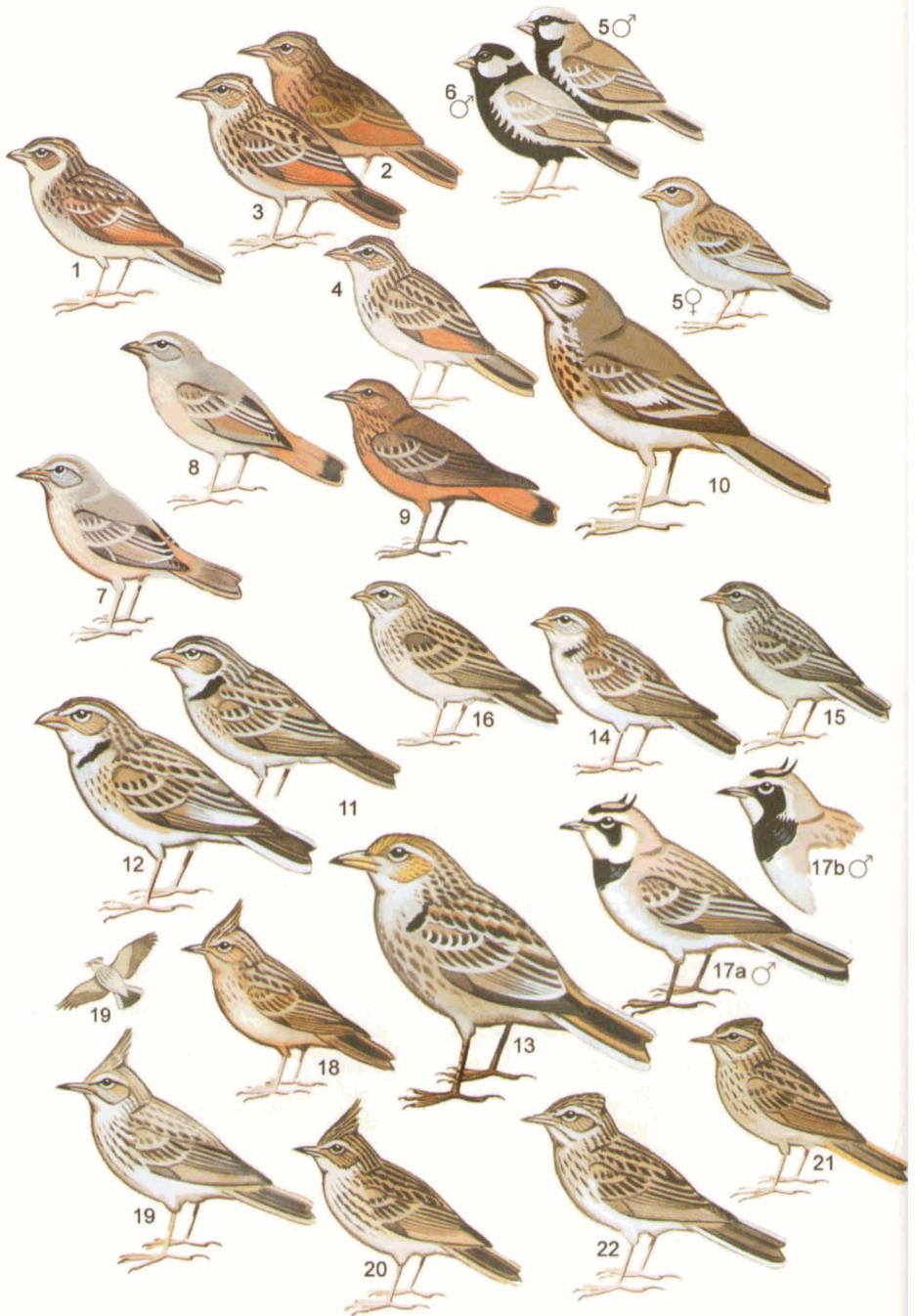


PLATE 65: LARKS

1. (872) **SINGING BUSHLARK** *Mirafra cantillans* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland, fallow cultivation and sparse scrubby semi-desert. Most of sub-Himalayas of the Subcontinent. **ID:** Readily separated from the other bush-larks by the white outertail feathers, sparse streaking on underparts restricted to sides of breast, and the overall whitish underparts. The rufous and chestnut in wings particularly noticeable during the undulating pipit-like flight. *Calls:* Flight song remarkably spirited and sustained like in skylarks.
2. (873) **BENGAL BUSHLARK** *Mirafra assamica* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert, sparse scrub jungle, grassland (often damp) and cultivation. From Haryana eastwards to Nepal lowlands, Assam, NE hill states; W Bengal and Bangladesh; south to N Orissa and N Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** Overall darker than Jerdon's and Indian bush-larks with grey-brown upperparts and buff underparts. Streaks on breast less defined than in Jerdon's Bushlark (3). Outertail feathers rufous. *Calls:* *Yu-eez* or *p'seeeeo* and such high pitched notes, usually uttered in flight. Bill larger than Indian and Singing bushlarks.
3. (874) **JERDON'S BUSHLARK** *Mirafra affinis* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert, sparse scrub jungle, grassland and cultivation. Endemic. South of S Orissa, SE Madhya Pradesh and N Karnataka; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A rufous-brown version of the Bengal Bush-Lark; bill larger than Indian and Singing bushlarks. Heavily streaked above and on crown. Underparts paler than Bengal with well-defined and heavier streaks on breast. Outertail feathers rufous. *Calls:* *Swee-swee-swee* followed by *wisee-wisee-wisee-wisee*, usually from a perch.
4. (875-877) **INDIAN BUSHLARK (RED-WINGED BUSHLARK)** *Mirafra erythroptera* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Sparse scrub jungle and fallow land. Endemic. Plains of Pakistan, NW India and most of the Subcontinent. **ID:** The chestnut in wings more intense and noticeable than the other bush-larks. Brown cheeks bordered by white; distinct white supercilium; breast spotted; whitish underparts. *Calls:* *Tsweeish, tsweeish-tsweeish*.
5. (878) **ASHY-CROWNED SPARROW-LARK (ASHY-CROWNED FINCH-LARK)** *Eremopterix griseus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Sparsely scrubbed wasteland, stubble and ploughed fields. Endemic. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small, squat, thick-billed crestless sparrow-like lark. Sandy-brown with ashy crown, whitish cheeks and a black streak from chin to eye. Below brownish-black. Has an undulating song-flight. *Female* overall sandy-brown. **(334).**
6. (879) **BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW-LARK (BLACK-CROWNED FINCH-LARK)** *Eremopterix nigriceps* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy wasteland near cultivation. Endemic. Plains of Pakistan and NW India (Rajasthan and Kathiawar) to Delhi. **ID:** *Male* like male (5), but much paler and sandier above with white forehead and chocolate-black crown and nape. Ear-coverts pure white (*vs.* dirty white in 5). Has an undulating song-flight. *Female* extremely similar but paler than female (5).
7. (880) **DESERT FINCH-LARK (DESERT LARK)** *Ammomanes deserti* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Fallow land and barren stony ground. NWFP, N Baluchistan, Sind and W Rajasthan; also Jammu and Kashmir(?); up to c. 2000m. **ID:** Like Bar-tailed Finch-Lark (8), but separated by the larger and longer bill, and the tail being brown throughout and tinged with rufous.

8. (881) **BAR-TAILED FINCH-LARK** (BAR-TAILED LARK) *Ammomanes cinctura* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Barren rocky ground. Baluchistan and W Sind, up to c. 1500m. **ID:** A paler version of the Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark (9) with also the dark terminal tail band; underparts creamy-rufous (*vs.* deep-rufous) and the throat and breast are indistinctly (*vs.* distinctly) streaked.
9. (882-883) **RUFIOUS-TAILED FINCH-LARK** (RUFIOUS-TAILED LARK) *Ammomanes phoenicura* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Open stony scrub-and-bush plains and plateau country, fallow land and near cultivation. Endemic. Roughly from Pakistan Punjab east to Orissa and south through the Peninsula. **ID:** A squat, stout-billed, uncrested lark, darker than the other two finch-larks. Ashy-brown above; rufous-orange below, streaked prominently on throat and breast. Bright rufous tail ending in a blackish band. **(335).**
10. (884) **GREATER HOOPOE LARK** *Alaemon alaudipes* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy desert and saltflats. Pakistan: Baluchistan to Bahawalpur and Sind. India: Rajasthan and Kachchh. **ID:** A large sandy-grey lark with a long, slightly curved bill. Whitish underparts, black streaked on breast. In flight, usually low above the ground, the broad white double band on the black wings, and the black tail with pale centre distinctive.
11. (892) **BIMACULATED LARK** (EASTERN CALANDRA-LARK) *Melanocorypha bimaculata* (M) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert, fallow fields, mudflats and margins of jheels. Pakistan, Rajasthan and Gujarat, also recorded from N Maharashtra, Mysore and Delhi. **ID:** A large, rather dumpy lark with a very thick bill. Throat and sides of neck white. A large black spot at each side of upper breast forming a gorget across throat. Blackish eye-stripe; lower breast fulvous, abdomen white. Tail blackish-brown and tipped white, except for the central pair; outertail feathers brown. See also (12) and (13).
12. (-) **CALANDRA LARK** (EUROPEAN CALANDRA-LARK) *Melanocorypha calandra* (EL/M/V?) Sparrow+:18.5cm. **Occurrence:** Could occur in Pakistan and NW India; occurs in Afghanistan. Like Bimaculated Lark, but larger, has less prominent eye-stripe, and shows white outertail feathers and white border to trailing edge of wings in flight.
13. (893-894) **TIBETAN LARK** (LONG-BILLED CALANDRA-LARK) *Melanocorypha maxima* (R) Myna:-21cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and bogs around lakes. N Sikkim and Ladakh. **ID:** Dumpy, thick-billed lark similar to Calandra (12), but larger and darker above with relatively unstreaked (*vs.* streaked) crown, blackish (*vs.* yellowish) legs and with less prominent black spot on sides of breast. Outertail feathers white as in Calandra; lacks eye-stripe.
14. (885-886) **GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella brachydactyla* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Stony grassland, sandy semi-desert and saltflats. Most of Subcontinent. A sparrow-like lark seen in large flocks in winter. Distinguished from other short-toed larks by the almost unstreaked breast, dark patch at sides of breast especially in race *dukhunensis* and relatively more prominent supercilium. **(336).** **Note:** The very similar **HUMES'S SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella acutirostris* (887-888 - not illustrated), which breeds in Baluchistan and Ladakh and probably elsewhere in the Himalayas and winters in the Gangetic Plains, has a yellowish bill (blackish on culmen and tip) and less distinct dark patch on sides of upper breast.
15. (889-891) **INDIAN SHORT-TOED LARK** (SAND LARK) *Calandrella raytal* (R) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy river banks and islets. From Peshawar and Makran

coast to Kachchh and Saurashtra (Gujarat), throughout the entire Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems in N India, Assam, Bangladesh and W Bengal; Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** Like Greater, but smaller and more greyish with a finer bill than the other short-toed larks. Lightly streaked on breast. Song similar to the Sykes Crested Lark, but short and disjointed. **(337)**.

16. (888a) **LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella rufescens* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert and wasteland. Winter visitor to Pakistan; records also from Punjab and Rajasthan. **ID:** Separated from the Greater and Indian short-toed larks by the heavier streaking on breast.

17. (895-897) **HORNED LARK** *Eremophila alpestris* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Barren stony ground in Tibetan steppe facies. Chitral and Gilgit, east to Bhutan, Arunachal and N Assam; seasonally c. 1500-5500m. **ID:** A large, high-elevation lark. Chiefly pinkish or vinaceous ashy-brown above, white below. Face and throat whitish with contrasting black cheeks. Gorget across upper breast; band across crown ending in horn-like black projections. The gorget is connected to the black cheeks in the race *albigula* (17b).

18. (902) **SYKES'S CRESTED LARK** (SYKES'S LARK) *Galerida deva* (R) Sparrow±:13cm. **Occurrence:** Stony, sparsely scrubbed plateau country and dry cultivation. Endemic. Kachchh and E Rajasthan, east to W Gangetic Plains and south through Deccan to Nilgiris and N Tamil Nadu. **ID:** A small rufous-brown lark with an upstanding pointed crest. The darker underparts, smaller size and sparsely streaked breast separate it from similar Malabar Crested Lark (20).

19. (898-900) **LARGE CRESTED LARK** (CRESTED LARK) *Galerida cristata* (R) Sparrow±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy semi-desert and cultivated plains. Pakistan; N India; also Gujarat. **ID:** A crested lark, larger, longer billed and paler than Sykes's and Malabar crested larks. Sandy-brown above, weakly streaked with black. Underparts white, fulvous and boldly streaked with dark brown on breast. **(338)**.

20. (901) **MALABAR CRESTED LARK** (MALABAR LARK) *Galerida malabarica* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Sparse scrub jungle, grassy stony ground and semi-cultivation. Endemic. W Ghats from SE Gujarat to Kerala and Tamil Nadu; up to c. 2000m. **ID:** See (18) and (19). **(339)**.

21. (904-909) **ORIENTAL SKYLARK** (EASTERN SKYLARK) *Alauda gulgula* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Grasslands and young crop fields. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Brown above, each feather centred blackish and edged tawny. A stumpy crest, visible clearly when erected. Pale fulvous-buff below, darker on breast, faintly streaked and spotted with blackish. Has a harsh, grating song. **(340)**.

22. (903-903a) **EURASIAN SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis* (M) Sparrow±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland and cultivation. Pakistan and N India to Uttar Pradesh and C Nepal. **ID:** Larger than Oriental Skylark with a thicker bill and more prominent breast markings, also differs in outer rectrices being pure white (*vs.* rufescent-white). In flight, the white edge to trailing primaries, more white underparts, and absence of rufous wing-panel are additional pointers.



PLATE 66: TREE-SWIFT, MARTINS AND SWALLOWS

1. (709) **CRESTED TREESWIFT** *Hemiprocne coronata* (R) Bulbul±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country. Sub-Himalayan Subcontinent except Pakistan and NW dry region; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Slender, bluish-grey, long-winged and long-tailed swallow-like swift with a prominent frontal crest. *Male* has chestnut face, dark grey in female. **(280)**.
2. (911) **COMMON SAND-MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* (RM) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Around rivers with steep banks. Distribution unclear due to confusion with Pale Sand-Martin. Reported to be NE hill states and Bangladesh in the *Handbook*, but see (3); reports also from Sri Lanka. **ID:** Very similar to the Pale Sand-Martin (3), but has a more distinct breast-band.
3. (910) **PALE SAND-MARTIN** *Riparia diluta* (RM) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Around streams and lakes. Distribution unclear due to confusion with Common Sand-Martin. Records from Baluchistan, Sind, NWFP, Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, N W. Bengal, and south till N Maharashtra and N Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** Smoky, grey-brown above, darker on wings and tail quills. White below with a broad smoky-grey, breast-band. Sides of neck, throat and flanks more or less suffused with smoky-grey.
4. (912) **GREY-THROATED SAND-MARTIN (PLAIN SAND-MARTIN)** *Riparia chinensis* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** River valleys. Pakistan and N Subcontinent, east to NE India and Bangladesh and south to Pune (Maharashtra), Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. **ID:** Like Pale Sand-Martin, but throat and upper breast pale grey-brown, gradually merging with the whitish underparts.
5. (915) **PALE CRAG-MARTIN** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Vicinity of cliffs in bare foothills. Baluchistan, Sind, NWFP, old record from Kachchh (winter). **ID:** A sandy version of Dusky Crag-Martin (7). Pale brownish-grey above with darker wings and tail. Below rusty-cream contrasting with the darker upperparts.
6. (913) **EURASIAN CRAG-MARTIN** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (RM) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Around crags and old hill forts. *Breeding:* NW Pakistan hills and through Ladakh and Kashmir to Uttarakhand, Nepal, Bhutan; *c.* 1200-4500m. *Winter:* Pakistan, N, C and W India, and hills of Peninsula. **ID:** Very like Dusky Crag-Martin (7), but slightly larger and paler (ashy-brown) above, with streaked dusky throat, and much paler underparts that contrast with the darkish undertail-coverts in overhead flight.
7. (914) **DUSKY CRAG-MARTIN** *Ptyonoprogne concolor* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Vicinity of crags, forts and old buildings. Sind in Pakistan, and practically all of sub-Himalayan Subcontinent till Bihar and W Bengal in the NE. Recent sight records from Arunachal and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Sooty-brown with underparts only slightly paler than upper. In overhead flight, the uniform brown colouring without contrasts diagnostic. **(341)**.
8. (932) **NEPAL HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon nipalense* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** River valleys and mountain ridges. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; *c.* 300-4000m. **ID:** Separated from Northern and Asian house-martins by the black (sometimes indistinct) throat, black vent and square-cut (*vs.* forked) tail. **(347)**.
9. (931) **ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon dasypus* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Cliffs and villages. *Breeding:* Himalayas, from Pakistan to Arunachal. *Winter:* Along base of Himalayas from Haryana to NE hill states, Assam and SE Bangladesh;

recorded as far south as Andhra Pradesh. **ID:** Like the Northern House-Martin with a short forked tail, but has darker underwing-coverts and duskier underparts, especially around the breast and belly, and also on the rump.

10. (930) **NORTHERN HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Around cliffs. *Breeding:* NW Himalayas of Pakistan east to Himachal. Winter or passage migrant southwards along the western Subcontinent as far south as Kerala; also recorded in Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** A small black and white swallow with a short forked tail. Glossy, blue-black above with glistening white rump. Pure white below. See also Asian House-Martin (9).

11. (921) **WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW** *Hirundo smithii* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, cultivation, near water. Practically all the Subcontinent from Himalayan foothills till Bihar in the NE; Sri Lanka (once). **ID:** Glossy steel-blue above with a bright chestnut cap. Readily distinguished from other similar swallows both at rest and in flight by the glistening pure white underparts and two long tail-streamers. **(344).**

12. (916-918) **COMMON SWALLOW (BARN SWALLOW)** *Hirundo rustica* (RM) Sparrow±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Open cultivated country and around human settlements. *Breeding:* Pakistan and along the Himalayas up to c. 3000m; Assam (Cachar); Bangladesh. *Winter:* Subcontinent, Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Glossy steel-blue above, pale pinkish-white below; deeply forked tail. Forehead and throat chestnut, the throat bordered by a blue-black collar. Migrant race *tyteri* (12b), wintering in the NE Subcontinent, has chestnut (vs. pinkish-white) underparts. **(342).**

13. (919) **HILL SWALLOW** *Hirundo domicola* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy slopes and near settlements. Endemic. W Ghats complex in SW India and hill areas of Sri Lanka. **ID:** Forehead chestnut, otherwise black above with a metallic-green gloss including on the deeply forked tail. Throat and upper breast chestnut; rest of underparts pale ashy. **Note:** The former race *tahitica* (920) of the Andaman and Nicobars with upperparts glossed purple-blue, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **HOUSE SWALLOW** *Hirundo tahitica*.

14. (923-927) **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Hirundo daurica* (RM) Sparrow±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Open, broken or cultivated country. Subcontinent; Andamans(?), Car Nicobar, Lakshadweep (once), Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Common Swallow, but fulvous-white below finely streaked with dark brown. Rump, sides of neck and hindneck rufous-orange. **(346).** **Note:** Besides the former race (928: see 15), race (929) occurring in NE India and Bangladesh with heavier streaks on the underparts, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **STRIATED SWALLOW** *Hirundo striolata*.

15. (928) **SRI LANKAN SWALLOW** *Hirundo hyperythra* (R) Sparrow±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Low country and hills to c. 1200m. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Red-rumped Swallow, but underparts deep chestnut, faintly and narrowly striated. Nuchal collar absent or ill defined; rump much darker chestnut.

16. (922) **STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW (INDIAN CLIFF SWALLOW)** *Hirundo fluvicola* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Open country and cultivation around rivers and canals. Pakistan, N India east to Assam and south to peninsular India. Recent records from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small swallow with a very slightly forked tail. Glossy steel-blue above with dull chestnut forehead and crown. Rump pale brown. Fulvous-white underparts, streaked with blackish on throat and breast. **(345).**

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

A steel-blue, resident swallow with two long fine 'wires' projecting from the tail. Affects open country, cultivation etc., essentially in the neighbourhood of water. Sexes alike but the tail wires of female are shorter.



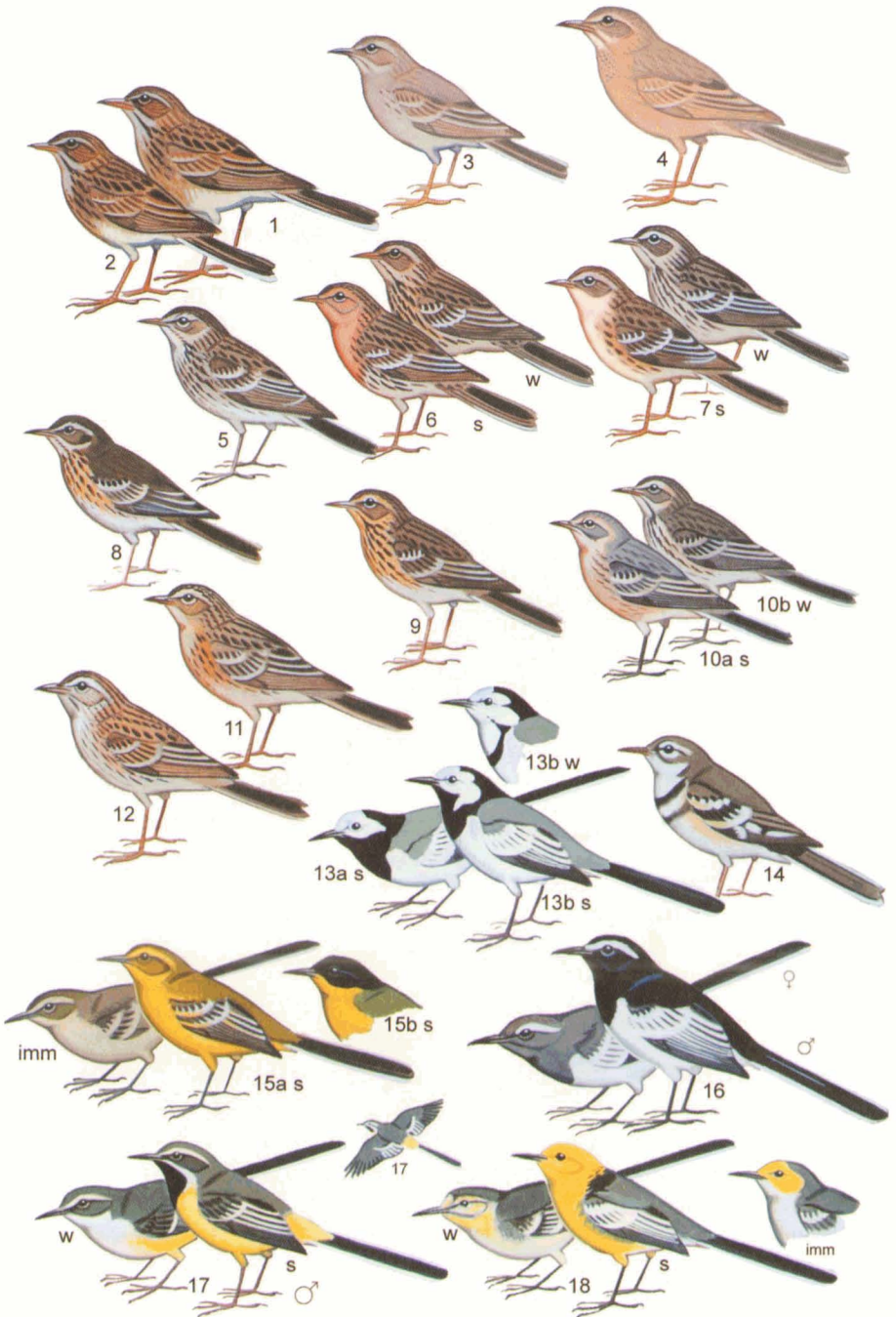


PLATE 67: PIPITS AND WAGTAILS

1. (1857) **RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi* (M) Sparrow±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Moist grassland, cultivation. Most of Subcontinent, absent/rare in NW; also Andamans and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Is relatively larger, longer-necked, taller on the legs and with a more upright stance than similar Paddyfield Pipit; bill also thicker. *Calls:* Harsh *psheuw*. **Note:** The **BLYTH'S PIPIT** *Anthus godlewskii* (1863 - not illustrated), a widespread winter visitor to north-eastern and peninsular India, is similar and extremely difficult to separate in the field.
2. (1858-1860) **PADDYFIELD PIPIT** *Anthus rufulus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassland, marshy ground. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Dark brown, marked with fulvous above. Tail dark brown with white outer rectrices. Buff below, streaked with brown only on breast. *Calls:* *Chip-chip-chip*; *shreep*. See also Richard's Pipit. **(499)**.
3. (1861-1862) **TAWNY PIPIT** *Anthus campestris* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Sparsely shrubbed semi-desert, fallow land, ploughed fields and pastures. Subcontinent; also Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Pale brown above, lightly streaked. Outer rectrices white. Plain whitish-buff below and without streaks on breast, except in young birds. *Calls:* Loud *tseep*.
4. (1866-1869) **LONG-BILLED PIPIT (BROWN ROCK PIPIT)** *Anthus similis* (RM) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy slopes and plains, open scrub country, fallow land and sand dunes. Subcontinent, rare in S India except where resident in the W Ghats. **ID:** A large, dark, long-billed pipit. Pale brown above lightly streaked on head and mantle; distinct buff supercilium. Wings and tail darker, the tail with whitish outer edges. Throat whitish, rest of underparts pinkish-buff. Faint brown streaks on breast (sometimes absent), the streaks darker in W Ghats birds. *Calls:* Subdued *plip...plip*. **(500)**.
5. (1856) **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* (EL) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy meadows and pastureland. Occurs in Afghanistan; doubtful records from Kashmir, Bharatpur, Punjab and Uttarakhand. **ID:** Olive-brown above streaked with dark brown; two pale wing-bars. Outer edge of tail white. Buff below with dark brown streaks on sides of throat, breast and flanks. Very similar to Tree Pipit (9), which is generally more buffish.
6. (1864) **RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy wet ground and stubble fields. Himalayan foothills; NE India; Andaman and Nicobars; Maldives. **ID:** Pale brown above, heavily streaked with dark brown. A buffish supercilium and double whitish wing-bar; streaked rump diagnostic; outer rectrices white. Adult has reddish throat and breast in summer.
7. (1865) **ROSY PIPIT** *Anthus roseatus* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Alpine meadows and boulder-strewn grassy slopes, marshes, jheels and ricefields. *Summer:* Himalayas, from Baltistan and Ladakh east to Arunachal, mostly above timberline. *Winter:* N Pakistan foothills; continental India; Bangladesh; up to c. 1500m. **ID:** The distinct buff supercilium and unstreaked rump separate it from the similar Red-throated Pipit. Breeding birds with a light pinkish wash to underparts.
8. (1852-1853) **OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT (ORIENTAL TREE PIPIT)** *Anthus hodgsoni* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy slopes, rocky ground and glades in open forest. *Summer:* Subalpine Himalayas from c. 2700 to timberline. *Winter:* Continental

and peninsular India, absent/scarce in NW and in the SE parts of Peninsula; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Tree Pipit (9), but upperparts greenish (*vs.* browner) and supercilium more whitish. The black and white pattern on ear-coverts diagnostic. **(501).**

9. (1854-1855) **TREE PIPIT** (EURASIAN TREE PIPIT) *Anthus trivialis* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy slopes, cultivation, stubble fields, groves and light forest. *Summer:* NW Himalayas from c. 2700m to timberline. *Winter:* Most of continental and peninsular India from the Himalayan foothills south; also reported from Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** Diagnostic features include the heavily streaked breast, white of centre of belly, malar-stripe, and brownish upperparts. See also (5) and (8).

10. (1871) **WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Damp ground, marshes, canals and irrigated ricefields. Pakistan; NW India and till foothills and plains of Uttarakhhand and Uttar Pradesh. **ID:** Separated from other small pipits by blackish legs and less boldly streaked underparts. Fulvous-brown above indistinctly streaked on crown and mantle. Pinkish-white supercilium and double wing-bar. **Note:** The **BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT** *Anthus rubescens* (1872: 10b), earlier treated as conspecific, occurring in N Pakistan and NE India below 2000m, has a more prominent moustachial-stripe, darker and greyer upperparts and paler (blackish) legs. It is buff and lightly streaked below in breeding plumage, but heavily streaked in non-breeding plumage.

11. (1870) **NILGIRI PIPIT** *Anthus nilghiriensis* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Rolling downs and grassy hilltops, woodland and coffee estates. Endemic. W Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, above c. 1000m. **ID:** Tawny-olive above with broad dark brown streaks. Buff supercilium; lacks malar-stripe. Tail dark brown, outer edge buffish. Buff below, streaked with dark brown on breast, upper belly and flanks. *Calls:* A faint *seei...seei...seei*.

12. (1873) **UPLAND PIPIT** *Anthus sylvanus* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Steep grassy slopes, abandoned terrace cultivation and open pine forest. Baluchistan and NWFP, east along the Himalayas to Nepal and Sikkim between 900-3000m. **ID:** Heavily streaked above with brown and dark rufous-brown; whitish supercilium. Outer edge of tail whitish. Chin whitish, a short black malar-stripe. Ventrally fulvous with diagnostic, long and fine brown streaks. *Calls:* Two-note *seetyu-seetyu* and long-drawn *wichee-wichee-wichee*.

13. (1885-1890) **WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* (RM) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Open country in the vicinity of watercourses, reservoirs, rice and cultivation, lawns and playing fields. *Breeding:* Himalayas. *Winter:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka and Andamans. **ID:** A white-grey-black wagtail with wide variations in plumage race- and season-wise (e.g. 13a and 13b), but the black patch on hindcrown and nape constant. Wings largely white. **(506).**

14. (1874) **FOREST WAGTAIL** *Dendronanthus indicus* (RM) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen or moist-deciduous biotope, forest, coffee plantations and mixed bamboo jungle. *Breeding:* N Cachar district, Assam(?). *Winter:* Nepal and Sikkim; NE India; Bangladesh; E and W Ghats; Andamans; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Olive-brown above; white supercilium and eye-ring. Double gorget on breast; two whitish wing-bars. **(502).**

15. (1875-1880) **YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava* (RM) Sparrow±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Pasture and wetlands. *Breeding:* Ladakh and N Kashmir(?). *Winter:* Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** The head colour varies from white,

yellow, grey and black as per the races. Above olive, wings brown with two yellowish bars; bright yellow below; tail dark brown with white outer edge. 15b: Race *melanogrisea* (1878) has a black head and lacks supercilium. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava* (1875, 1876-1880) and **EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla tshutschensis* (1875a). The Eastern Yellow Wagtail is akin to 15b, but has a broad white supercilium; its occurrence in the Indian region is treated as hypothetical in *The Ripley Guide*. **(503)**.

16. (1891) **LARGE PIED WAGTAIL** (WHITE-BROWED WAGTAIL) *Motacilla maderaspatensis* (R) Bulbul±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Watercourses, rocky streams, reservoirs and pools. Endemic. Continental and peninsular India; N and SE edge of Pakistan; rare visitor to Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large black and white wagtail. **Male:** Colour pattern similar to Magpie-Robin, but the prominent white supercilium diagnostic. **Female:** Greyish-black. **Juvenile:** Duller and browner. **(507)**.

17. (1884) **GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* (M) Sparrow±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Along clear mountain streams with rocky banks and boulders. **Summer:** From N Baluchistan to Chitral, east through Baltistan, Gilgit, Ladakh and Kashmir to Bhutan; c. 1800-4300m. **Winter:** From Himalayan foothills south throughout the Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID:** The plain grey upperparts and yellow rump diagnostic for both sexes. **Summer: Male** has black throat, white malar-streak and white supercilium; bright yellow underparts. **Winter: Male** like *female*, with buffish throat, paler supercilium and paler yellow underparts. **(505)**.

18. (1881-1883) **CITRINE WAGTAIL** (YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL) *Motacilla citreola* (RM) Sparrow±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and irrigated ricefields. **Summer:** N Baluchistan, NWFP, east through Baltistan, Gilgit, Kashmir, Ladakh, Lahul, Spiti; c. 1500-4600m. **Winter:** Subcontinent, scarce in S Peninsula; vagrant to Sri Lanka. **ID:** **Male** has the head rich lemon-yellow, the upperparts ranging from blackish-grey to pale grey; rich lemon-yellow below. The white vent and undertail-coverts (yellow in Grey and Yellow wagtails) and the two broad wing-bars diagnostic. **Female** and *juvenile male* have the supercilium joining the underparts at lower throat, unlike in Grey and Yellow wagtails. **(504)**.



PLATE 68: MINIVETS, WOODSHRIKES, CUCKOOSHRIKES, FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE AND TRILLER

1. (1089) **ROSY MINIVET** *Pericrocotus roseus* (R) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Lightly wooded country. *Breeding:* Himalayas up to c. 1800m; *Winter:* Pakistan and N Indian plains; sporadically in the Peninsula. **ID:** *Male:* Easily separated from other minivets by the rosy-pink rump, uppertail-coverts and underparts. *Female:* Pale yellow where rosy or crimson in *male*. Yellow underparts much paler than other female minivets. **(390)**.
2. (1096) **WHITE-BELLIED MINIVET** *Pericrocotus erythropygus* (R) Sparrow:-15cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous forest and thorn scrub. Endemic. N, C and peninsular India. **ID:** *Male* separated from other minivets by its contrasting black and white plumage, white wing-slash and orange-red patch on breast and rump. *Female* separated from other *female* minivets by the white wing-slash and orange-red rump. **(392)**.
3. (1090-1095) **SMALL MINIVET** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* (R) Sparrow:-15cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest, open scrub and trees groves. Almost entire sub-Himalayan Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Face and throat black in *male*. Crown and upperparts dark grey, wings black with a yellow-orange slash. Rump orange-red. Breast bright orange, belly yellow. *Female* separated from other female minivets by the orange rump. **(391)**.
4. (1088) **GREY-CHINNED MINIVET** *Pericrocotus solaris* (R) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous or evergreen forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand eastwards; NE hill states; c. 1500-3000m. **ID:** *Male:* Chin whitish, orange-yellow wash on throat. Underparts and rump orange-red. *Female* has whitish chin, grey forehead, and yellow replacing the orange-red areas of *male*.
5. (1084) **SHORT-BILLED MINIVET** *Pericrocotus brevirostris* (R) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest, edges of evergreen and secondary growth. E Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh(?); c. 1800-2400m. **ID:** *Male:* Black and scarlet like (8) and (6) minivets, but short bill diagnostic. *Female:* Grey above. Forehead, face and throat yellow; red areas of *male* replaced with yellow in rest of plumage. Single wing-slash in both sexes.
6. (1085-1087) **LONG-TAILED MINIVET** *Pericrocotus ethologus* (R) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest. *Breeding:* Lower Himalayas and NE hill states. *Winter:* Himalayan foothills and NW and NE Subcontinent, straggling as far south as Orissa and Maharashtra. **ID:** Like (5), but longer-billed and the wing-slash forms a rough inverted U. *Female* has paler yellow underparts than *female* Short-billed Minivet, and yellow on head restricted to forehead (*vs.* forecrown and face in Short-billed and Scarlet minivets). **(389)**.
7. (1089a) **ASHY MINIVET** *Pericrocotus divaricatus* (V) Bulbul:-18cm. Winter straggler to the Indian region. Isolated records: Himachal, SE Bangladesh, Andamans, NW Maharashtra, Mumbai, Shimoga, Bandipur, Sriharikota, Chennai and Kerala. **ID:** A grey-white minivet distinguished from all other minivets by the absence of red or orange in the plumage.
8. (1080-1083) **SCARLET MINIVET** *Pericrocotus flammeus* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous, mixed and evergreen forest in plains and hills. Lower Himalayas; NE India; Bangladesh; NE and W peninsular India; Andamans and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Larger than Short-billed and Long-tailed minivets. *Male* has red (yellow in *female*) on secondaries forming a distinct design (see illustration). **Note:** The species is split into two in *The Ripley Guide*, the more orangish **ORANGE MINIVET** *Pericrocotus flammeus* (1081: 8b) distributed in W peninsular India and Sri Lanka and **SCARLET MINIVET** *Pericrocotus speciosus* (1080, 1080a, 1082-1083: 8a). **(388)**.

9. (1069-1071) **COMMON WOODSHRIKE** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*(R) Bulbul-:16cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous scrub, secondary jungle and gardens. Subcontinent from base of Himalayas; Sri Lanka (but see note). **ID:** A short and square-tailed greyish-brown shrike-like bird with dark eye-band and white supercilium. Outertail feathers nearly all white; rump white. *Calls:* *Uyi-uyi-uyi-uyi*. **(385).** **Note:** The Sri Lankan race (1071) is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **SRI LANKAN WOODSHIRKE** *Tephrodornis affinis*.
10. (1067-1068) **LARGE WOODSHRIKE** *Tephrodornis gularis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Tall trees in evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal up to c. 1000m; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; and W Ghats up to c. 1800m (but see note). **ID:** Separated from Common Wood-Shrike by larger size, darker eye-band, absence of supercilium and brown (vs. white) outertail feathers. *Calls:* *Kew-kiw-kew-kiw*; *tra-a-a* and *thul*, *thul*. **(384).** **Note:** The darker W Ghats race (1068) is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **MALABAR WOODSHIRKE** *Tephrodornis sylvicola*.
11. (1064-1066) **PIED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE** (BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE) *Hemipus picatus* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope in light forest. Lower Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; up to c. 2250m; C and peninsular India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A pied flycatcher-like bird. *Male:* Head glossy black; upperparts brown; white collar round hindneck; white wing-slash. Rump white; tail black, edged white. Below pinkish-white. *Female:* Black replaced by sooty-brown. **(383).**
12. (1079a) **PIED TRILLER** *Lalage nigra* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Forest edges and secondary growth. Nicobars **ID:** Crown and mantle black. Forehead and supercilaries white. Back and rump pale grey. Wings black and white; tail black, edged white. Below white, washed with grey on breast. *Female:* Paler and more grey; streaked below.
13. (1072-1075) **LARGE CUCKOOSHRIKE** *Coracina macei* (R) Pigeon-:28cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and mixed forest, scrub and cultivation. Lower Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh; most of Subcontinent east and south of Gujarat and Rajasthan; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Grey above; broad dark eye-band; tail tipped white. Below grey, with either only the belly white (13a) or finely barred from breast downwards (13b). *Female* has a paler eye-band and is entirely barred grey and white below. **(386).**
14. (1078-1079) **BLACK-HEADED CUCKOOSHRIKE** *Coracina melanoptera* (RM) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest and scrub jungle. Most of Subcontinent except Pakistan and arid NW India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Light grey with black head, wings and tail, the tail white-tipped except for the middle pair. Abdomen and vent white. *Female* and young more brown with no black on head. Whitish supercilium; face and underparts white and finely barred. **(387).**
15. (1077) **BLACK-WINGED CUCKOOSHRIKE** (SMALLER GREY CUCKOOSHRIKE) *Coracina melaschistos* (RM) Myna-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest, pine, oak and chestnut woods and bamboo jungle. *Summer:* Lower Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; c. 600-2100m. *Winter:* Most of central and eastern N India; straggler to Peninsula. **ID:** Bluish-grey with dark eye-stripe, black wings and tail. A roundish white patch on underwing and white terminal margin to tail seen in flight. *Female* paler above, underparts lightly barred.
16. (1076) **ANDAMAN CUCKOOSHRIKE** (BAR-BELLIED CUCKOOSHRIKE) *Coracina dobsoni* (R) Myna±:26cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy moist evergreen forest. Endemic to Andamans. **ID:** Like Large Cuckooshrike but smaller and overall darker. *Female* without grey on throat and upper breast, unlike *male*. Tail narrowly tipped pale brown or whitish, *contra* broadly white-tipped in Large Cuckooshrike.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

An inhabitant of open deciduous and evergreen forest.
Himalayas, from Uttarakhand eastwards and NE hill states; c. 1,500-3,000 m.
A grey and orange minivet, the orange is replaced by yellow in the female.





PLATE 69: PARADISE-FLYCATCHER, MONARCH, FANTAILS, HYPOCOLIUS AND WAXWING

1. (1460-1464) **ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER** *Terpsiphone paradisi* (RM) Bulbul±:20cm. Male with tail-streamers: 50cm. **Occurrence:** Well-watered and shady forest, plantations, groves and gardens. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Old *male* has entire crested head and throat black; blue eye-ring. Rest of plumage including the very long tail-streamers silvery-white, or, rufous-chestnut above and white below with a grey wash on breast. *Female* and *immature male* are chestnut above, lack tail-streamers and have grey throat. **(450).**
2. (1465-1469) **BLACK-NAPED BLUE MONARCH** (BLACK-NAPED MONARCH, BLACK-NAPED FLYCATCHER) *Hypothymis azurea* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope: forest and plantations and mixed bamboo jungle. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand east and south to continental and peninsular India; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka. **ID:** An azure-blue flycatcher-like bird, duller on the wings. Black patch on nape. Thin black collar across throat; belly white. *Female:* Head blue, otherwise brownish above; ashy-blue below fading to white on belly; lacks collar. **(451).**
3. (1454-1459) **WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL** (WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL-FLYCATCHER) *Rhipidura albicollis* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Shady places in forest, well-wooded country, gardens, groves and secondary scrub. Himalayas; NE hill states (up to c. 2700m); peninsular India. **ID:** A dark, slaty-brown fantail with white supercilia and throat; outer rectrices tipped white. Either has a white-spotted black collar on lower throat with rest of underparts white (3b) or has the underparts below throat concolorous with upperparts (3a). **Note:** These forms are treated as species in *The Ripleys Guide*. **WHITE-SPOTTED FANTAIL** *Rhipidura albogularis* (1458: 3b) of the Peninsula; and **WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL** *Rhipidura albicollis* (1454-1456: 3a) of the northern Subcontinent.
4. (1451-1453) **WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL** (WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL-FLYCATCHER) *Rhipidura aureola* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dry open country, wooded compounds, parks, scrub and bamboo jungle. Subcontinent, except NE India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like White-throated, but has broad white supercilia meeting over the forehead; white spots on upperwing-coverts. Throat with a blackish gorget, breast and underparts white. **(448).**
5. (1450) **YELLOW-BELLIED FANTAIL** (YELLOW-BELLIED FANTAIL-FLYCATCHER) *Chelidorhynx hypoxantha* (R) Sparrow-:8cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope: mixed coniferous and birch or rhododendron forest. Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam; SE Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to tree-line. **ID:** A small fantail with dark greyish, olive-green upperparts. Supercilia, throat and underparts yellow. Blackish eye-stripe, white wing-bar. Tail broadly white-tipped. Also see Black-faced Flycatcher-Warbler (Plate: 92: 1).
6. (1063) **HYPOCOLIUS** (GREY HYPOCOLIUS) *Hypocolius ampelinus* (V) Bulbul+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert and open deciduous scrub jungle. Records from Baluchistan, Sind, Kachchh and Mumbai. **ID:** A blue-grey, long-tailed shrike-like bird, the *male* with a mask and white-tipped wings. Tail with a broad black terminal band. *Female* more isabelline-grey, lacks the mask and has barred wing-tips.
7. (1062) **BOHEMIAN WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus* (V) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Fruiting bushes and trees. Records from Baluchistan (Quetta), NWFP, Kashmir to Nepal. **ID:** A dumpy, crested, chestnut and pinkish brown bird; black mask. Dark wings boldly patterned with white, black, yellow and scarlet. Throat black; rump grey; vent chestnut; tail grey, tipped with black and yellow.

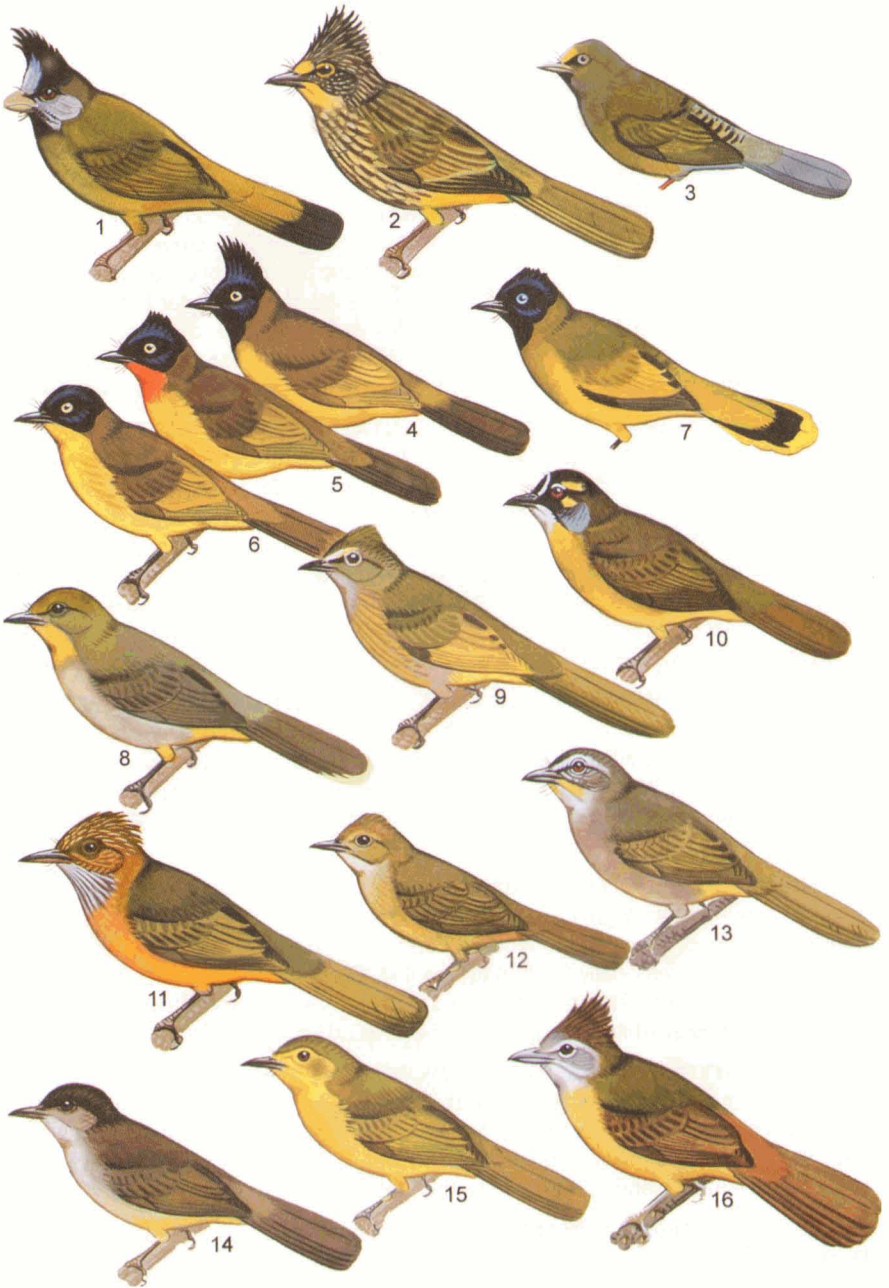


PLATE 70: BULBULS

1. (1111) **CRESTED FINCHBILL** *Spizixos canifrons* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen forest. NE hill states; Assam; SE Bangladesh(?); c. 900-2500m. **ID:** A greenish, black-crested bulbul with yellowish belly; grey forehead and ear-coverts; broad dark terminal band on tail. The thick, pale yellow bill is very distinctive.
2. (1133-1134) **STRIATED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus striatus* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen jungle, oak and rhododendron forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; up to c. 3000m. **ID:** A crested, olive-green stout bulbul prominently streaked with yellow. Pale yellow eye-ring; throat lores and vent yellow. **(105).**
3. (1114) **GREY-HEADED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus priocephalus* (R) Bulbul:-19cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen swampy jungle. Endemic. W Ghats from Goa to Kerala; Nilgiris and Palnis. **ID:** A grey-headed, olive-green bulbul with greenish-yellow forehead. Olive-green above mottled with brown; grey rump, vent and tail. Eyes whitish. **(399).**
4. (1115) **BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus flaviventris* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest and scrub. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; E Ghats of Orissa and NE Andhra; and hills of E Madhya Pradesh; up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Head, throat and well-developed crest, glossy-black. Olive-yellow upperparts, tail largely brown. Yellow below darker on breast. **(400).**
5. (1116) **FLAME-THROATED BULBUL** (RUBY-THROATED BULBUL) *Pycnonotus gularis* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and secondary jungle. Endemic. W Ghats from Goa south through Kerala and adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu. **ID:** Like Black-crested Bulbul, but crest is short and throat ruby-red. **(401).**
6. (1117) **BLACK-CAPPED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus melanicterus* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded areas, open country. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Very similar to Ruby-throated Bulbul but lacks crest and the ruby-red throat.
7. (1112-1113) **BLACK-HEADED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus atriceps* (R) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest, light jungle and gardens. NE hill states south of Brahmaputra; Assam; Bangladesh; Andamans (but see note); up to c. 700m. **ID:** Head glossy-black, crestless. Olive above; wings olive, yellow and black. Tail olive with a broad black and yellow terminal band. Lower breast olive, becoming yellow on belly and undertail-coverts. **Note:** Race (1113 - not illustrated) of the Andamans, with an ill-defined dark head, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **ANDAMAN BULBUL** *Pycnonotus fuscoflavescens* **(398).**
8. (1135) **YELLOW-THROATED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Sparse thorn scrub jungle interspersed with large trees among broken, stony hillocks. Endemic to the hills of S Andhra Pradesh, E Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and bordering areas in Kerala. **ID:** A plain, uncrested grey and yellow bulbul with bright yellow on throat, thighs and vent. Wings and tail brown, the tail tipped pale yellow. **(406).**
9. (1137) **FLAVESCENT BULBUL** (BLYTH'S BULBUL) *Pycnonotus flavescens* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Tree-forest with undergrowth, scrub jungle and secondary growth. NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); seasonally c. 450-2100m. An olive bulbul with greyish-brown head and bright yellow vent. The whitish lores and short supercilium and throat diagnostic; crest small.

10. (1136) **YELLOW-EARED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus penicillatus* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Jungle, wooded ravines and well-wooded gardens. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Upperparts olive with diagnostic yellow ear-tufts and white tufts at lores; yellow cheek-patch. Throat white, rest of underparts yellow.
11. (1146) **MOUNTAIN BULBUL** (RUFIOUS-BELLIED BULBUL) *Hypsipetes mccllellandi* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded secondary jungle, oak, rhododendron and open pine forest. Himalayas, from Himachal east to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); up to c. 2700m. **ID:** A large, stout, olive and cinnamon bulbul with a shaggy crest. Throat greyish, finely streaked with white.
12. (1141) **OLIVE BULBUL** *Iole virescens* (R) Myna-:19cm. **Occurrence:** Dense, humid evergreen forest and abandoned cultivation. NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); up to c. 900m. **ID:** A small, plain, crestless olive bulbul with rufous-brown tail. Greyish-yellow below, brighter on belly and tawny on vent.
13. (1138-1139) **WHITE-BROWED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus luteolus* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Dry open scrub country and gardens. Endemic. Peninsular India, south from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and W Bengal; Sri Lanka. **ID:** An uncrested, olive bulbul with prominent white supercilium. Pale underparts; throat and vent yellow. **(407)**.
14. (1142) **NICOBAR BULBUL** *Hypsipetes nicobariensis* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Forests and gardens. Endemic to the Nicobars. **ID:** An uncrested, long-billed, dark brown bulbul, darker on crown and nape. Throat and breast whitish-grey, faintly streaked with yellow. Belly and undertail-coverts pale yellow, the coverts with brown centers.
15. (1143-1145) **YELLOW-BROWED BULBUL** *Iole indica* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen jungle, sholas and coffee shade-trees. Endemic. W Ghats from Pune and Satara district south; southern E Ghats; Sri Lanka. **ID:** An uncrested bulbul. Olive-yellow above; forehead, face and underparts lemon-yellow. **(408)**.
16. (1140) **WHITE-THROATED BULBUL** *Alophoixus flaveolus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen secondary jungle and shrubby undergrowth in heavy forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; hills of Bangladesh; c. 600-1200m. **ID:** A large, stocky, crested, long-billed bulbul. Olive-green above with rufous wings and tail. Brownish crest; lores, face and throat grey. Lemon-yellow below. Perches with tail fanned out.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

With its pointed black crest and red "whiskers", the bird is unmistakable.
A popular cage bird in Malaya.





PLATE 71: BULBULS, IORAS AND LEAFBIRDS

1. (1118-1122) **RED-WHISKERED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus jocosus* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub jungle. Subcontinent, not Pakistan, NW and C India; Andamans, and Nicobars (introduced). **ID:** Brown above with a pointed black crest. Crimson tufts behind eyes; white cheeks. White below with a dark half breast-band and scarlet vent. Young birds lack the red whiskers and have the vent pale orange-rufous. **(402).**
2. (1147) **ASHY BULBUL** (BROWN-EARED BULBUL) *Hemixos flavala* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Secondary forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; Assam and Meghalaya; Bangladesh; up to c. 1600m. **ID:** Dark grey with a short tuft-like crest. Black 'moustache', ear-coverts light brown with a silky sheen. Wings brown with a large olive-yellow panel. Tail brown edged with olive. Pale grey below with white throat and belly.
3. (1126-1132) **RED-VENTED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus cafer* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation and scrub. Subcontinent, from Himalayan foothills up to c. 1600m; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Slightly tufted. Black head and throat. Scaly markings on upperparts and breast. White rump, scarlet vent and white-tipped blackish tail. Race *bengalensis* (3b) from Uttarakhand eastwards to NE hill states, Bangladesh, W Bengal, Orissa and Bihar is darker. **(404).**
4. (1123; 1124 hybrids) **WHITE-EARED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus leucotis* (R) Myna:- 20cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert biotope: scrub, coastal mangroves and gardens. Pakistan except extreme north; NW Indian plains: also Mumbai. **ID:** A grey-brown, short-crested bulbul with black head and throat and a large white cheek-patch. Vent yellow or orange-yellow; tail dark brown and tipped white. **(403).**
5. (1125) **HIMALAYAN BULBUL** *Pycnonotus leucogenys* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub and cultivation and gardens. Himalayan foothills from Kashmir east to Arunachal; c. 2000-3000m. **ID:** An earth-brown bulbul with a forwardly curving pointed crest. The short thin supercilium, white cheek-patch, black throat, yellow vent, and the white-tipped black tail are other pointers.
6. (1148-1151) **BLACK BULBUL** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Tall moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. Himalayas, NE hill states, Assam and Bangladesh. Also W Ghats complex south of Mumbai and Sri Lanka (but see note). **ID:** A slaty-grey bulbul with a black crest and bright red bill and legs. *Juvenile* lacks crest, is grey-brown above, and paler and mottled white and brown below. Bill and feet brown. **(409).** **Note:** The species is split into two in *The Ripley Guide: Birds of the Himalayas and NE areas*, **HIMALAYAN BLACK BULBUL** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* (1148, 1151); and W Ghats and Sri Lanka, **SQUARE-TAILED BLACK BULBUL** *Hypsipetes ganeesa* (1049, 1150), the latter has a smaller crest and square-cut (vs. shallow-forked) tail, and lacks the black 'moustache'.
7. (1097-1101) **COMMON IORA** *Aegithina tiphia* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest, cultivation and scrub jungle. Himalayan foothills, from Himachal to Arunachal, and most of Subcontinent from east of Gujarat to the southern tip; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding male* black, green and yellow with two white wing-bars; tail entirely black above. *Female* yellowish-green with greenish-brown wings; two white wing-bars. *Non-breeding male* like *female* but with black (vs. green) tail. *Calls:* A long-drawn whistle-like *phew*. **(393).**
8. (1102) **MARSHALL'S IORA** *Aegithina nigrolutea* (R) Sparrow±:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous scrub, thorn jungle and groves. Endemic. NW India; also reported from

Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Common Iora, but *male* has a yellow collar in breeding plumage. Tail in both sexes black with broad white tips (*vs.* tail black in *male* and green in *female* and without white tips in Common Iora). *Calls:* *Wheeti, wheeti.* **(394).**

9. (1106) **ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis hardwickii* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayas, from Simla (Himachal Pradesh) to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; c. 600-2600m. **ID:** *Male:* Leaf-green above with dark purplish-blue wings and tail; pale greenish-blue shoulder-patch. Belly dull orange, throat and upper breast blue-black. The orange belly and purple-blue tail separate it from other leafbirds. *Female:* Overall green with bluish 'moustache' and shoulder-patch, and pale orange belly.

10. (1103-1105) **GOLD-FRONTED LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis aurifrons* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayan foothills, from Himachal east to Arunachal; NE India; Bangladesh; E and W Ghats and other hills of the Subcontinent; also Sri Lanka; not Pakistan. **ID:** Leaf-green with orange forehead and blue shoulder. Throat dark blue, bordered by black; W Ghats birds have only a blue 'moustache'. Sexes similar, but *female* has less orange-yellow on forehead. **(395).**

11. (1107-1108) **BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* (R) Bulbul:18cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen forest. NE hill states, Assam and Bangladesh. Also continental and peninsular India and Sri Lanka (but see note). **ID:** Like Golden-fronted Leafbird, but duller and lacks orange on forehead. Wings and tail with or without blue wash. Throat pale bluish-green in *female*. **Note:** Race (1107), distributed in continental and peninsular India and Sri Lanka, and which lacks blue in wings and tail, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **JERDON'S LEAFBIRD** *Chloropsis jerdoni*.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

Resident and fairly common, more so in the hills.
Frequenting the foliage canopy where it is beautifully camouflaged.





PLATE 72: SHRIKES

1. (939-940) **BAY-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius vittatus* (R) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous open thorn, scrub jungle and outskirts of cultivation. Subcontinent, scarce records from the Himalayan and NE region. **ID:** The small size, chestnut back, greyish-white rump, white-patch on black wings, fully white outertail feathers, and mask extending to forecrown are identification clues. (349).
2. (941) **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio* (M) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub jungle and cultivation. Pakistan, W Rajasthan and N Gujarat. **ID:** Like Bay-backed Shrike (1) in size and colouration, but easily separated by less extensive mask, absence of white wing-patch, brown (vs. black) wings, and outertail feathers being not fully white. *Female* duller and scaly below. See also Burmese Shrike (3).
3. (938) **BURMESE SHRIKE** *Lanius colluriooides* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen scrub and semi-cultivation. Reported from N Cachar in Assam (breeding?), Manipur, Nagaland(?) and Bangladesh(?). **ID:** A larger version of the Bay-backed Shrike, but rump rufous (vs. greyish-white). Separated from smaller Red-backed Shrike by more extensive mask, presence of white wing-patch, fully white outertail feathers, and the rufous (vs. grey) rump. *Female* is duller than the male.
4. (942-943) **RUFOUS-TAILED SHRIKE** *Lanius isabellinus* (M) Bulbul±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Pakistan and NW India, east to Nepal and Bihar and south to E Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and W Maharashtra; Maldives. **ID:** Two races, and except for the rufous tail and rump, race *isabellinus* (943: 4a) is uniformly coloured above without contrast between crown and mantle; supercilium indistinct; underparts creamish-brown. Race *phoenicuroides*. (942: 4b) has a rufous crown and prominent white supercilium; underparts white, tinged rosy. **Note:** These races are treated as two species in *The Ripley Guide*: **ISABELLINE SHRIKE** *Lanius isabellinus* (943) and **RUFOUS SHRIKE** *Lanius phoenicuroides* (942).
5. (949-950a) **BROWN SHRIKE** *Lanius cristatus* (M) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub and scattered bushes. Subcontinent; Andaman and Nicobars, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID:** Reddish-brown above with white forehead, cheeks and throat. Distinct white supercilium. Lacks white wing-patch seen in somewhat similar Rufous-tailed Shrike (4). Pale fulvous tinged with rufous on breast and belly. The race *lucionensis* (950), known as **Philippine Shrike**, which winters in Andaman and Nicobars, SE coast of India and Sri Lanka, is more grey above with a pale grey crown. (351).
6. (951) **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator* (V) Bulbul:-17cm. **Occurrence:** A record from Karachi, reports from Baluchistan and Sind. **ID:** Black above including the mask and tail. Chestnut nape and hindneck. Scapulars, wing-patch, rump and underparts white.
7. (937) **LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius minor* (V) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Three records: Baluchistan (Quetta and Chaman) and Jammu and Kashmir. Open semi-desert and cultivation scattered with thorn bushes. **ID:** Like (8), but smaller with broad, black (vs. grey) forehead, pinkish (vs. whitish) underparts, and with less white in wings.
8. (933-935) **SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius meridionalis* (RM) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical thorn and dry-deciduous biotope. Pakistan from NWFP and Baluchistan, east through continental and peninsular India and Bangladesh. Winter visitor

to southern India and Sri Lanka. **ID:** See (7). **Note:** The **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor* (936), earlier treated as conspecific and a vagrant to N and W Pakistan and Kashmir, has a white (*vs.* grey) forehead, rump is white, and has more white in wings. **(348)**.

9. (945; 944 hybrids) **GREY-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius tephronotus* (R) Bulbul+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes, open scrub and cultivation. *Summer.* Himalayas, from Baltistan(?), Ladakh and N Kashmir east to Arunachal; 2200-4500m. *Winter.* Foothills and plains of N and NE India. **ID:** Like Long-tailed Shrike, but has darker grey upperparts and lacks the white wing-patch; tail chestnut-brown (*vs.* blackish).

10. (946-948) **LONG-TAILED SHRIKE** (RUFIOUS-BACKED SHRIKE) *Lanius schach* (R) Bulbul+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Open wooded country and cultivation. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A long-tailed shrike with back, rump and breast rufous (10a). Crown and mantle paler grey than (9). Wings blackish with white wing-patch; tail blackish (*contra* chestnut-brown). Race *tricolor* (948: 10b) has a black cap and rufous mantle. **(350)**.

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*

A resident, mainly of the Indus and Gangetic plains. Frequents tall moist grassland and reedy marshes. Highly gregarious keeping in flocks the year round and breeding in colonies. Feeds on grass seeds and crops.





PLATE 73: ACCENTORS AND DIPPERS

1. (1777-1779) **ALPINE ACCENTOR** *Prunella collaris* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Stony slopes and cliffs. Himalayas; seasonally *c.* 1800-5500m. **ID:** Separated from other accentors by the greyish-brown head, yellowish bill, white speckling below eye, and scaly throat. Rufous streaks on flanks.
2. (1782-1783) **RUFIOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR** *Prunella strophciata* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer, oak or birch forest and scrub; boulder-strewn alpine meadows. Himalayas; seasonally *c.* 460-5000m. **ID:** Separated from larger Robin Accentor (3), which also has unstreaked rufous breast, by the streaked throat and belly, and rufous supercilium. Bill blackish.
3. (1781) **ROBIN ACCENTOR** *Prunella rubeculoides* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dwarf willows and furze patches near streams, tundra-like vegetation around lakes. Tibetan facies of Himalayas, from Baltistan to Ladakh and till Bhutan; seasonally *c.* 2500-5300m. **ID:** Head and throat brownish-grey, breast rufous. Belly pale cream, lower flanks streaked with rufous-brown. Bill blackish.
4. (1788) **MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR** *Prunella immaculata* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Humid, mossy, conifer and rhododendron forest, secondary jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; seasonally *c.* 2100-4200m. **ID:** A dark accentor with slaty-grey and chestnut plumage; eyes pale yellow. Forehead scalloped with white; large slaty-grey patch on shoulders.
5. (1780) **ALTAI ACCENTOR** *Prunella himalayana* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. Bare rocky hillsides. **Occurrence:** Himalayas, *c.* 2000-4200m. **ID:** Diagnostic clues are the rufous and white streaked breast and belly, largely unspotted whitish throat, and dark streaks on mantle.
6. (1986-1787) **BLACK-THROATED ACCENTOR** *Prunella atrogularis* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub jungle on hillsides, tea gardens, orchards, and bushes near cultivation. N Baluchistan, NW Pakistan and east along the Himalayan foothills to W Nepal. **ID:** Black throat diagnostic, the buff supercilium and dark cheeks are other identification clues.
7. (1785a) **RADDE'S ACCENTOR** *Prunella ocularis* (V) Sparrow+:15cm. **Occurrence:** N Baluchistan. **ID:** Like Brown Accentor (8), but crown darker, is more heavily streaked on mantle, has streaks on flanks, and breast is more rufous. Lacks black throat of (6).
8. (1784-1785) **BROWN ACCENTOR** *Prunella fulvescens* (R) Sparrow+:15cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes on mountain slopes and in dry facies. Himalayas of N Pakistan to Nepal; Sikkim(?) and Arunachal(?); *c.* 3300-5100m; wintering in valleys to *c.* 1500m. **ID:** Pale brown above with lightly streaked upperparts. A conspicuous long white supercilium and dark cheeks. Throat white; pale orange-buff unstreaked underparts. See also (7).
9. (1772-1774) **WHITE-THROATED DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* (R) Myna:-20cm. **Occurrence:** Swift-flowing streams and torrents and glacial lakes. Himalayas, seasonally *c.* 2000-5100m. **ID:** Dumpy, stub-tailed bird with chocolate-brown head. Upperparts slaty with scaly-brown markings till rump. Throat and breast white. Belly either chocolate-brown (9a) or white (9b). Dark morph is entirely chocolate-brown below (9c). *Juvenile:* Slaty-brown above; below, whitish, the feathers tipped-grey.
10. (1775-1976) **BROWN DIPPER** *Cinclus pallasii* (R) Myna:-22cm. **Occurrence:** Swift-flowing streams and torrents. Himalayas; NE hill states; Assam; Chittagong hill tracts(?); seasonally *c.* 450-5000m. **ID:** Larger than White-throated Dipper and entirely reddish-brown. *Juvenile:* Overall, a scaly pale brown.

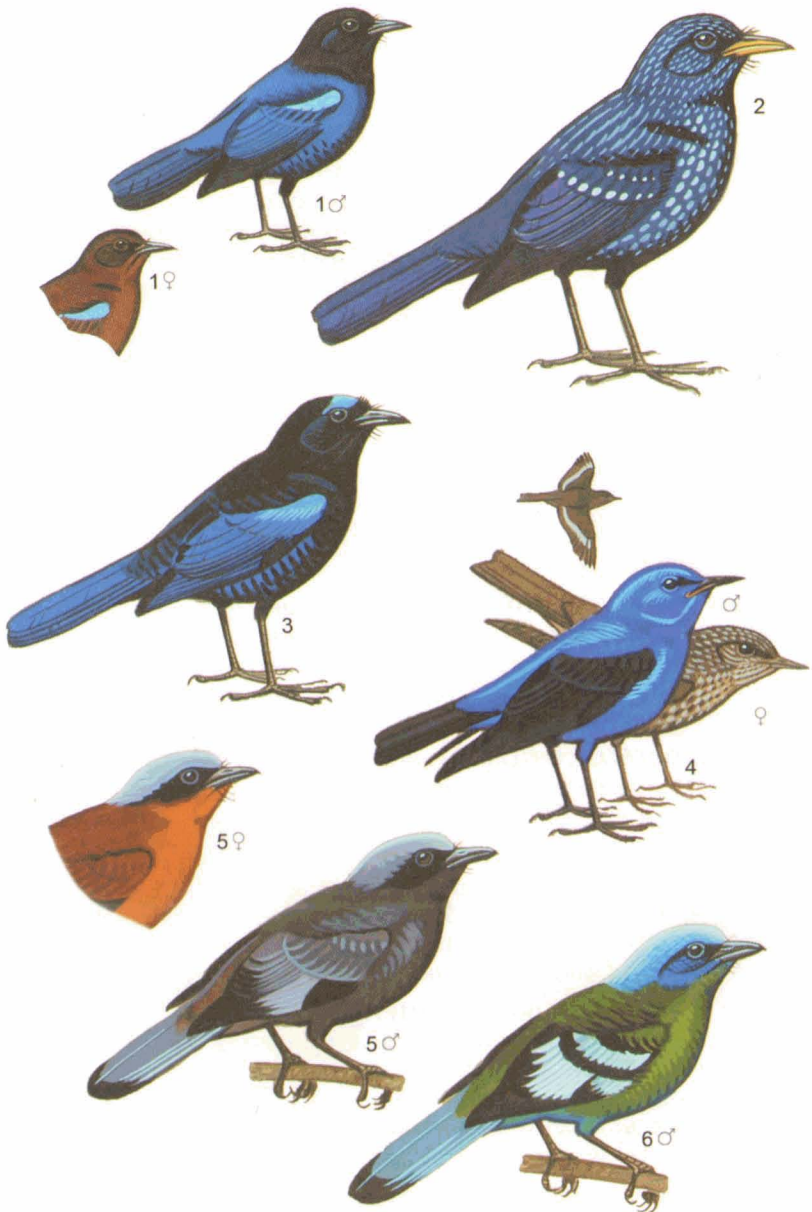


PLATE 74: WHISTLING-THRUSHES, GRANDALA AND COCHOAS

1. (1727) **SRI LANKAN WHISTLING-THRUSH** *Myophonus blighi* (R) Myna+ :20cm. **Occurrence:** Damp, heavy forest, fern-clad ravines. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Overall blackish-blue, head and neck nearly black. Bright blue shoulder-patch. Bill black. *Female:* Overall ferruginous-brown, paler below; blue shoulder-patch.
2. (1729-1730) **BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH** *Myophonus caeruleus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Along rivers and torrents in heavy forest, wooded ravines and gorges. N Baluchistan; Himalayas; NE hill states; foothills to c. 4200m. **ID:** Entirely dark purple-blue spotted with glistening blue. Silver-blue spots on median wing-coverts; bill yellow. Sexes alike. **(489)**.
3. (1728) **MALABAR WHISTLING-THRUSH** *Myophonus horsfieldii* (R) Myna+ :25cm. **Occurrence:** Waterfalls and swift rocky hill streams in shady evergreen jungle. Endemic. Hills of W and peninsular India, including E and W Ghats and Satpuras; foothills to c. 2200m. **ID:** Forehead and shoulder cobalt-blue; crown, neck, throat and upper breast dull black; rest of plumage including wings and tail glistening blue-black. Bill black. Sexes alike. **(488)**.
4. (1683) **GRANDALA** *Grandala coelicolor* (R) Bulbul+ :23cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky slopes, boulder-strewn alpine meadows, screes and cliffs. High Himalayas, from Kashmir east to Bhutan; c. 2200-5400m. **ID:** *Male:* Entirely bright purple-blue with a silky sheen, except for lores, wings and tail which are blackish. *Female:* Head, mantle and underparts brown streaked with fulvous-white; rest of upperparts brown.
5. (1690) **PURPLE COCHOA** *Cochoa purpurea* (R) Myna+ :28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense humid evergreen forest and undergrowth in ravines in pine forest. Himalayas, from E Himachal(?) and Uttarakhand to Bhutan, and Arunachal(?); NE hill states; c. 1000-3000m. **ID:** *Male:* Brownish-purple with lavender-blue crown, blackish mask. Tail purple-lavendar with a black terminal band. *Female:* Like male, but brownish-purple areas replaced by reddish-brown above, paler (brownish-clay) below.
6. (1691) **GREEN COCHOA** *Cochoa viridis* (R) Myna+ :28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest watered by small streams, usually on precipitous grounds. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; c. 700-1500m. **ID:** A green-blue version of the Purple Cochoa with a sky-blue crown. Wings black with a broad, pale blue band in *male*; the band is yellowish-brown in *female*. Blue tail with a terminal black band.

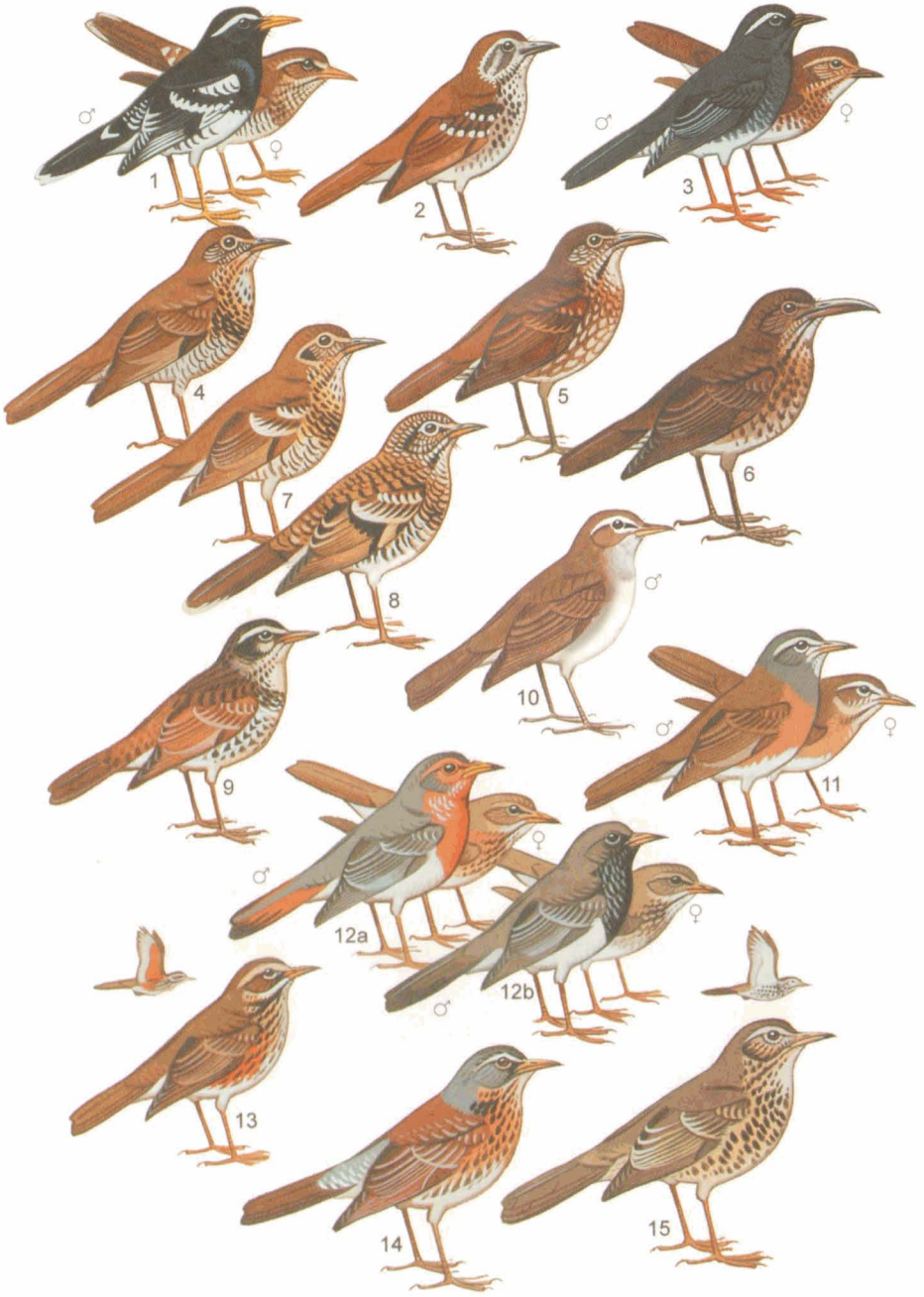


PLATE 75: THRUSHES

1. (1731) **PIED GROUND-THRUSH** (PIED THRUSH) *Zoothera wardii* (RM) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope: well-wooded ravines, open country and edges of forest. Endemic. *Summer:* Himalayas of W Himachal to Nepal; NE hill states(?). *Winter:* NE hill states; E and W Ghats complexes (passage); Sri Lanka (wintering); seasonally c. 750-400m. **ID:** *Male:* Black above with white supercilium; wings and rump boldly spotted with white. Bill yellow. *Female:* Yellow bill, buff supercilium, spotted wings and white in tail diagnostic.
2. (1737) **SPOT-WINGED GROUND-THRUSH** (SPOT-WINGED THRUSH) *Zoothera spiloptera* (R) Myna+:21cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, cardamom jungle, well-wooded country. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Olive-brown above with two rows of white spots on wings. Cheeks whitish with two dark-brown vertical stripes. Creamy white below, boldly spotted with dark brown, especially on breast and upper belly. Flanks olive-brown. Sexes alike.
3. (1732-1732a) **SIBERIAN THRUSH** *Zoothera sibirica* (M) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Thick forest. Manipur hills; single records from S Andaman, Narcondam and Maharashtra. **ID:** *Male:* Slaty-blue, underparts paler. White supercilium and belly; vent scaly. *Female:* Like female Pied Thrush, but bill is brown (*vs.* yellow), supercilium less white, and lacks white spotting on uppertail-coverts.
4. (1738-1739) **PLAIN-BACKED THRUSH** (PLAIN-BACKED MOUNTAIN-THRUSH) *Zoothera mollissima* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Open grassy hillsides and boulder-strewn slopes with dense bushes and grass. Himalayas, from Himachal to Bhutan; NE hill states; breeding c. 3000-4300m; also N Pakistan (rare). **ID:** Rufescent olive-brown above. Lacks wing-bar or it is very inconspicuous. Underparts heavily spotted with crescentic marks. See also (7).
5. (1746) **LESSER LONG-BILLED THRUSH** (DARK-SIDED GROUND-THRUSH) *Zoothera marginata* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth along watercourses in damp evergreen forest. Lower Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to W Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** A large-billed, short-tailed thrush. Rufescent olive-brown above; face mottled whitish and brown. Underparts scaly. See also (6).
6. (1745) **GREATER LONG-BILLED THRUSH** (LONG-BILLED GROUND-THRUSH) *Zoothera monticola* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Small mountain streams in dense evergreen forest and dense undergrowth. Himalayas, from Himachal to Bhutan; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); seasonally from foothills to c. 3000m. **ID:** A larger, darker and longer billed version of (5). Underparts spotted blackish (*vs.* scaly whitish).
7. (1740) **LONG-TAILED THRUSH** *Zoothera dixonii* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, scrub and open bush country. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; breeding c. 2100-4200m. *Winter:* NE hill states. **ID:** Like Plain-backed Thrush (4), but has two distinct wing-bars, is less heavily spotted on underparts, lacks spotting on centre of belly and vent, and has dark ear-coverts and a longer tail.
8. (1741-1744) **SCALY THRUSH** *Zoothera dauma* (R) Myna+:26cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, edges of pastures, well-wooded margins of streams and bamboo brakes. Himalayas; Gangetic Plains and eastern part of C India, NE hill states; Bangladesh; also the southern W Ghats complex; Sri Lanka; breeding c. 2100-3600m. **ID:** The only thrush with prominent spotting/scaling on upperparts. **Note:** The species has been split into four species in *The Ripley Guide*: **SMALL-BILLED SCALY THRUSH** *Zoothera dauma*

(1741) of the Himalayas, Gangetic Plains and eastern part of C India; **NILGIRI THRUSH** *Zoothera neilgherriensis* (1742) of the W Ghats; **SRI LANKAN SCALY THRUSH** *Zoothera imbricata* (1743) of Sri Lanka; and **WHITE'S THRUSH** *Zoothera aurea* (1744 - hypothetical) of NE India.

9. (1765) **DUSKY THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni* (M) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Open fields, grassland and thinly wooded country. Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; c. 900-3000m. **ID:** *Male:* Blackish-brown above. White supercilium; chestnut wings; a spotted gorget across breast. Spotting on flanks; centre of belly white. *Female* is a paler version of *male*, more grey-brown above with rufous on wings and rump.

10. (1761) **GREY-SIDED THRUSH** (FEAE'S THRUSH) *Turdus feae* (M) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Forested hills, c. 1500m. Nepal(?), NE hill states and W Bengal. **ID:** *Male:* Russet-brown above with a distinct white supercilium. Lores black, a white patch under eye. Throat, upper breast and flanks grey, rest of underparts white. Undertail-coverts with broad grey-brown margins. *Female* is like male above. Below, chin and throat white speckled with brown, and grey areas of male replaced by fulvous-grey.

11. (1762) **EYEBROWED THRUSH** *Turdus obscurus* (M) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest. Bhutan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh. Stray reports from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Sri Lanka and Andamans. **ID:** *Male:* Head and neck greyish; chin white; prominent white supercilium. Breast and flanks pale fulvous, belly and vent white. *Female:* Paler with a more brownish head and a dark malar-stripe; throat white streaked with brown; ear-coverts faintly streaked with white.

12. (1763-1764) **DARK-THROATED THRUSH** *Turdus ruficollis* (M) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy slopes, forest edges, sparsely scrubbed fallows, stubble fields and pastures. Himalayas; plains of N India, NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; up to c. 3000m. **ID:** Grey-brown above, belly and vent white. Face, throat and breast either chestnut (12a: race *ruficollis*) or black (12b: race *atrogularis*). *Female* is paler with indistinct and mottled throat and breast. Rufous outertail feathers distinguish both sexes of 12a from all other species of the genus including race 12b.

13. (1767) **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus* (V/M?) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest and fields. An isolated record (dead bird) from NWFP; occurs in Afghanistan. **ID:** Entirely olive-brown above with a conspicuous buff supercilium. Creamy-white below, streaked with dark brown on throat and paler brown on breast and upper belly. Flanks, underwing-coverts and axillaries rich rufous. Sexes alike.

14. (1766) **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* (V) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Fields and orchards. Single record from Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh). **ID:** Head, nape and ear-coverts grey; fine black streaks on crown. Smoky-brown above; rump grey; tail dark brown. Throat and breast rusty-buff with dark brown streaks. Flanks squamated with dark brown; centre of belly whitish. Sexes alike. [**Hy-PCR**].

15. (1768) **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed open forest of conifers, oak or birch, also open grassy hillsides and hill cultivation. *Summer* (breeding): N Baluchistan, NWFP, Chitral, Gilgit east to Nepal, 1800-3900m. *Winter:* Foothills and adjacent plains. **ID:** A large grey-brown thrush with boldly spotted underparts. White underwing seen in flight. Sexes alike. **Note:** Another almost identical but smaller (24cm) and smaller-billed species is the **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* (- : not illustrated), with recent sight records from Ladakh, Bharatpur and Pakistan.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*

A common resident of the Himalayas, subject to vertical movement up to 4,000 m according to climatic conditions. Feeds largely on berries and insects.

It has a mellow song usually given from the top of a tall tree.





PLATE 76: THRUSHES

1. (1724) **CHESTNUT-BELLIED ROCK-THRUSH** *Monticola rufiventris* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest of pine, oak, fir and deodar on steep hillsides. **Breeding:** Himalayas; NE hill states; c. 1200-3300m. **Winter:** Foothills, occasionally plains, Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Brilliant cobalt-blue above, underparts from breast chestnut. *Female:* Distinct face pattern. Olive-brown above with dark crescentic bars. Underparts squamated dark brown and buff.
2. (1733-1736) **ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH** (ORANGE-HEADED GROUND-THRUSH) *Zoothera citrina* (RM) Myna-:21cm. **Occurrence:** Damp forest with heavy undergrowth and groves. **Breeding:** Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh from foothills to c. 2300m; Peninsular hills; Andaman and Nicobars. **Winter:** Subcontinent locally; Sri Lanka. **ID:** An orange and bluish-grey thrush; vent and undertail-coverts white; white wing-bar. *Female* washed with olive-brown above. Race *cyanotus* (2b) has throat white and ear-coverts whitish with oblique dark brown stripes. **(490, 491).**
3. (1725-1726) **BLUE ROCK-THRUSH** *Monticola solitarius* (RM) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Barren rocky country, cliffs, old forts. **Breeding:** Baluchistan; W Himalayas; 1500-3000m. **Winter:** Subcontinent, except Thar Desert areas; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** *Male:* Dark leaden-blue, wings and tail darker; a thin whitish wing-bar. In winter, feathers fringed with fulvous-brown or white. *Female:* Grey-brown with fine dark shaft streaks on underparts; barred blackish on rump; pale thin wing-bar. **(487).**
4. (1723) **BLUE-HEADED ROCK-THRUSH** (BLUE-CAPPED ROCK-THRUSH) *Monticola cinclorhynchus* (RM) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and secondary jungle. **Breeding:** Himalayas; NE hill states. **Winter:** W Ghats and E Ghats. **ID:** A small thrush. *Male:* Chestnut and black above; white wing-patch. Tail blackish, narrowly edged with blue. Throat blue, rest of underparts and rump orange-rufous. *Female:* Olive-brown above, squamated whitish and dark brown below. Throat white; more 'plain-faced' than female (1) and (3). **(486).**
5. (1748) **TICKELL'S THRUSH** *Turdus unicolor* (R) Myna-:21cm. Open deciduous forest. **Occurrence:** **Breeding:** Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Bhutan; 1200-2400m. **Winter:** Hills of C India; Peninsula (W and E Ghats); NE hill states; W Bengal and Bangladesh. **ID:** A small, yellow-billed and yellow-legged, plain ashy-grey thrush; paler on breast and whitish on belly. Underwing-coverts rufous. *Female:* Olive-brown above with a broad buff eye-ring. Pale olive-brown band across breast with sparse, brown streaks. Flanks tawny-olive, belly and vent white.
6. (1722) **RUFIOUS-TAILED ROCK-THRUSH** *Monticola saxatilis* (RM) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hillsides. **Breeding:** N Baluchistan; c. 2000-3000m. In passage, through NWFP, Ladakh, Kashmir and the hills of Sind. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, has head, throat and mantle pale blue; underparts rufous. Back white; rump blue; tail rufous with central rectrices brown. *Female:* Above, grey-brown, tipped with whitish-buff. Below, buff squamated with dark brown. Both sexes separated from other rock-thrushes by the rufous tail.
7. (1750) **GREY-WINGED BLACKBIRD** *Turdus boulboul* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Humid, broadleaved forest of oak. Woods, bush jungle and village precincts in winter. **Summer:** Himalayas, breeds c. 1200-2700m. **Winter:** Assam, Meghalaya, NE Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Overall black with a large, pale grey wing-panel. Belly and

undertail-coverts with whitish fringes. *Female*: Brownish-ashy tinged with olive; rufous-brown wing-panel.

8. (1749) **WHITE-COLLARED BLACKBIRD** *Turdus albocinctus* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence**: Oak, chestnut, rhododendron forest often mixed with conifers. *Summer* (breeding): Himalayas, from W Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 2100-4000m. *Winter*: Foothills of Himalayas and NE hill states. **ID**: *Male*: Entirely black or blackish-brown with a broad white collar. *Female*: Rufous-brown with a dull ashy collar.

9. (1747) **BLACK-BREASTED THRUSH** *Turdus dissimilis* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence**: Damp evergreen forests with ample undergrowth, mixed oak and rhododendron forest, also scrub jungle. NE hill states; E Bangladesh; c. 1200-2400m. **ID**: The white-centred orange belly diagnostic for both sexes. *Male*: Head and breast black, slaty above. *Female*: Dark olive-brown above. Throat whitish, streaked brown; breast olivaceous, streaked black.

10. (1751-1757) **EURASIAN BLACKBIRD** (COMMON BLACKBIRD) *Turdus merula* (RM) Myna+:26cm. **Occurrence**: Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest, sholas, wooded ravines and alpine meadows. Himalayas, hills of peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID**: Consists of seven races with variations in plumages and young being very variable (see illustrations a-d). **Note**: The species is split into three species in *The Ripley Guide*: **COMMON BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* (1751) of NW Pakistan; **TIBETAN BLACKBIRD** *Turdus maximus* (1752) of NW Himalayas, Nepal and Sikkim; and **INDIAN BLACKBIRD** *Turdus simillimus* (1753-1757) of the hills of peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

11. (1760) **KESSLER'S THRUSH** *Turdus kessleri* (V) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence**: Low scrub and cultivated fields. Himalayas of central Nepal to Bhutan **ID**: *Male*: Head, breast, wings and tail black; scapulars rufous-brown. Mantle whitish-buff; rufous-brown on rump and uppertail-coverts. Lower breast white, chestnut below. Undertail-coverts black margined with chestnut. *Female*: Dark or grey-brown above and below, tinged tawny on belly.

12. (1758-1759) **CHESTNUT THRUSH** (GREY-HEADED THRUSH) *Turdus rubrocanus* (RM) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence**: Fir and horse-chestnut forest, open wooded country and orchards. *Summer*: W Himalayas from NW Pakistan to Uttarakhand. *Winter*: Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya, straying to Nepal and Uttarakhand. **ID**: *Male*: Head and neck creamy-grey (*robocanus*: 12a) or smoky-grey (*gouldii*: 12b). Above chestnut, wings and tail blackish. Centre of belly whitish, sometimes with dusky spots. *Female*: Much duller with head brownish.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*

A resident species of the Himalayas from Pakistan eastwards. Feeds largely on insects on trees and the ground. Has a pleasant warbling song almost invariably uttered from the top of a tall tree.





PLATE 77: FLYCATCHERS

1. (1470) **MANGROVE WHISTLER** *Pachycephala grisola* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Mangroves and shrubby trees. Sundarbans; Andamans; also coastal Orissa. **ID:** Like Common Woodshrike in general aspects, but lacks the white supercilium and white outer edge to tail feathers. Bill stout and blackish. Olive-brown above, more ashy on crown. White below with a darker, very pale grey-brown pectoral-band.
2. (1448-1449) **GREY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous or evergreen forest, sholas, secondary and mixed bamboo forest. *Summer:* Himalayas up to c. 3000m: NE hill states; Bangladesh; C India; northern E Ghats; W Ghats; highlands of Sri Lanka. *Winter:* Subcontinent. **ID:** Upright stance. Grey hood; no eye-ring. Yellowish-green above, bright yellow below. **(447)**.
3. (1413) **KASHMIR FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula subrubra* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Temperate mixed forest, gardens and tea estates. *Summer:* Kashmir and N Pakistan; c. 1800-2700m. *Winter:* Nilgiris; Sri Lanka; W Ghats (passage?); reported also from Nepal, Bhutan and E Ghats (probably on passage). **ID:** *Male:* Like Red-breasted Flycatcher (4), but has darker and more extensive red on underparts with a dark border along sides of throat and breast. *Female:* Darker than female (4) with rufous wash on throat and breast.
4. (1411-1412) **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (RED-THROATED FLYCATCHER)** *Ficedula parva* (M) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Groves, forest plantations, gardens with large trees. Subcontinent, uncommon in S India; Andamans. **ID:** *Male:* Pale brown above, more blue-grey on face. White on either side of basal half of black tail. Throat and upper breast orange-rufous, otherwise white below. **Note:** In race *albicilla* (1412: 4b), treated as a species **RED-THROATED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicilla* in *The Ripley Guide*, the rufous is restricted to the throat. Tail usually carried erect like a robin with the wings partly drooping at the sides. *Female* has a whitish throat and buffy breast. **(437)**.
5. (1403-1404) **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest, especially pine. *Summer:* N Baluchistan; NW Himalayas (Chitral, Gilgit and Baltistan); breeding c. 2100-3300m. Autumn (passage): Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** A pale greyish-brown flycatcher separated from other flycatchers by the streaked crown, throat and breast (faintly). Bill dark.
6. (1408) **BROWN-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa muttui* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest and jungle. *Summer:* NE hill states above 1200m. *Winter and Passage:* C India; W and E Ghats; Sri Lanka; Bangladesh. **ID:** Olive-brown, more rufous on rump and tail. Lores, throat and centre of belly white. Diffuse fulvous breast-band and flanks. Legs yellowish-flesh; upper bill dark brown, lower fleshy. **(435)**.
7. (1405-1406) **SOOTY FLYCATCHER (DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER)** *Muscicapa sibirica* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest of conifer and oak. Himalayas; NE hill states; W Bengal and Bangladesh (on passage); seasonally foothills up to timberline. **ID:** Entirely grey-brown above; white eye-ring; small bill. Dusky breast and flanks. Centre of belly and vent white. Sexes alike.
8. (1409) **RUSTY-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa ruficauda* (M) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer, deciduous and evergreen forest. *Summer:* W Himalayas, c. 2100-3600m. *Winter:* Himalayan foothills; NW plains; W Ghats; E Ghats (passage); and NE India (scarce). **ID:** Drab brown with rufous tail and rump. **(436)**.

9. (1410) **FERRUGINOUS FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa ferruginea* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Wet forest of fir and oak, and dense mixed jungle. E Himalayas, from Nepal east; NE hill states; c. 1800-3300m. **ID:** Head blackish-brown; conspicuous whitish eye-ring. Rusty-brown above; tail chestnut. Throat white, breast olive-brown with dark centres to the feathers giving a spotted effect; ochraceous below.
10. (1427) **BLACK-AND-ORANGE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula nigrorufa* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen sholas with ample undergrowth, edges of coffee plantations and dank ravines. Endemic. W Ghats complex from Wynaad south. **ID:** A striking, orange-rufous flycatcher with slaty-black cap and wings. *Female* has the cap dark olive-brown or olive-slaty; ochraceous lores and eye-ring.
11. (1407) **ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa dauurica* (RM) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Woodland, scrub and cultivation. Himalayan foothills from N Pakistan to Nepal, Bhutan(?); hills of C India; W Ghats from Mumbai south; E Ghats(?). *Winter and Passage:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Ashy-brown; white eye-ring. Throat white; below sullied white and tinged with grey on breast and flanks. Dark bill except for yellow at basal half of lower mandible. **(434).**
12. (1414) **ORANGE-GORGETED FLYCATCHER** (RUFIOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER) *Ficedula strophciata* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, rhododendron, conifer, birch and shady mixed forest. Himalayas; NE hill states. *Winter:* South of the Brahmaputra to Bangladesh (Chittagong); seasonally foothills to c. 3700m. **ID: Male:** White forehead and short supercilium. Olive-brown upperparts; tail black with white on sides of basal half. Face dark slaty; an orange-rufous patch on lower throat surrounded by dark slaty. Belly ashy-white towards vent; flanks olive-brown. *Female:* Paler with smaller gorget; ashy throat.
13. (1402) **NICOBAR JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER** (BROWN-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER) *Rhinomyias nicobaricus* (M) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, sometimes gardens. Endemic. Great and Little Nicobars; Andamans(?). **ID:** Entirely brown above; tail rufous-brown. Pale eye-ring; throat and belly whitish; pale brown breast-band; flanks brown. The long hooked at tip bill with pale yellow lower mandible and pinkish legs diagnostic.
14. (1419-1420) **LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula westermanni* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen or deciduous forest. *Summer:* Himalayas, from Himachal east to Sikkim; Arunachal; NE hill states: up to c. 2700m. *Winter:* Adjacent foothills and plains and till Bangladesh in the NE. **ID: Male:** Pied with a long and broad white supercilium; large white wing-panel; white at basal sides of tail. Dark bill and legs. *Female:* Grey-brown above with a pale wing-panel. Throat whitish, rest of underparts smoky-grey. Tail and rump with a rufous wash.
15. (1421-1422) **ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula superciliaris* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest, gardens, up to c. 3200m. *Summer:* Himalayas; NE hill states. *Winter:* Mainly N and C India, straggling to W and S India. **ID: Male:** Deep blue above, the blue extending into the sides of breast. White supercilium either present or absent as per the race, and similarly for the white patch on sides of basal half of tail. *Female:* Mouse-grey above; centre of throat, breast and whole belly glistening white. Tail either rufous or bluish as per the races. **(438).**
16. (1423-1425) **SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula tricolor* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense mixed forest of oak and rhododendron with ample undergrowth. Himalayas; seasonally foothills to c. 4000m; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh(?). **ID: Male:**

Slaty-blue above, brighter on forehead. Tail black with white on sides of basal half. Either has orange-buff underparts (NE hill states) or has the throat white and rest greyish-white (W Himalayas). *Female*: Olive-brown above, buffish below; tail rufous. Female of W Himalayas is paler above and less fulvous below.

17. (1415-1416) **WHITE-GORGETED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula monileger* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence**: Dense bush jungle, scrubby ravines or thick undergrowth in tropical forest. E Himalayas from C Nepal to Arunachal, foothills to c. 2000m; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?). **ID**: A brown flycatcher with a white throat, bordered with black. Olive-brown above, tail ferruginous. Supercilia, either fulvous or white as per the races, almost meet at the forehead. Underparts orange-fulvous.

18. (1446) **NILGIRI FLYCATCHER** *Eumyias albicaudatus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Sholas, forest glades, coffee and cardamom plantations. Endemic to the southern W Ghats from C Karnataka south, mostly above 1000m. **ID**: *Male*: Greenish indigo-blue with bright blue forehead and supercilium; lores black. White patch at base of outertail feathers and whitish undertail-coverts. *Female*: Dull grey-brown, washed with greenish-blue; white patch on tail as in male. **(446)**.

19. (1434) **WHITE-TAILED BLUE FLYCATCHER** (WHITE-TAILED FLYCATCHER) *Cyornis concretus* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence**: Deep forest. E Arunachal, S Assam and E Meghalaya. **ID**: Separated from all other dark blue flycatchers by the large size and the large extent of white in the outertail feathers. Belly whitish, flanks grey. See also somewhat similar, but larger (14) and smaller (9) in Plate 78. *Female* very similar to the smaller female Rufous-bellied Niltava (Plate 78: 15), but the white in tail and absence of blue patch on sides of neck diagnostic.

20. (-) **YELLOW-RUMPED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula zanthopygia* (V) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence**: Lower wooded areas. Records from C and SW India and Sri Lanka. *Male*: A distinctive black and yellow flycatcher with a white supercilium and white wing-panel. *Female*: Olivaceous above and with a yellowish wash on underparts; vent and undertail-coverts white. Yellow rump and white wing-panel diagnostic.



PLATE 78: FLYCATCHERS

1. (1442-1443) **TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis tickelliae* (R) Sparrow:- 14cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous or evergreen biotope: scrub and bamboo jungle, groves and wooded gardens. Himalayan foothills; N and peninsular India except NW arid areas; NE India(?); Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Indigo-blue above, brighter on forehead, supercilium and shoulders. Throat and breast orange-rufous; belly white; flanks sometimes tinged rufous. *Female:* Greyish-blue above; the rufous of throat and breast paler. **(444)**.
2. (1426) **SAPPHIRE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula sapphira* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. E Himalayas from E Nepal eastwards; NE hill states; seasonally c. 800-2600m **ID:** *Male:* Forehead, crown, nape, lower rump and tail bright blue; face and back deep purplish-blue. Chin, throat and upper breast orange-rufous; broken breast band of deep blue; belly ashy. *Female:* Rufescent olive-brown above; lores and eye-ring ochraceous. Chin and throat orange-rufous; belly whitish; rump and tail rufous.
3. (1447) **PYGMY BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapella hodgsoni* (R) Sparrow:-8cm. **Occurrence:** Dense, tall forest and secondary scrub at edge of clearings or along hill streams. E Himalayas from C Nepal eastwards; NE hill states; seasonally foothills to c. 3500m. **ID:** Easily separated from similar species by the diminutive size and short bill and tail. *Male:* Blue upperparts, brighter on the crown, forehead and lores; orange-yellow below. *Female:* Olive-brown, rufous on rump and uppertail-coverts; yellow-orange below.
4. (1418) **SLATY-BACKED FLYCATCHER (RUSTY-BREASTED BLUE FLYCATCHER)** *Ficedula hodgsonii* (R/M?) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer, oak, bamboo and rhododendron forest, thick scrub. E Himalayas from C Nepal eastwards; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally foothills to 3900m **ID:** *Male:* Non-glistening slaty-blue above; lores and cheeks velvety-black. Tail blackish-brown with inconspicuous (unless spread) white bases to all but the central pair of rectrices. Throat and breast rufous; belly and undertail-coverts buffish. *Female:* Olive-brown above, with a pale eye-ring. Olive-buff below with a whitish belly.
5. (1417) **SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER (RUFIOUS-BREASTED BLUE FLYCATCHER)** *Ficedula hyperythra* (R) Sparrow:-11cm. **Occurrence:** Dense primary forest with luxuriant undergrowth. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally c. 300-3000m. **ID:** A small, short-billed and short-tailed flycatcher. *Male:* Slaty-blue above with a conspicuous white supercilium. Forehead and cheeks black. Tail blue-black with inconspicuously (unless spread) white base to rectrices. Chin black, rest below orange-rufous. *Female:* Olive-brown with diagnostic short fulvous supercilium; orange-rufous below.
6. (1440) **BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis rubeculoides* (R) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous or evergreen biotope. *Summer:* Himalayan foothills; NE hill states; Bangladesh. *Winter:* Foothills of continental and peninsular India, up to c. 2100m; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* The dark blue throat, rufous breast and white belly identifies the male (see also 15 male). *Female:* Olive-brown, tinged with rufous on rump. Pale lores and eye-ring. Throat buff, breast ochraceous, rest of underparts white. **(443)**.
7. (1441) **LARGE-BILLED BLUE FLYCATCHER (LARGE BLUE FLYCATCHER)** *Cyornis magnirostris* (R) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Shady ravines and undergrowth in dense humid forest. E Himalayas from Sikkim eastwards; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to c. 2600m. **ID:** *Male:* Like Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (1), but larger and longer billed. *Female:* Lacks blue in plumage; olive-brown above and like male below.
8. (1436-1437; 1438 hybrids) **BROOKS'S FLYCATCHER (PALE-CHINNED FLYCATCHER)** *Cyornis poliogenys* (R) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen

and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from Uttar Pradesh and Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states up to c. 1500m; E Ghats in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh; up to c. 1000m. **ID:** Olive-brown, greyer on head; pale eye-ring. Tail rufous- brown. Throat whitish or buff, rest of underparts fulvous and darker on breast.

9. (1435) **WHITE-BELLIED BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis pallipes* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in evergreen forest, sholas and ravines. Endemic to W Ghats from Mumbai south; foothills to c. 1500m. **ID:** *Male:* Indigo-blue, forehead and supercilium brighter blue above. Lores black; belly white. *Female* is like female Blue-throated Flycatcher (6), but has a more greyish head and darker orange breast.

10. (1445) **VERDITER FLYCATCHER** *Eumyias thalassinus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous, evergreen or light conifer forest. *Summer:* Himalayas; NE hill states; c. 1200-3000m. *Winter:* Subcontinent, mostly hills. **ID:** *Male:* Entirely blue-green, brighter on head and throat, darker on wings and tail. Lores black; vent and undertail-coverts scalloped. *Female* duller and more greyish. **(445).**

11. (1439) **PALE BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis unicolor* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous or evergreen biotope. Secondary or bamboo jungle, dense humid forest. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand east; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); seasonally foothills to c. 1800m. **ID:** *Male:* A blue flycatcher, brighter on forehead and supercilium; pale blue on throat and breast. Greyish belly; undertail-coverts scalloped grey and white. *Female:* Olive-brown above; pale lores and eye-ring. Grey-brown below.

12. (1444) **DUSKY BLUE FLYCATCHER** (DULL-BLUE FLYCATCHER) *Eumyias sordidus* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Highland forest and well-wooded ravines. Endemic to highlands of Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* A dark, bluish-grey flycatcher with cerulean-blue forehead, black lores and whitish belly. *Female* slightly duller.

13. (1429-1430) **SMALL NILTAVA** *Niltava macgrigoriae* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes near streams, heavy secondary jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh; foothills to c. 2100m. **ID:** A combination of small size and blue neck-patch distinguish both sexes from other niltavas and flycatchers. *Male:* Forecrown, rump and neck-patch, brilliant ultramarine-blue. Forehead and lores black. Throat deep purplish-blue, rest of underparts ashy-blue, more whitish on belly. *Female:* Rufescent olive-brown; pale blue neck-patch.

14. (1428) **LARGE NILTAVA** *Niltava grandis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Dense humid forest on steep hillsides and in ravines. E Himalayas from C Nepal eastwards; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh; foothills to c. 2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Forehead, lores and face black; crown, rump and neck-patch deep blue. Throat and breast black, belly purplish-blue. *Female:* Fulvous-brown above; pale blue neck-patch; may have bluish wash on head.

15. (1431-1432) **RUFIOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA** *Niltava sundara* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in forest. *Summer:* Himalayas; NE hill states; c. 900-3200m. *Winter:* foothills and adjacent plains; Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** *Male:* Forehead, face, throat and mantle dark purplish-blue. Crown, back, rump, shoulders and neck-patch bright ultramarine-blue. Orange-rufous below (see also 6). *Female:* Olive-brown, the white patch on upper breast edged with blue at the sides diagnostic. **(440).**

16. (1433) **VIVID NILTAVA** *Niltava vivida* (M/R?) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Dense brushwood in evergreen forest. Sikkim(?), Arunachal, E Manipur hills, Nagaland(?); seasonally c. 1500-2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Like smaller Rufous-bellied Niltava (15), but lacks its ultramarine neck-patch. *Female:* Absence of blue neck-patch diagnostic; buff on throat.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

The conspicuously crested black head, white plumage and white streamers of the adult male are distinctive. A widespread but unevenly distributed resident.





PLATE 79: SHORTWINGS, RUBYTHROATS, ROBINS AND ALLIES

1. (1635) **GOULD'S SHORTWING** *Heteroxenicus stellatus* (R) Sparrow:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense dwarf rhododendron and bamboo on hillsides. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; seasonally c. 540-4200m. **ID:** Chestnut above and slaty-grey below, the white speckles on underparts diagnostic. Sexes alike.
2. (1636) **RUSTY-BELLIED SHORTWING** *Brachypteryx hypertyra* (R) Sparrow:13cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth of shrubs, reeds and bamboo. E Himalayas of W Bengal, and Sikkim to Arunachal; up to c. 2900m. **ID:** *Male:* Deep blue above and ferruginous below; a semi-concealed white supercilium. *Female:* Olive-brown above, pale ferruginous below with centre of belly whitish.
3. (1639) **LESSER SHORTWING** *Brachypteryx leucophrys* (R) Sparrow:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in humid forest and secondary growth near streams. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; c. 900-3900m. **ID:** *Male:* Dark slaty-blue above with (often concealed) white supercilium. Throat and centre of belly white; smoke-grey breast-band and flanks. *Female:* Rusty, olive-brown above. Throat and centre of belly white; rusty-brown breast-band and flanks.
4. (1640) **WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING** *Brachypteryx montana* (R) Sparrow:13cm. **Occurrence:** Damp, shady oak and rhododendron forest, and dense brushwood in ravines or near streams. Himalayas from Uttarakhand east; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally c. 300-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* Entirely dark slaty-blue, except for long white supercilium. *Female:* Dark olive-brown above, fulvous on belly, rufescent on undertail-coverts; chestnut eye-ring and forehead diagnostic. *Immature male* and male breeding in brown female-like plumage sport the white supercilium.
5. (1637) **NILGIRI BLUE ROBIN** (WHITE-BELLIED SHORTWING, RUFIOUS-BELLIED SHORTWING) *Myiomela major* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Wooded sholas. Endemic. Nilgiris and nearby Bababudan and Brahmagiri hills; 900-2000m. **ID:** A short-tailed robin. Slaty-blue above; short blue supercilium. Throat and breast slaty-blue, flanks pale rufous, centre of belly white. **Note:** Race (1638), endemic to the Palni and Ashambu hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, with a short whitish supercilium and slaty-blue (vs. pale rufous) flanks, is now treated as a species: **WHITE-BELLIED BLUE ROBIN** *Myiomela albiventris* (page 259).
6. (1642) **COMMON NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (M) Bulbul:18cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes and gardens. Baluchistan; strayed to Uttarakhand (Oudh) terai. **ID:** Uniformly brown above with rufous tail; pale eye-ring. Whitish throat, belly and undertail-coverts. Sides of neck, breast and flanks pale brown. Relatively larger and with a longer and uniformly-coloured tail than female redstarts (see Plate 80), which it could be mistaken for. Sexes alike. Also see somewhat similar Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (Plate 82: 5).
7. (1643) **SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT** *Luscinia calliope* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dense scrub near water. Himalayan foothills and duars, Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE and E India; Bangladesh, south to the Godavari delta (winter). Vagrant to Satpurus, Delhi and Bharatpur (Rajasthan) and Tamil Nadu. **ID:** *Male:* Ruby-coloured throat diagnostic; white supercilium and malar-stripe. Paler than Himalayan Rubythroat (8) and lacks its black breast-band and white in tail. *Female:* Paler than female Himalayan Rubythroat, and lacks the greyish wash on underparts and white tips to tail.
8. (1647-1649) **HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT** (WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT) *Luscinia pectoralis* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Marshes and cultivation. *Summer:*

Himalayas, up to *c.* 4500m. *Winter*: Adjacent foothills and terai of N and NE India, Bangladesh. **ID**: See Siberian Rubythroat (7); white malar-stripe either present or absent.

9. (1644-1646a) **BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Grass jungle, reeds, bushes near water, gardens and fallow fields. *Summer*: W Himalayas. *Winter*: Most of Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID**: *Male*: Throat and breast blue with a rufous/white/rufous-white spot in the centre. *Female*: Throat-breast buffish-white with a blackish blotchy necklace. Black-tipped orange-chestnut tail in both sexes. (474).

10. (1652) **FIRETHROAT** *Luscinia pectardens* (V) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Records from Garo Hills (Meghalaya), NE Arunachal and NE Bangladesh. **ID**: The flame-coloured patch over chin, throat and breast bordered by black and the whitish patch on sides of neck are identification pointers in *male*. Slaty-blue upperparts; belly whitish; flanks buff. Tail blackish-brown, the central outer rectrices white. *Female*: Olive-brown above; throat pale ochraceous. Belly white, washed with ochraceous.

11. (1650-1651) **INDIAN BLUE ROBIN** *Luscinia brunnea* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Evergreen biotope. *Summer*: Himalayas; NE hill states; *c.* 1600-3300m. *Winter*: Mainly E Himalayan foothills, W Ghats and Sri Lanka; records also from Peninsula, Assam, Nepal and SE Bangladesh. **ID**: *Male*: Slaty-blue above with a long, white supercilium. Throat, breast and flanks bright chestnut or ochraceous; centre of belly and vent white. *Female*: Olive-brown above, whitish below; breast and flanks mottled fulvous.

12. (1653) **SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** *Luscinia cyane* (V) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Isolated records from Simla (Himachal), Bengal duars, Arunachal, Manipur and S Andaman. **ID**: *Male*: Slaty-blue above. Lores and cheeks black. White below, bordered with black on sides of throat and breast; bluish-slate on flanks. Pale flesh-coloured legs. *Female*: Olive-brown above tinged with rufous on uppertail-coverts and tail. Whitish below with scaly breast.

13. (1659) **WHITE-BROWED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger indicus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Mixed subalpine forest. Himalayas, Uttarakhand east to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally from the foothills up to *c.* 4200m. **ID**: *Male*: Like Indian Blue Robin (11), but more slaty above with a longer and broader white supercilium. Orange-ochraceous below. *Female*: Olive-brown above with a white diagnostic supercilium; pale eye-ring.

14. (1654-1656) **ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger cyanurus* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: *Summer*: Himalayas. *Winter*: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, SE Bangladesh; foothills up to *c.* 4400m. **ID**: The orange flanks diagnostic for both sexes. *Female* has blue tail like female (16). **Note**: The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **NORTHERN RED-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger cyanurus* (1656) and **HIMALAYAN RED-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger rufilatus* (1654-1655), the former a vagrant to NE India.

15. (1657-1658) **GOLDEN BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger chrysaeus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence**: Evergreen biotope. Himalayas; NE hill states; from foothills up to *c.* 4600m. **ID**: *Male*: Crown, mantle and back olive-brown; scapulars, underparts and rump orange. Wings olive-brown; tail orange, central rectrices and terminal band black. *Female*: Olive above with diagnostic yellowish-olive supercilium and ochre-yellow underparts.

16. (1660) **RUFIOUS-BREASTED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger hyperythrus* (R?) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence**: Open forest near streams. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally from foothills up to *c.* 3800m. **ID**: *Male*: Somewhat like Indian Blue Robin (11) but supercilium ultramarine-blue (*vs.* white). *Female*: Like female (14) with blue rump and tail, but lacks orange on flanks.

White-bellied Blue Robin *Myiomela albiventris*

Endemic to the Palni and Ashambu hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Affects wooded sholas. Solitary and secretive. Feeds on the ground on insects and berries.





PLATE 80: REDSTARTS

1. (1669) **EVERSMANN'S REDSTART** (RUFIOUS-BACKED REDSTART) *Phoenicurus erythronotus* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Arid country. N Baluchistan; NWFP; W Himalayas, from Kashmir east to Nepal; up to 2800m. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, easily separated from other male redstarts by the rufous throat and mantle; large white wing-patch. Crown and nape grey; these and mantle concealed by pale brown feathers in winter. *Female:* Brown with two white wing-bars; rump and tail rufous with central rectrices dark brown. Tail flicked up and down (*vs.* shivered) is an easy diagnostic clue from other redstarts.
2. (1671-1672) **BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Stony, sparsely scrubbed country. *Breeding:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Sikkim; *c.* 2400-5200m. *Winter:* Subcontinent, rare in S India. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, either has head, throat, breast and mantle entirely black (2b: 1672) or the crown and mantle is grey (2a: 1671). Wings blackish-brown; no white wing-patch. *Female:* Pale brown above and pale fulvous-brown below; rump and tail rufous with central rectrices dark brown.
3. (1670) **BLUE-CAPPED REDSTART** *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Steep rocky hillsides. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; seasonally from foothills up to *c.* 3900m. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, easily separated from other redstarts by the largely pied plumage and ashy-blue crown and nape; white wing-patch. *Female:* Overall grey-brown with rufous rump. The brown tail narrowly edged with ferruginous and double wing-bars are good diagnostic clues from other female redstarts.
4. (1673) **COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Gardens, well-wooded areas. Baluchistan and Chitral; vagrant Kashmir. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, has forehead, face and throat black. Forecrown and supercilium white, otherwise grey from hindcrown to mantle. Wings brown, with or without a small white wing-patch; whitish belly. Rump and tail rufous, central rectrices dark brown. *Female:* Like female Black Redstart (2), but paler and with a whitish belly - see tail differences also.
5. (1674) **HODGSON'S REDSTART** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dry or partly dry river-beds in forest, cultivation, scrub or grassland. Lower Himalayas: Nainital (Uttarakhand), W Nepal east to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; plains to 2500m. **ID:** *Male:* Separated from the similar-looking western race of Black Redstart (2a) by the paler mantle and the (large) white wing-patch. *Female* has a grey-brown breast contrasting with whitish belly.
6. (1675) **BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART** *Phoenicurus frontalis* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** In the alpine zone. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas. *Winter:* Foothill; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); seasonally *c.* 1000 to 5300m. **ID:** *Male:* In summer has the forehead and supercilium bright blue becoming darker blue on crown, mantle, throat and breast. *Female:* Olive-brown and darker than most female redstarts. The blackish inverted 'T' on the rufous tail separates both sexes (including its spotted-plumaged young) from all other redstarts.
7. (1676) **WHITE-THROATED REDSTART** *Phoenicurus schisticeps* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open, park-like forest, scrub in semi-dry areas. E Himalayas,

from W Nepal to Bhutan; 2700-4500m in summer to 1400-4000m in winter. **ID:** The white throat-patch, long white wing-patch, and clear white belly diagnostic for both sexes. In winter, the slaty-blue crown and mantle of *male* are fringed with rusty-brown.

8. (1677) **DAURIAN REDSTART** *Phoenicurus aureoreus* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest, valleys, cultivation and trees around upland villages. *Summer:* Reported from N Arunachal; 2800-3700m. *Winter:* NE hill states; N W Bengal; Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, like Common (4) and Hodgson's (5) redstarts, but has blackish mantle and wings. Large white wing-patch. The olive-brown *female* also has the white wing-patch.

9. (1678) **GULDENSTADT'S REDSTART** (WHITE-WINGED REDSTART) *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus* (R) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Boulder-strewn meadows and slopes in dry, barren alpine country. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Nepal; 1500-5200m. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, easily separated from other redstarts, besides by the large size, by the white on crown and nape, and large wing-patch; but also see (11). Crown and the black breast and mantle fringed ashy in winter. *Female:* Larger and longer billed than its congeners and with more brownish tail.

10. (1679) **PLUMBEOUS WATER-REDSTART** (PLUMBEOUS REDSTART) *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Torrents and streams. Entire Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh; foothills to c. 4400m. **ID:** Small dumpy redstart, the *male* entirely bluish-slaty with rufous-chestnut rump and tail. *Female:* Dark grey-brown above; two rows of white spots on wings; mottled slate and white below. Expanded white tail shows a brown triangle at its end; rump white.

11. (1716) **WHITE-CAPPED RIVER-CHAT** (WHITE-CAPPED WATER-REDSTART) *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky, swift-flowing mountain streams. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong). *Winter:* NE Bangladesh, Baluchistan; foothills to c. 5100m. **ID:** Like *male* Guldenstadt's Redstart (9), but lacks the white wing-patch and has a black terminal band on the chestnut tail. Sexes alike.

12. (1680) **HODGSON'S BLUE ROBIN** (WHITE-BELLIED REDSTART) *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Bush jungle, undergrowth and forest edges. *Summer:* Himalayas. *Winter:* Assam and Manipur; foothills to c. 4400m. **ID:** *Male:* Slaty-blue above; small white spots on wing-coverts. Long rufous and blue tail. White belly. *Female:* Brown above, with rufous patch at base of tail as in male.

13. (1681) **WHITE-TAILED BLUE ROBIN** (WHITE-TAILED ROBIN) *Myiomela leucura* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth, usually near streams. *Summer:* E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; to c. 2700m. *Winter:* Foothills to c. 1500m. **ID:** *Male:* Indigo-blue with face black. Forehead, short supercilium and shoulders blue; white spot near shoulder. Tail blackish with two large white panels. *Female:* Rufous olive-brown above. Ferruginous eye-ring; tail pattern as in male.

14. (1682) **BLUE-FRONTED BLUE ROBIN** (BLUE-FRONTED ROBIN) *Cinclidium frontale* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy subtropical wet forest. *Summer:* E Himalayas of W Bengal to SE Arunachal; up to 3000m. *Winter:* Foothills to 700m. **ID:** *Male:* Lores and face black. Forehead, short supercilium and shoulders cobalt-blue. Rest, deep slaty-blue except for greyish belly, vent and undertail-coverts. *Female:* Rufous-brown; pale eye-ring, whitish on throat and centre of belly; vent white-tipped.

Guldenstadt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*

A high altitude species of the Himalayas going up to 5,500 m in Tibet. A very shy and hardy species. Lives on insects and in winter almost exclusively on berries.





PLATE 81: BUSHCHATS, STONECHATS AND WHEATEARS

1. (1693) **STOLICZKA'S BUSHCHAT** (WHITE-BROWED BUSHCHAT) *Saxicola macrorhynchus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Desert with scattered shrubs. E Rajasthan and Gujarat, formerly reported from NC Pakistan, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. **ID:** *Male:* Sooty-brown above and sandy-buff below; broad white supercilium. Wing-patch, rump and outertail rectrices white. *Non-breeding Male:* Drab brown above with pale buff supercilium; darker and with darker ear-coverts than *female*.
2. (1695-1698) **COMMON STONECHAT** (COLLARED BUSHCHAT) *Saxicola torquatus* (RM) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dry, scrub-covered hillsides and wasteland. *Breeding:* W and N Pakistan, and entire Himalayas. *Winter:* Subcontinent except extreme south; Andamans. **ID:** *Male:* In summer, blackish above except for white on sides of neck, white wing-patch and rump. Throat black, breast rufous. In winter, feathers edged with rufous-brown. Race *przewalskii* (2b) of Himalayas is darker rufous below and extending to belly, also in female. *Female:* Rufous-brown, streaked dark brown above. Tail blackish-brown; rump rufous. Throat whitish, pale fulvous and rufous below.
3. (1694) **HODGSON'S BUSHCHAT** (WHITE-THROATED BUSHCHAT) *Saxicola insignis* (M) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Grasslands of the Gangetic plains of Haryana to Assam and W Bengal; also Nepal and Sikkim. **ID:** *Male:* In winter, like smaller male Common Stonechat (2), but throat white, larger (white) wing-patch and broader collar; bill also larger. *Female:* Brown above; two broad fulvous wing-bars. Pale rusty and fulvous below; rump rufous.
4. (1700-1703) **PIED BUSHCHAT** *Saxicola caprata* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivated fields, sparsely scrubbed hillsides. Most of Subcontinent south of the Himalayas; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Pied, black feathers fringed with brown in winter. *Female:* Brown above, fulvous below; vent, rump, upper- and undertail-coverts buff.
5. (1704) **JERDON'S BUSHCHAT** *Saxicola jerdoni* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Expanses of elephant grass. Sub-Himalayan plains from E Bihar to W Bengal; NE India along Brahmaputra; Bangladesh; reported from Nepal and NW Orissa; foothills to c. 700m. **ID:** *Male:* Entirely glossy black above and white below. Tail longer than in other bushchats. *Female:* Brown above, tinged rufous; rump russet. Throat white, otherwise fulvous below.
6. (1699) **WHITE-TAILED STONECHAT** *Saxicola leucurus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** High grass, reeds and tamarisks, especially near large rivers. Sub-Himalayan terai and flood plains of the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems. **ID:** *Male:* Like (2), except that the tail shows white when cocked, rufous of breast not extending to belly. *Female:* Paler than female (2) with pale brown and grey (*vs.* blackish-brown) tail.
7. (1705) **GREY BUSHCHAT** (DARK-GREY BUSHCHAT) *Saxicola ferreus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub-covered hillsides, forest edges, grasslands and cultivated country. *Breeding:* Himalayas, from NWFP to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1500-3300m. *Winter:* Foothills, Gangetic Plains, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Appears pied; long and broad white supercilium. Concealed, white shoulder-patch seen in flight. In winter, feathers tipped rufous-brown. *Female:* Rufous-brown with chin and throat white; supercilium buff. Fulvous below; vent and tail edges rufous.
8. (1708) **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (M/V?) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Stony country and cultivation. On autumn passage through Pakistan and Kashmir; Madhya Pradesh (once), Maldives. **ID:** *Male:* In winter, bluish-grey above; black mask; white supercilium. Rump and wings black. Breast pale orange. *Female:* Olive-brown; white supercilium, broader before eye. Inverted black 'T' on white tail end in both sexes.

9. (1706) **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe isabellina* (RM) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy semi-desert. *Breeding:* N Baluchistan and NWFP. *Winter:* Pakistan and NW India (Rajasthan and Kachchh). Sporadically elsewhere: Nepal, Mumbai, Maldives, Bhutan, Arunachal, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Sexes alike. Like female Northern Wheatear (8), but sandy-brown; pale supercilium and eye-ring. Wings dark brown with buff edges. **(484).**
10. (1707) **RUFIOUS-TAILED WHEATEAR (RED-TAILED WHEATEAR)** *Oenanthe chrysopygia* (R) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Flat, stony and sandy semi-desert. *Breeding:* N Baluchistan. *Winter:* Pakistan and NW India (Rajasthan and Gujarat). **ID:** Sexes alike. Like female Hooded Wheatear (14), which has a buff tail, but tail is rufous and has a different pattern.
11. (1709-1710) **DESERT WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe deserti* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Arid, semi-desert broken tracts. *Breeding:* N Baluchistan, Himalayas of Kashmir, east to NW Nepal. *Winter:* Largely Pakistan and NW India; reports also from as far as Arunachal and Bangladesh in the east and Sri Lanka in the south. **ID: Male:** Sandy-buff above in summer. Tail appears all black in the field unlike other wheatears. Throat and face black, rest of underparts buffish-white. In winter, black on feathers fringed with white. *Female:* Separated from other female/female-like wheatears by the dark tail. **(483).**
12. (1715) **PIED WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe pleschanka* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Stony wasteland. *Summer:* NWFP, Gilgit, Ladakh to Lahul. *Passage:* Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives (vagrant). **ID: Male:** In summer, crown and nape white, sullied brown. Throat, mantle and wings black. Back, rump, tail base and underparts from breast down white. Central rectrices blackish, outer white with blackish terminal band. *Female:* Brown above with a buff supercilium. Rump white; tail as in male. Below, brown and buff.
13. (1711) **FINSCH'S WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe finschii* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dry stony foothills, and arid semi-desert plains. Baluchistan. **ID: Male:** Like male Pied Wheatear (12), but in addition to crown and nape, has the mantle till rump whitish. *Male* ochraceous in summer, becoming whiter as summer progresses. *Female:* Sandy-brown; rump and uppertail-coverts white; tail as in male.
14. (1713) **HOODED WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe monacha* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Desolate ravines, barren stony slopes bordering streams. S Baluchistan, SW Pakistan (west of the Indus); a recent record from Bhuj (Kachchh). **ID: Male:** Like Pied Wheatear (12) and also *capistrata* morph of Variable Wheatear (16b), but is longer billed and has only the crown (not nape) whitish. Tail pattern also different with edges white except for the corners. *Female:* Sandy-brown above, dingy-buff below. Rump and uppertail-coverts creamy-fawn. Tail as in male, but white replaced with buff. Also see (10).
15. (1714) **HUME'S WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe albonigra* (R) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Steep-sided boulder-strewn watercourses. Baluchistan, Sind, Himalayas (Gilgit) and also Ladakh. **ID:** A large pied wheatear with sexes alike. Mid-back to base of tail white. Outer rectrices white, broad black terminal band. Head, throat, mantle and till mid-back black. Underparts below throat white. Can be mistaken for male *picata* morph of Variable Wheatear (16a), but is larger, longer, thicker billed, and the white of rump extends into mid-back.
16. (1712) **VARIABLE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe picata* (R) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Boulder-strewn barren country, sparsely scrubbed sand-dunes, ravines, cultivation, outskirts of desert and villages. *Breeding:* From Baluchistan to N Pakistan and Kashmir. *Winter:* Pakistan; NW India; straggler to C India, Nepal and Maharashtra. **ID:** A black and white polymorphic wheatear as illustrated. *Male* of *picata* (16a) is similar to Hume's Wheatear (see 15 for differences) and *capistrata* (16b) is similar to Hooded Wheatear (see 14 for differences).

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucurus*

A fairly common resident of the Indus river system, the Gangetic and Brahmaputra plains.
Prefers high grass, seeds and tamarisk on wet ground.





PLATE 82: ROBINS, SHAMAS, CHATS AND FORKTAILS

- (1661-1664) **ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** *Copsychus saularis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous forest, secondary jungle and near human habitations. Subcontinent south of the Himalayas and east of Indus Valley and Kachchh; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** Upperparts, head and breast black; large white wing-patch. White below from breast. *Female:* Like male, but black areas replaced by slaty. (475).
- (1665-1668) **WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA** *Copsychus malabaricus* (R) Bulbul±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous secondary forest, hilly bamboo jungle. Himalayan foothills, from Uttarakhand east; Assam; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; Peninsula (mainly Bastar and E and W Ghats); Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Head, throat, breast and above glossy black; rump white. Tail black with outer rectrices largely white, conspicuous especially in flight; undertail white and tipped black. Belly till undertail-coverts rufous. *Female:* Black areas of male replaced by grey; underparts paler; tail shorter. **Note:** Race *albiventris* (1668: 2b) of the Andamans, which has the lower breast and centre of belly white, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **ANDAMAN SHAMA** *Copsychus albiventris*.
- (1717-1721) **INDIAN BLACK ROBIN** (INDIAN ROBIN) *Saxicoloides fulicatus* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Arid and stony country, semi-desert with scattered bushes, cultivation and around habitations. Endemic. Subcontinent, from Indus valley east to W Bengal and Bangladesh, and south to Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Glistening black with white wing-patch. Belly, vent and undertail-coverts chestnut, seen especially when the tail is cocked. *Female:* Brown above; ear-coverts tinged rufous; lacks white wing-patch. Grey-brown below with chestnut vent and undertail-coverts. Race *cambaiensis* (1717: 3b) distributed in the Himalayan foothills and plains of Subcontinent south to Tapti river and east to W Bengal, has dark brown upperparts. (485).
- (1692) **BROWN ROCK-CHAT** (INDIAN CHAT) *Cercomela fusca* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hills, quarries, ruins, bungalows within town limits and suburbs; locally up to c. 1300m. Endemic. NW, N and C India; reported south till N Maharashtra. **ID:** Sexes alike. Plain brown above, rufous-brown below with darker wings and blackish tail. Can be confused with female Indian Robin, but is larger and lacks the chestnut vent. (478).
- (1641) **RUFIOUS-TAILED SCRUB-ROBIN** *Cercotrichas galactotes* (RM) Bulbul:18cm. **Occurrence:** Dry scrub jungle. *Breeding:* Baluchistan, NW Pakistan. *Winter/Passage:* Pakistan and NW India; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Sandy-brown above. Prominent pale supercilium, dark eye- and moustachial-stripe. Tail rufous with a dark brown terminal band and broad white tips. The somewhat similar Common Nightingale (Plate 79: 6) lacks the white tail tip, dark eye- and moustachial-stripe, and does not cock its tail.
- (1684) **LITTLE FORKTAIL** *Enicurus scouleri* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky streams and waterfalls. Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); c. 300-3700m. **ID:** A small black and white forktail, easily separated from the other forktails by its small size, short tail and different tail pattern.
- (1686) **SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL** *Enicurus schistaceus* (R) Bulbul±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hill torrents and forest streams. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (winter); base of hills to c. 1600m. **ID:** Separated from the other forktails by the slaty (vs. black or barred) mantle.
- (1685) **BLACK-BACKED FORKTAIL** *Enicurus immaculatus* (R) Bulbul±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky mountain streams and banks of fast-flowing rivulets in dense forest.

Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; E Bangladesh; base of hills to *c.* 1450m. **ID:** Like larger Leschenault's Forktail (10), which also has the mantle black, but (10) has a larger bill, larger white patch on forehead, and has the breast black (*vs.* white).

9. (1688-1689) **SPOTTED FORKTAIL** *Enicurus maculatus* (R) Bulbul±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Boulder-strewn shady watercourses and streams in forest, and narrow gorges. Entire Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); *c.* 460-3600m. **ID:** Separated from the other forktails by the white spotted mantle.

10. (1687) **LESCHENAUŁ'S FORKTAIL** (WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL) *Enicurus leschenaulti* (R) Myna±:28cm. **Occurrence:** Cascading torrents and rocky rivulets in dense evergreen forest. E Himalayas of N W Bengal, Sikkim to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); base of hills to *c.* 600m. **ID:** See Black-backed Forktail (8).

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculates*

A common resident of the Himalayas in winter down to 600 m. Affects boulder strewn shady nullahs. Separated from the other forktails by the white-spotted mantle.





PLATE 83: LIOCICHLAS AND LAUGHINGTHRUSHES

- (1331-1332) **RED-FACED LIOCICHLA** *Liocichla phoenicea* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in evergreen or shady deciduous forest and dense secondary growth along streams. E Himalayas, from Sikkim and NW Bengal to Arunachal; Nepal(?); NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); c. 900-2400m. **ID:** Olive-brown with bright crimson cheeks, wings and undertail-coverts; black supercilium. Tail black, edged reddish. **Note:** A recently described liocichla from Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh is the **BUGUN LIOCICHLA** *Liocichla bugunorum* (22cm) - see title page for illustration. The species is overall olive with an erectile black crest. Lores and post-ocular spot yellow. Wings golden, crimson and black, edged narrowly with white. Tail is blackish above, orange-red below in male and blackish in female. Underparts olive, duller on the belly.
- (1307-1309) **BLACK-CHINNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (NILGIRI LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Trochalopteron cachinnans* (R) Myna:20cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in sholas and hill station gardens. Endemic. W Ghats from Coorg (S Karnataka) till Palghat Gap (Kerala); above c. 1200m. **ID:** Olive-brown above with slaty-brown crown and slaty nape. White supercilium, black lores and eye-stripe. Chin black. Tawny-olive/ochraceous cheeks and ochraceous/rufous-grey breast as per the race; belly ochraceous. **Note:** Race *jerdoni* (1309) has been included as a race of this species instead of Kerala Laughingthrush (3) following *The Ripley Guide*. (427).
- (1310-1311) **KERALA LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (GREY-BREASTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Trochalopteron fairbanki* (R) Myna:20cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Thickets, scrub, secondary jungle, edges of sholas and hill station gardens. Endemic. W Ghats south of Palghat Gap; above c. 1200m. **ID:** Identification pointers include the white supercilium, black eye-stripe, grey streaked throat and breast, and rufous flanks and belly. Race *jerdoni* of Black-chinned Laughingthrush - earlier clubbed with this species - is very similar with grey throat and breast, but chin is black and supercilium more prominent. (428).
- (1291) **ASHY LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (MOUSTACHED LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Ianthocincla cineracea* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Wet evergreen scrub and secondary growth in forest. Assam, Nagaland and Manipur; up to c. 2400m. **ID:** The white crescents on the black wing-tips, black 'moustache', broad buff supercilium, black crown, and the white-tipped, black band at end of brown tail are identification pointers.
- (1286) **YELLOW-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes galbanus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Wet evergreen biotope: Open jungle and tall grass with trees and shrubs. NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); c. 800-1800m. **ID:** The black mask, grey crown and nape, brown wings, yellow underparts, grey tail with a white-tipped, broad blackish terminal band are identification pointers. See also (7).
- (1287) **WYNAAD LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes delesserti* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen undergrowth. Endemic. W Ghats from Goa south; up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Chestnut-brown above; crown and nape dark grey; blackish mask. White throat, ashy breast and rufous below. Bill largely yellow; legs dusky-yellow. (426).
- (1288) **RUFIOUS-VENTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes gularis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Foothills of E Bhutan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Like Wynaad Laughingthrush (6), but white of throat and upper breast replaced by yellow, and bill is black (*vs.* yellow). Differs from Yellow-throated Laughingthrush (5) by the rufous (*vs.* yellow) belly and rufous-brown (*vs.* grey, black-tipped) tail.

8. (1306) **WHITE-BROWED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes sannio* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, scrub pastures, bamboo or secondary growth; also open hillsides under bracken and scrub. Assam, Nagaland and Manipur; c. 1000-1800m. **ID:** A plain laughingthrush with buffy-white supercilium, lores and cheeks. Plumage generally olive-brown, darker on the head, throat and tail. Centre of belly buff, undertail-coverts ferruginous.
9. (1303) **RUFIOUS-NECKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes ruficollis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and grass, bamboo jungle and secondary growth. Foothills and adjacent plains of E Himalayas, Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Face, throat and upper breast black; crown and nape slaty. Large rufous patch on sides of neck; vent and undertail-coverts rufous. Tail black.
10. (1285) **CHESTNUT-BACKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes nuchalis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense wet evergreen scrub jungle on broken ground. Mishmi Hills (Arunachal); NE hill states; up to c. 900m. **ID:** The large white cheeks in combination with the black forehead and throat, grey crown and rufous nape are identification pointers.
11. (1321) **BROWN-CHEEKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (PRINCE HENRI'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Trochalopteron henrici* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub in the dry and wet zones. One report from Arunachal; occurs in adjacent areas of SE Tibet. **ID:** Mouse-grey above; lores and ear-coverts dark chestnut-brown. A fine white supercilium and a white crescentic patch below the ear-covert. White tips to tail. [**Hy-PCR**].
12. (1322-1323) **BLACK-FACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron affine* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron bushes, scrub oak and bamboo in mixed oak and conifer forest. E Himalayas, Nepal to Arunachal; seasonally c. 1500-4500m. **ID:** Mostly blackish on head and face with a broad white 'moustache', and a crescentic white patch behind the ear-coverts. Dorsally and ventrally brown, finely scalloped.
13. (1289-1290) **VARIEGATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron variegatum* (R) Myna±:24cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest of fir and birch with rhododendron and bamboo growth and miscellaneous dense jungle. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Nepal; seasonally c. 1200-4100m. **ID:** The silvery-grey wings (conspicuous in flight), white spot behind the eye, black band down centre of throat, and the blackish tail with a white-tipped broad grey subterminal band are identification pointers. Birds of the eastern region have the grey areas of wings and tail replaced by yellow.
14. (1300-1302) **GREY-SIDED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Dryonastes caerulatus* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in forest, bamboo and scrub-covered hillsides. E Himalayas of Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 600-2700m. **ID:** The only laughing thrush in its range with white underparts and grey flanks. Rufous-brown crown scalloped with black. Forehead, lores and margins of eyes blackish. Ear-coverts white and edged with black. Birds of Meghalaya have the whole cheek white, and have broad white tips to the tail.
15. (1273-1274) **WHITE-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax albogularis* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, light jungle and open scrubby hillsides. Formerly entire Himalayas, but now absent in Pakistan; also Assam; seasonally c. 450-3400m. **ID:** Olive-brown above with tawny forehead. Black lores and eye-rim. Throat white bordered on breast by an olive band; rest of underparts buffy. Tail feathers broadly tipped white.

16. (1283-1284) **WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax leucolophus* (R)
Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Wet evergreen forest with dense secondary scrub and bamboo jungle. Himalayan foothills from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); up to *c.* 2100m. **ID:** An unmistakable, large olive-brown laughing thrush with a white crested head, throat and breast and black mask. **(425).**

17. (1272) **ASHY-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax cinereifrons*. Discussed under Plate 87 (No.14) since it resembles more the *Turdoides* babblers, and especially the Indian Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus*.



PLATE 84: LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND BABAXES

1. (1320) **SCALY LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron subunicolor* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence:** Thickets of *Rubus*, dwarf rhododendron, bamboo and undergrowth in mixed deciduous forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; seasonally c. 800-3900m. **ID:** Olive-brown with dark scaly markings over the whole body. Crown, nape and ear-coverts washed with grey; large green-gold panel on wing. Tail olive-brown and black, tipped white.
2. (1312-1316) **STREAKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron lineatum* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Juniper scrub, bushes in open conifer forest and bush-covered slopes. N Baluchistan and entire Himalayas; up to c. 3900m. **ID:** Overall grey, streaked with dark brown and white. Ear-coverts and wings rufous. Rump olive-brown. Tail with black subterminal spots on outer rectrices and tipped pale grey. **Note:** Race (1316), distributed in Bhutan and W Arunachal, is more brown with greyish ear-coverts and is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **BHUTAN LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron imbricatum*.
3. (1324-1330) **RED-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (CHESTNUT-CROWNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Damp forest with dense undergrowth along watercourses. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states (but see note); formerly also N Pakistan; seasonally c. 600-3300m. **ID:** A variable, olive-brown or olive-grey laughing thrush. Crown rufous-chestnut (3a) or black-streaked grey (3b). Ear-coverts brown with white edges (3a) or black with white edges (3b). Nape chestnut; chin black. Scale-like black markings on breast, neck and mantle. Olive-yellow on wings and at sides of tail. **Note:** Races (1328-1330) of the NE hill states are treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **ASSAM LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron chrysopteron*. It is rather plain with grey forehead, plain ear-coverts and chestnut throat.
4. (1319) **BLUE-WINGED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Trochalopteron squamatum* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Humid dense hill bamboo thickets and rhododendron bushes along streams. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 900-3400m. **ID:** Like Scaly Laughingthrush (1), but brown and darker with a black supercilium, pale blue (vs. green-gold) outer edges to wings, and rufous-tipped (vs. white-tipped) tail.
5. (1318) **BROWN-CAPPED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Ianthocincla austeni* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Oak and rhododendron forest, bushes in ravines and clearings, and bamboo thickets. NE hill states; c. 1200-2700m. **ID:** Rufous-brown with underparts mottled and barred with whitish and brown. A pale wing-bar; pale grey outer edges to wing. Sides of neck finely streaked with white. Tail rufous-brown above, blackish below with white tips.
6. (1317) **STRIPED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (MANIPUR STREAKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH) *Trochalopteron virgatum* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Damp evergreen forest with heavy undergrowth. NE hill states; c. 900-2400m. **ID:** Rufous-brown, finely streaked with white. Long white supercilium and cheek-patch; rufous-chestnut eye-stripe. Rufous-chestnut on wings. Chin and throat chestnut, shading to ochraceous-buff on rest of underparts.
7. (1304-1305) **SPOT-BREASTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Stactocichla merulina* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Deep damp forest with heavy undergrowth. NE hill states; c. 900-2400m. **ID:** Overall brownish. Throat and breast buff, spotted and streaked with dark brown. Whitish supercilium behind the eye. Vent and undertail-coverts rufous.

8. (1292-1296) **RUFIOUS-CHINNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Ianthocincla rufogularis* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Oak and rhododendron forest, scrub jungle and secondary growth in subtropical and wet-temperate biotope. Himalayan foothills from Murree (NE Pakistan) east to E Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); c. 600-1900m. **ID:** A black-spotted laughingthrush with region-wise variations in plumage. Forehead, centre of crown to nape, and 'moustache' black; lores buff. Scaly, upperparts. Rufous chin and throat, black spots on greyish underparts. Tail chestnut with a black subterminal band and tipped rufous.
9. (1279-1282) **STRIATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Grammatoptila striata* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest with heavy undergrowth, also secondary and scrub jungle. Himalayas, from Himachal east to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 750-2850m. **ID:** A large, white-striated, umber-brown laughingthrush with a loose mop-like crest. Bill short and thick. Tail chestnut-brown.
10. (1275-1276) **LESSER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax monileger* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen and moist-deciduous forest and secondary jungle. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong); up to c. 1000m. **ID:** Like larger Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (11), but 'necklace' thinner and bordered by rufous, eyes are pale (*vs.* dark), has a smaller and less streaked cheek-patch, and lacks a complete moustachial-stripe. **(423).**
11. (1277-1278) **GREATER NECKLACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax pectoralis* (R) Myna+:29cm. **Occurrence:** Sal and pine forest, secondary growth and bamboo jungle. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); up to c. 1700m. **ID:** See Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (10). **(424).**
12. (1297) **GIANT LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Ianthocincla maxima* (EL/R?) Pigeon+:35cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine forest. SE Tibet between 2200-2900m; could occur in Arunachal. **ID:** A large and very long tailed laughingthrush conspicuously spotted with white on upperparts. Separated from the smaller Spotted Laughingthrush by the rufous (*vs.* blackish) throat; rusty (*vs.* blackish) ear-coverts, and less mottling on breast and flanks.
13. (1298-1299) **SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Ianthocincla ocellata* (R) Pigeon±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest with undergrowth, thick rhododendron scrub. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; c. 2100-4530m. **ID:** See Giant Laughingthrush (12).
14. (1270) **CHINESE BABAX** *Babax lanceolatus* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Thin scattered forest and open bracken-covered hillsides. Mizoram above c. 1500m. **ID:** Upperparts boldly striped chestnut-brown and grey; black moustachial stripe. Rump and tail dark brown. Cream below, streaked with chestnut-brown, and more heavily on belly and flanks. *Note:* Treated tentatively as a separate species, **Mount Victoria Babax** *Babax woodi* in *The Ripley Guide*.
15. (1271) **GIANT BABAX** *Babax waddelli* (EL/R?) Pigeon±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Arid scrub. Occurs in Tibetan facies bordering NE Sikkim, where also listed as occurring, but no definite records, Bhutan(?) and Arunachal(?). **ID:** Like Chinese Babax, but is larger with longer and more curved bill, more grey above, and has a blackish (*vs.* brownish) tail and less prominent moustachial-stripe. **[Hy-PCR].**

Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellata*

A fairly common high elevation species of the eastern Himalayas. Keeps in pairs or small parties. Feeds on insects, seeds and fruits.



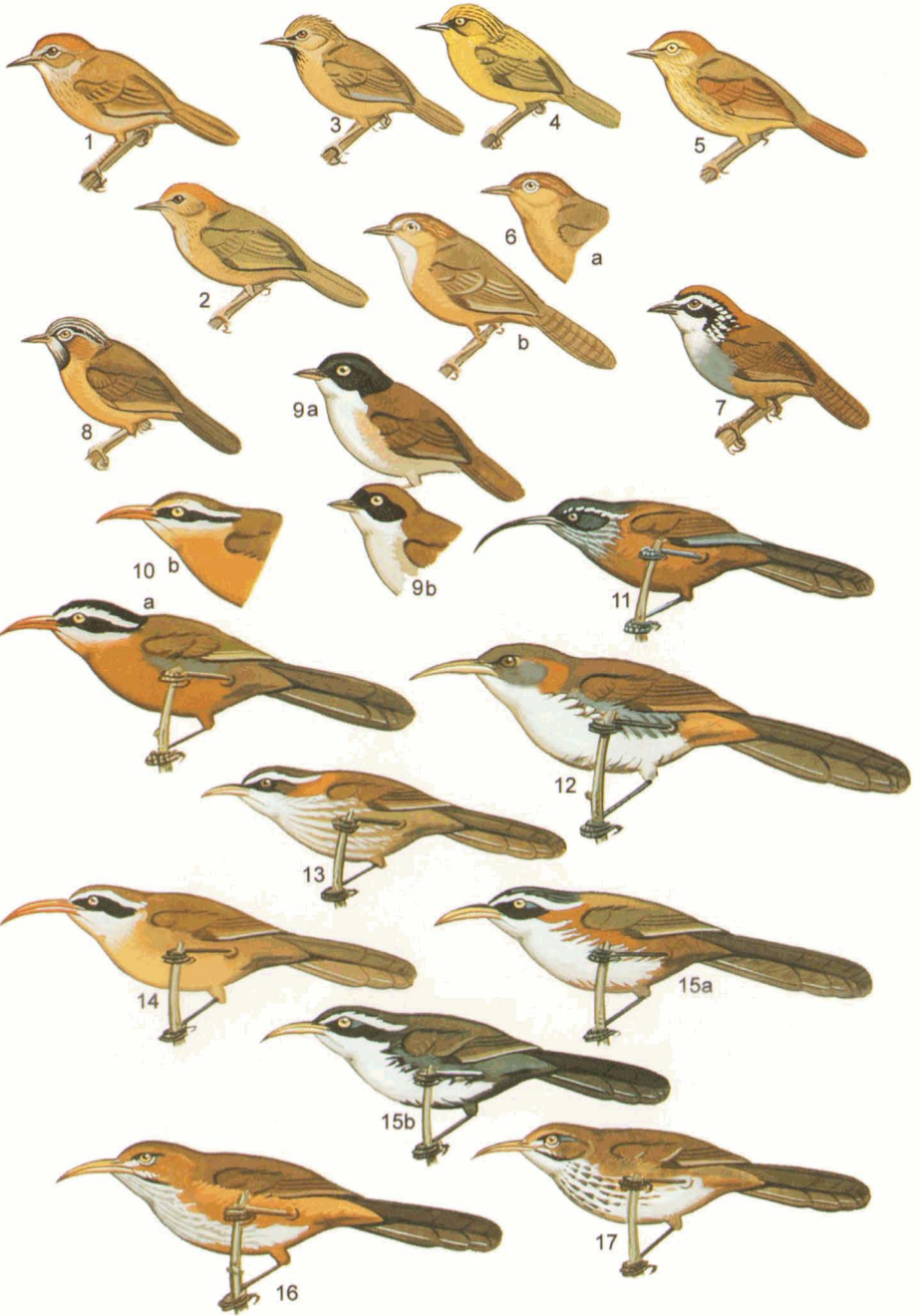


PLATE 85: BABBLERS, TIT-BABBLERS AND SCIMITAR-BABBLERS

1. (1209) **RUFIOUS-FRONTED BABBLER** *Stachyris rufifrons* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth and thickly forested ravines. E Himalayan foothills from Sikkim to Arunachal; NE hill states; E Bangladesh; E Ghats of Orissa and NE Andhra. **ID:** Very similar to Rufous-capped Babbler (2), but the rufous on crown extends to forehead and not much into nape; pale grey (vs. pale buff) supercilium and white chin.
2. (1210) **RUFIOUS-CAPPED BABBLER** *Stachyris ruficeps* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen undergrowth, bamboo and secondary jungle. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to E Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally c. 600-2700m. **ID:** Crown and nape rufous-brown, sharply defined from greyish-olive upperparts. Lores and face pale yellowish. Chin and throat pale yellow, streaked with black; rest of underparts pale yellow, tinged with olivaceous on flanks and belly. See also (1).
3. (1211) **BLACK-CHINNED BABBLER** *Stachyris pyrrhops* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest, bamboo and scrub jungle. Endemic. W Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to E Nepal; c. 750-2400m, occasionally 300m. **ID:** Olive-brown with a dull tawny head; eyes red. Lores and chin black. Face and breast ochraceous. Belly buff, flanks tinged with olivaceous.
4. (1212-1213) **GOLDEN BABBLER (GOLD-HEADED BABBLER)** *Stachyris chrysaea* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope: dense undergrowth and secondary jungle. E Himalayas, from W Nepal to E Arunachal (800-2600m); NE hill states (300-1800m); Bangladesh (above 1200m). **ID:** Crown and nape golden-yellow, streaked with black. Lores and short moustachial-stripe black. Bright yellow below.
5. (1228) **STRIPED TIT-BABBLER (YELLOW-BREASTED BABBLER)** *Macronous gularis* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope: foothill bamboo jungle, long grass and brushwood. Himalayas, E Uttarakhnad to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; NE Peninsula (Orissa, Bastar and N Andhra); also S Karnataka. **ID:** Greyish-olive with rufous crown, wings and tail. Lores and supercilium pale yellow. Throat and breast pale yellow with dark streaks. Belly pale yellow, flanks olive-buff. **(413).**
6. (1219-1223) **TAWNY-BELLIED BABBLER (RUFIOUS-BELLIED BABBLER)** *Dumetia hyperythra* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous or evergreen biotope. Grassland and scrub. Endemic. Base of Himalayas, Simla to Darjeeling duars; W Bengal and Bangladesh; southwards over most of C and S India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Olive-brown above with a reddish brown cap; tail narrowly barred. Underparts orange-buff with white throat and short supercilium (6b), or lacks white supercilium and throat is concolourous with underparts (6a).
7. (1218) **AUSTEN'S BABBLER (SNOWY-THROATED BABBLER)** *Stachyris oglei* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen scrub in hills and rocky ravines. SE Arunachal and E Assam; c. 850-1800m. **ID:** Crown and nape rich golden-brown, mantle and back duller. Wings and tail narrowly barred. White supercilium breaking into spots on sides of neck and bordered by a black band from forehead to nape; ear-coverts black. Throat white, breast slate-grey, below umber-brown.
8. (1214-1217) **GREY-THROATED BABBLER (BLACK-THROATED BABBLER)** *Stachyris nigriceps* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen secondary scrub and bamboo

jungle. E Himalayas, from W Nepal to E Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Crown black, striped with white; black supercilium till nape. Olive-brown above. Throat black and bordered by a white malar-stripe, or grey with pale streaks and with indistinct malar-stripe. Below fulvous, tinged with olivaceous on flanks and lower belly.

9. (1224-1227) **BLACK-HEADED BABBLER** (DARK-FRONTED BABBLER) *Rhopocichla atriceps* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Sholas, thickets and cane brakes in dank ravines. Endemic. W Ghats from about Goa south; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head blackish-brown; upperparts olive-brown. Eyes pale yellow. Below whitish, lower belly olive-brown. Race *siccatus* (9b) of Sri Lanka has the crown brown.

10. (1186-1188) **CORAL-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* (R) Myna-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Dense shrubbery and bamboo jungle. E Himalayas, from Sikkim to Arunachal; Assam, Meghalaya; c. 600-3800m. **ID:** Upperparts olive-brown; crown black. Underparts chestnut. Race *formosus* (10b) of NE hill states between 900-2400m, has paler underparts and brown crown. The coral-red bill separates it from all other scimitar-babblers except Long-billed Scimitar-Babbler (14), which has a more slender and curved orange bill and buffy (*vs.* chestnut) underparts.

11. (1191-1192) **SLENDER-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Xiphirhynchus supercilialis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes on steep grassy hillsides, oak and rhododendron forest and bamboo thickets. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Chittagong hills (Bangladesh); seasonally foothills to c. 3400m. **ID:** The long, slender, curved black bill makes the species unmistakable. Overall dark rufous-brown. Head slaty; long whitish supercilium; throat whitish and profusely streaked.

12. (1185) **LARGE SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* (R) Myna±:28cm. **Occurrence:** Dense bamboo, cane and elephant grass jungle. E Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; up to c. 1200m. **ID:** Large with a long, pale bill. Olive-brown above, a rusty line from eye to nape and curving downwards. Throat, breast and belly white. Flanks slaty, streaked with white on sides of breast.

13. (1178-1180) **STREAK-BREASTED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (RUFIOUS-NECKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER) *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous forest and scrub jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; Assam, Meghalaya and Bangladesh; seasonally c. 800-3300m. **ID:** Its small size, the rufous-chestnut patch on sides of neck, streaks on white breast and the short yellowish bill diagnostic.

14. (1189-1190) **LONG-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (LLOYD'S SCIMITAR-BABBLER, RED-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER) *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen and bamboo jungle. Mishmi Hills (Arunachal), NE hill states; up to c. 2400m. **ID:** See Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler (10).

15. (1168-1177) **HODGSON'S SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (WHITE-BROWED SCIMITAR-BABBLER) *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* (R) Myna-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and deciduous forest, thorn scrub and bamboo jungle. Himalayas, from W Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Assam; Bangladesh; also Peninsular India from south Rajasthan and central Orissa southwards, and Sri Lanka (but see note). **ID:** A yellow-billed, scimitar-babbler with region-wise plumage variations. Prominent white supercilium. Throat, breast and centre of belly white. The borders of white underparts varies from grey, blackish (15b) and olive to chestnut-brown (15a). **Note:** The Peninsula (1172-75) and Sri Lankan

(1776-77) races are sometimes together treated as a separate species: **INDIAN SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*. There are also views that Sri Lankan birds may be a separate species: **SRI LANKAN SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus melanurus*.

16. (1181-1183) **RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus*(R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Scrubby forest edges, overgrown ravines, bush-clad hillsides. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Bhutan; up to c. 2700m. **ID:** Brown above with rusty face; lacks supercilium. Flanks, vent and undertail-coverts rusty; rest of underparts white, streaked brown.

17. (1184) **SPOT-BREASTED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*(R) Myna-:22cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, scrub jungle and secondary growth. Hills of NE states and Bangladesh. **ID:** Readily separated from other scimitar-babblers and the similar Rusty-cheeked(16) by the distinct brown spotting on white breast. Flanks olive-brown (vs. rufous in Rusty-cheeked).



PLATE 86: WREN, WREN-BABLERS AND BABBLERS

1. (1769-1771) **WINTER WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Juniper scrub, rocks and boulders in birch, oak or rhododendron forest. N Baluchistan; Himalayas from Gilgit east to Arunachal. **ID:** The overall barred (vs. spotted, speckled, streaked or mottled) plumage easily separates this wren from similar-looking wren-babblers. Tail short, erect. Race *nipalensis* (1771: 1b), distributed from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal, is darker sooty-brown.
2. (1199) **PYGMY WREN-BABBLER** (LESSER SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER) *Pnoepyga pusilla* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Wet-evergreen forest with mossy boulders. E Himalayas, from SW Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 3000m. **ID:** A miniature of (4) with the same colour dimorphism; spots on wing coverts.
3. (1200) **RUFIOUS-THROATED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis caudatus* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Damp undergrowth in thick evergreen forest. Endemic. E Himalayas from E Nepal to Arunachal. **ID:** Face grey, chin white, throat rufous and unmarked. Breast and flanks ferruginous spotted with black. Belly slaty, spotted with white. Also see Mishmi Wren-Babbler (7).
4. (1197-1198) **SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER** (GREATER SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER) *Pnoepyga albiventer* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth in wet-evergreen forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to Bhutan, and Arunachal(?); NE hill states; seasonally c. 600-3900m. **ID:** A plump, stub-tailed wren-babbler seen in two colour phases. Olive-brown above, slightly scaly. Throat nearly white, below white, each feather with a dark speckle. In fulvous phase, white replaced with fulvous. **Note:** A recently described species **NEPAL WREN-BABBLER** *Pnoepyga immaculata* (- : not illustrated), resident in Himalayas from C Himachal to E Nepal and also occurring in two phases, is similar but has a longer bill and is more narrowly speckled on throat and breast.
5. (1206) **SPOTTED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis formosus* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Dank, mossy rhododendron forest with thick fern ground cover. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally c. 1200-2300m. **ID:** Head, mantle, back and wing-coverts olive-brown, speckled with white. Rump, wings and tail chestnut-brown barred with black. Cinnamon below, densely spotted with white on throat and breast, speckled black on belly.
6. (1203-1204) **LONG-TAILED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis chocolatinus* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Deep evergreen forest with undergrowth of bracken and ferns. NE hill states; seasonally c. 1200-2400m. **ID:** A long-tailed wren-babbler, the unbarred wings and tail separate it from somewhat similar Bar-winged Wren-Babbler (9). Dark brown above. Chin white; throat and till centre of belly white, finely speckled with black. *Female* more rufescent. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **NAGA WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis chocolatinus* (1203) and **CHIN HILLS WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis oatesi* (1204), the former is more rufescent on sides of neck and flanks.
7. (1201) **MISHMI WREN-BABBLER** (RUSTY-THROATED WREN-BABBLER) *Spelaeornis badeigularis* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Subtropical wet forest. Endemic. SE Arunachal. **ID:** Like Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler (3) with grey face, but the rufous throat is streaked (vs. unstreaked) and underparts more conspicuously spotted with white.

8. (1193) **LONG-BILLED WREN-BABBLER** *Rimator malacoptilus* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Forest undergrowth and dense scrub. E Himalayas, from Sikkim to N W Bengal, Arunachal; Nepal(?); NE hill states; c. 900-2700m. **ID:** Unmistakable, dark rufescent-brown with buff shaft streaks and with a long, slightly curved bill. Short, narrow black moustachial-stripe.
9. (1205) **BAR-WINGED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeoris troglodytoides* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth and bamboo in wet temperate forest. Himalayas from W Bhutan to E Arunachal. **ID:** An umber-brown wren-babbler, spotted with black and white. The barred wings and tail, besides the long tail, diagnostic. Throat to centre of upper belly white. Sides of neck and flanks tawny, streaked white. See also (6).
10. (1195-1196) **EYEBROWED WREN-BABBLER** *Napothera epilepidota* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense dark forest. E Himalayas of Arunachal, Bhutan(?); NE hill states; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Easily separated from all other wren-babblers by the long buff supercilium; bill long. Dark brown above; wing-coverts and secondaries tipped white. Streaked on throat and upper breast, fading below. See also (11).
11. (1194) **STREAKED WREN-BABBLER** *Napothera brevicaudata* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Damp and shady hill forests. SE Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 700-2100m. **ID:** Somewhat like (10), but with a longer tail and bill, and lacking its pale brow. Identification pointers include the streaked throat, crown and mantle, greyish face, ochraceous underparts and rump, besides the relatively longer tail than its stub-tailed congeners.
12. (1202) **TAWNY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeoris longicaudatus* (R) Sparrow:-11cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in deep evergreen, mossy forest. Endemic: E Meghalaya, Assam(?), Manipur(?), Nagaland(?). **ID:** A long-tailed, wren-babbler, scaly-brown above and paler and plainer than in other wren-babblers. Ear-coverts grey-brown. Ochraceous buff below, whitish on chin and centre of belly.
13. (1207-1208) **WEDGE-BILLED WREN-BABBLER** *Sphenocichla humei* (R) Bulbul:-18cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and dense jungle with large trees and bamboo. E Himalayas, from Sikkim to NE Arunachal; NE hill states. **ID:** A large, stout wren-babbler with a pointed conical bill. Dark brown above with golden-brown and white streaks on forehead; pale supercilium behind eye. Densely streaked white and black below. **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*. **SIKKIM WEDGE-BILLED BABBLER** *Sphenocichla humei* (1207) and **CACHAR WEDGE-BILLED BABBLER** *Sphenocichla roberti* (1208), the former with blackish face and underparts.
14. (1164-1165) **SPOT-THROATED BABBLER** *Pellorneum albiventre* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen or moist-deciduous foothills scrub and bamboo jungle. E Himalayas, from Bhutan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); up to c. 1500m. **ID:** A small, brown short-tailed babbler with whitish, faintly spotted throat, whitish belly with a rusty wash on breast and flanks.
15. (1161-1163) **BROWN-CAPPED BABBLER** *Pellorneum fuscapillus* (R) Bulbul:-16cm. **Occurrence:** Dense forest, scrub and undergrowth. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Brown above with a darker brown cap. Face and underparts cinnamon. Tail brown, narrowly tipped with buff.
16. (1166) **BUFF-BREASTED BABBLER** *Pellorneum tickelli* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous or evergreen biotope. Bamboo thickets and heavy scrub.

Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to *c.* 2100m. **ID:** A small, long-legged, short-tailed, largely terrestrial babbler. Rather plain olive-brown above, buffish-white below. Larger billed than Spot-throated (14), lacks spots on throat. Pale streaks on crown diagnostic.

17. (1167) **ABBOTT'S BABBLER** *Malacocincla abbotti*(R) Bulbul-:15cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and deciduous biotope. Tangled thickets in wet, deep, foothills jungle. E Himalayas, Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; NW Bengal; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); Orissa, E Ghats in N Andhra; up to *c.* 600m. **ID:** Short-tailed terrestrial babbler with a large bill. Olive-brown above; greyish-white supercilium. Throat greyish-white, centre of belly whitish washed on sides of breast and flanks with olive. Vent and undertail-coverts rufous.

18. (1160) **MARSH BABBLER** *Pellorneum palustre*(R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Marshy tree-jungle with bushes and high grass. Endemic. Brahmaputra valley of Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** Olive-brown above with pale lores and rufescent cheeks; white eye-ring. Lacks supercilium seen in somewhat similar Puff-throated Babbler (19). Chin and throat white. Sides of neck, upper breast and flanks ochraceous. Centre of breast and belly white, streaked with brown. Undertail-coverts ochraceous.

19. (1152-1159) **PUFF-THROATED BABBLER (SPOTTED BABBLER)** *Pellorneum ruficeps*(R) Bulbul-:15cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and deciduous foothills forest, scrub and secondary growth. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal and adjoining plains; Assam, Manipur, Bangladesh; peninsular forests. **ID:** A small terrestrial babbler. Brown above with a chestnut cap. A pale supercilium extending well behind the eye. Throat white, rest of underparts buff, boldly streaked and spotted with dark brown. Legs pale fleshy. Often puffs out the throat.



PLATE 87: BABBLERS AND LAUGHINGTHRUSH

1. (1347) **INDIAN WHITE-HOODED BABBLER** *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Base of E Himalayas, from E Nepal to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 1200m. **ID:** Whole head, nape, throat, breast, shoulder and tail tip white. Olive-brown above; belly to undertail-coverts buff. *Juvenile* has rufous head, white throat and buffier underparts. **(431)**.
2. (1229) **CHESTNUT-CAPPED BABBLER (RED-CAPPED BABBLER)** *Timalia pileata* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Wet-evergreen biotope. Flood plains with tall grass, reed-beds, brushwood and scrub jungle. E Himalayan terai and duars from Uttarakhand to SE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Olive-brown above with a chestnut crown. Black, thick bill and eye-stripe. White supercilium meeting at forehead. Face, throat and upper breast white, the throat and breast finely black-streaked. Sides of neck and breast grey; rest of underparts rusty. **(414)**.
3. (1230-1232) **YELLOW-EYED BABBLER** *Chrysomma sinense* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub, thorn jungle, reed-beds and bamboo in dry-deciduous facies. Practically throughout the sub-Himalayan Subcontinent, not W Pakistan; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Rufescent-brown above with cinnamon wings; bill black. Lores and a short supercilium white. Eyes yellow with a conspicuous orange-yellow eye-ring. White below, washed with buff on lower belly. **(415)**.
4. (1233-1234) **JERDON'S BABBLER** *Chrysomma altirostre* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Reed and elephant-grass jungle along rivers. Flood plains of the Indus in Pakistan; S Nepal; W Bengal duars; plains of the Brahmaputra system in NE India and Bangladesh. **ID:** A stub-billed babbler. Olive-brown above; lores and supercilium grey. Throat and upper breast greyish, rest of underparts rufous.
5. (1253-1254) **COMMON BABBLER** *Turdoides caudata* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Thorn scrub jungle and rambling compounds in semi-desert and dry plains. Endemic. Most of the sub-Himalayan Subcontinent, not NE region. Recorded in Lakshadweep. **ID:** Drab brown above, heavily streaked with dark brown. Throat white, rest of underparts creamy or pinkish-buff lightly streaked with black on sides of breast. Legs yellow. **(416)**. **Note:** Birds from Baluchistan (1253) are treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **AFGHAN BABBLER** *Turdoides huttoni*
6. (1255-1256) **STRIATED BABBLER** *Turdoides earlei* (R) Bulbul±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Tall grass, reeds and bushes. Flood plains of the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra and other N Indian river systems. **ID:** A darker version of the Common Babbler (5). Drab brown above, streaked with dark brown. Underparts fulvous with dark shaft streaks on throat and breast. Legs greyish to olive-brown. **(417)**.
7. (1269) **SPINY BABBLER** *Turdoides nipalensis* (R) Bulbul+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Dense secondary scrub on hillsides. Endemic to Nepal; seasonally c. 900 to 2000m. **ID:** Dark olive-brown with whitish face. Eyes white. Breast creamy-buff, finely streaked with black. Throat white, or brown and streaked like breast. Belly whitish. Curved bill and legs blackish.
8. (1261-1265) **JUNGLE BABBLER** *Turdoides striata* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest, bamboo, cultivation and scrub jungle. Endemic. Subcontinent, locally rare/absent in SE India. **ID:** Earthy-brown with untidy appearance and creamy-white

eyes, yellowish bill and legs. Rump buff, tail rufous-brown. Throat grey, breast streaked with pale brown; belly creamy-buff. *Calls*: Harsh *ke-ke-ke* chatter unlike the musical notes of similar Pale-headed Babbler (10). **(421)**.

9. (1258) **LARGE GREY BABBLER** *Turdoides malcolmi* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence**: Dry, open, sparsely scrubbed country, thorn jungle, and around cultivation in such areas. Endemic. Continental and peninsular India; not NE India and Bangladesh. **ID**: Greyish-brown mottled with dark brown on mantle. Forehead with pale ashy streaks. Creamy-buff with a pinkish tinge on throat and breast. Whitish outertail feathers (spread out in flight) diagnostic, besides the jarring nasal *nach-nach-nach* call. **(419)**.

10. (1267-1268) **PALE-HEADED BABBLER** (YELLOW-BILLED BABBLER, WHITE-HEADED BABBLER) *Turdoides affinis* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence**: Secondary jungle, wooded compounds, and around cultivation and villages. Endemic. Southern peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID**: Drab brown above, fringed with grey giving a scaly appearance. Crown pale cream, however, is barely pale in extreme S Indian birds and not pale at all in Sri Lankan birds. Ear-coverts greyish-brown. Buff below, mottled on throat and breast. The musical call separates the species from the similar Jungle Babbler (8) which has harsh calls. **(422)**.

11. (1257) **SLENDER-BILLED BABBLER** *Turdoides longirostris* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence**: Long grass usually near water, locally in terai, duars and lowlands. Endemic. Nepal, NW Bihar, N W Bengal; NE India; Bangladesh. **ID**: Reddish-brown above. Bill black, slender and curved. Loes whitish; ear-coverts ferruginous. Chin and upper throat whitish, ferruginous below. **(418)**.

12. (1266) **SRI LANKAN RUFIOUS BABBLER** (ORANGE-BILLED BABBLER) *Turdoides rufescens* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence**: Deep primeval forest, thickets and bamboo scrub in well-wooded areas. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID**: Like Jungle Babbler, but entirely rufous-brown with cinnamon throat and breast, and somewhat greyer head and darker ear-coverts. Bill and legs bright orange.

13. (1259-1260) **INDIAN RUFIOUS BABBLER** (RUFIOUS BABBLER) *Turdoides subrufa* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence**: Wet-evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Dense scrub intermixed with tall grass and bamboo brakes. Endemic. W Ghats complex from Mahabaleshwar south to Kerala and the adjacent Tamil Nadu hills of Palnis and Shevaroyis. **ID**: Forecrown and ear-coverts deep grey, rest of upperparts olive-brown tinged with rufous. Ferruginous-rufous below. Bill yellow and black, legs yellow. **(420)**.

14. (1272) **ASHY-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax cinereifrons* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Dense, humid forest. Endemic to Sri Lanka and the only laughingthrush in the Island. **ID**: Like Indian Rufous Babbler (which does not occur in Sri Lanka) and separated by the more extensive grey on head (till nape), the black (vs. yellow) bill, dark grey (vs. yellow) legs, and more neat appearance.

Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea*

There are two species of liocichlas in the Indian region, the Red-faced and the recently discovered Bugun Liocichla (see cover page for illustration). The Red-faced Liocichla occurs in the eastern Himalayas, frequenting the undergrowth of forests along streams. See Plate 83 for more details.





PLATE 88: LEIOTHRIX, CUTIA, SHRIKE-BABLERS, SIBIAS

1. (1333-1334) **SILVER-EARED LEIOTHRIX** (SILVER-EARED MESIA) *Leiothrix argentauris* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 2100m. **ID:** The black crown and moustachial-stripe with silvery ear-coverts diagnostic. Upper- and undertail-coverts crimson in *male*. *Female* has ochraceous undertail-coverts and yellow uppertail-coverts. *Immature male* like female but with yellowish crown. **(429)**.
2. (1335-1337) **RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX** *Leiothrix lutea* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and secondary growth. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to SE Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 600-2700m. **ID:** Greyish-olive with bright yellow throat and breast, pale face, and scarlet bill. Wings black, edged orange, yellow and crimson. Tail forked, the outer rectrices curved. **(430)**.
3. (1339) **CUTIA** (NEPAL CUTIA) *Cutia nipalensis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy oak and mossy evergreen forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east; NE hill states; c. 900-2500m. **ID:** Dumpy shrike-like with hooked bill and black (brown in *female*) mask. Grey-blue crown. Above, rufous-brown in *male*, duller brown with black streaks in *female*. White below with bold black rib-like markings on flanks.
4. (1340) **BLACK-HEADED SHRIKE-BABBLER** (RUFIOUS-BELLIED SHRIKE-BABBLER) *Pteruthius rufiventer* (R) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1500 to 2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Head, wings and most of tail black. Mantle, back, rump and tail tip chestnut. Throat and breast ashy with a yellow wash below shoulders, rest of underparts rufous. *Female:* Face grey; hind-crown and ear-coverts black. Wings olive-green with dark spots-streaks. Underparts as in male.
5. (1341) **WHITE-BROWED SHRIKE-BABBLER** (RED-WINGED SHRIKE-BABBLER) *Pteruthius flaviscapis* (R) Myna-:16cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy forest of oak and rhododendron. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1200-2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and mask black; white post-ocular supercilium. Mantle and back ashy-grey. Wings black, tipped white with the inner secondaries chestnut. Tail short black. Pale ashy below with the lower flanks vinaceous-brown. *Female:* Head grey. Green above, edges of wings yellowish-green and tipped white; inner secondaries chestnut. Tail green, edged blackish. Underparts white as in male, but with a greenish (*vs.* vinaceous-brown) wash to belly.
6. (1342-1344) **GREEN SHRIKE-BABBLER** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, spruce, hemlock and deodar forest and undergrowth. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1200-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* Olive-green above with a greyish head. Birds of NE hill states sport a white eye-ring. Wings greenish with blackish shoulder-patch and pale wing-bar. Tail with narrow white tip. Throat and breast pale ashy, belly yellow. *Female* is duller.
7. (1346) **CHESTNUT-FRONTED SHRIKE-BABBLER** *Pteruthius aenobarbus* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Known only from the Garo Hills (Meghalaya); occurs in Myanmar. **ID:** *Male:* Olive-green above; chestnut forehead and yellow forecrown. White eye-ring surrounded by an incomplete black ring. Wings with two white wing-bars. Throat and upper breast chestnut, rest of underparts yellowish. *Female:* Overall greenish above and whitish below with two buff wing-bars; pale chestnut on forecrown and throat. Lacks black crescent on cheek seen in (8).

8. (1345) **BLACK-EARED SHRIKE-BABBLER** (CHESTNUT-THROATED SHRIKE-BABBLER) *Pteruthius melanotis* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Humid and cool deep evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to SE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hill tracts); seasonally c. 700-2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Like Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler (7), but lacks chestnut on forecrown and sports a black crescent on cheek. *Female:* Duller with two buff (vs. white) wing-bars; buffy on forehead and chin; also has crescent mark on cheek.
9. (1396-1398) **RUFIOUS SIBIA** *Heterophasia capistrata* (R) Bulbul+:21cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen or moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from NE Pakistan to Arunachal; up to c. 3500m. **ID:** An overall rufous, black-capped sibia. Wings slaty, a white patch conspicuous in flight. Long tail tipped grey and with a blackish subterminal band. **(433).**
10. (1395) **RUFIOUS-BACKED SIBIA** *Heterophasia annectans* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Dense, humid evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; up to c. 2300m. **ID:** Crown, ear-coverts and sides of neck black. Hindneck also black, streaked with white. Chestnut on mantle, back and rump. Wings black with rufous, chestnut and white bars. Tail black, the rectrices tipped white. Throat, breast and upper belly white, rufous below.
11. (1400) **BEAUTIFUL SIBIA** *Heterophasia pulchella* (R) Bulbul+:22cm. **Occurrence:** Subtropical wet forest. Arunachal and NE hill states. **ID:** Head bluish-slate; thin or broad black eye-stripe. Above slaty, the wings with pale blue, chestnut and black panels. Tail dark brown, edged black and with a slaty terminal band.
12. (1401) **LONG-TAILED SIBIA** *Heterophasia picaoides* (R) Bulbul±:30cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub with large trees or clearings in evergreen forest. E Himalayan foothills, from Sikkim to SE Arunachal; Assam(?); Nagaland(?); up to c. 900m. **ID:** The slaty-grey plumage, extremely long, graduated white-tipped tail, and white patch on blackish wing are identification pointers.
13. (1399) **GREY SIBIA** *Heterophasia gracilis* (R) Bulbul+:21cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous pine or evergreen primeval forest. Meghalaya, hills of Assam, reports also from Arunachal, Nagaland and Manipur. **ID:** Grey above with black cap. Wings black, tertiaries grey. Tail grey with broad black outer edges and a black subterminal band. Throat and centre of belly white, flanks pale ashy. Lower belly, vent and undertail-coverts buff.

Silver-eared Leiothrix *Leiothrix argenteauris*

A fairly common resident of the eastern Himalayas. Usually seen in parties in forests.
Feeds on insects and berries.



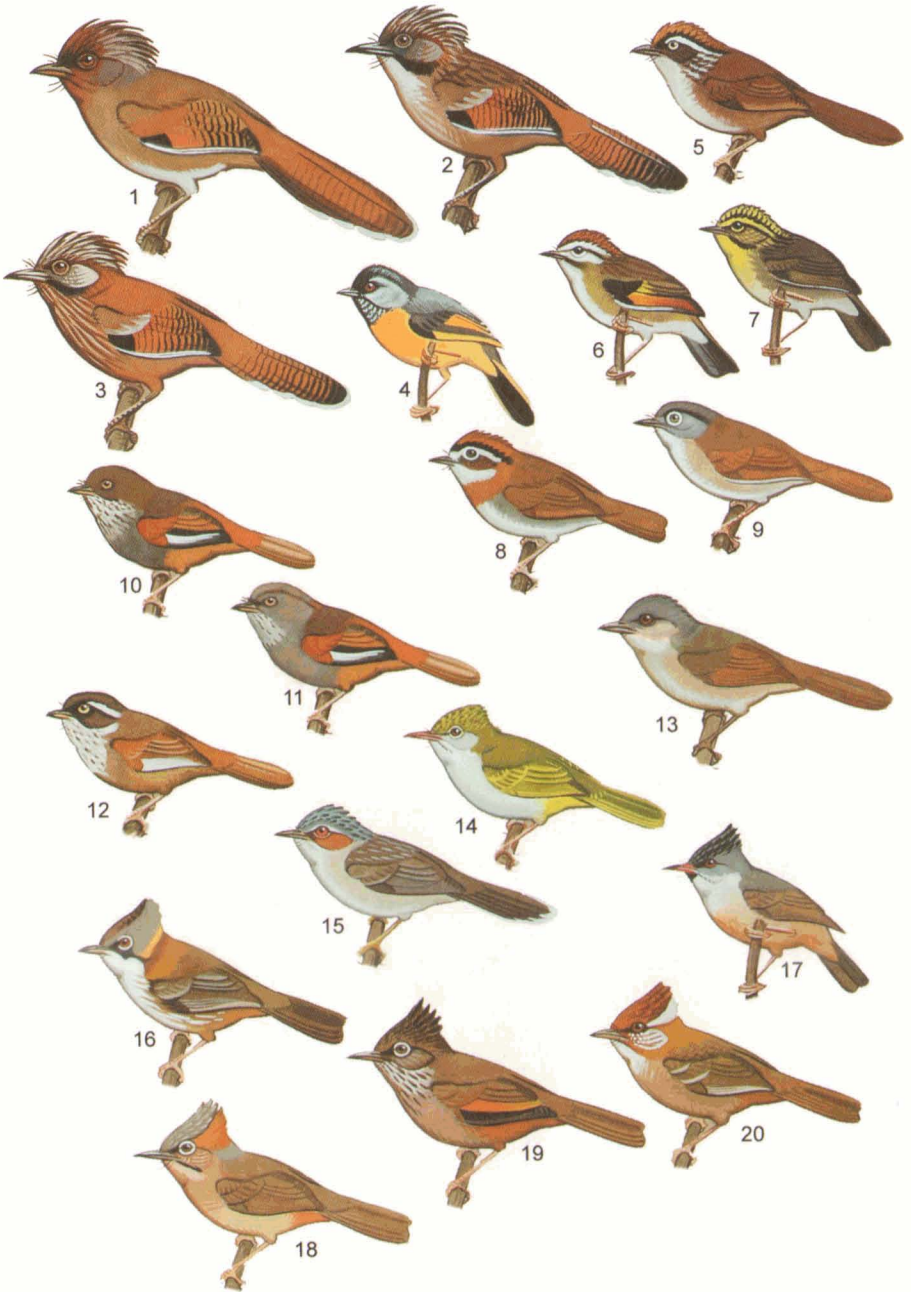


PLATE 89: BARWING, FULVETTAS, ERPORNIS AND YUHINAS

1. (1348-1351) **RUSTY-FRONTED BARWING** *Actinodura egertoni* (R) Bulbul+:23cm. **Occurrence:** Dense secondary growth and mixed trees-and-scrub in evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; up to c. 2400m. **ID:** Besides the larger size, the rusty face, absence of 'moustache'; less distinct barring on tail and absence of black band at the tail end, separate it from the other two barwings.
2. (1352-1353) **HOARY-THROATED BARWING** *Actinodura nipalensis* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed oak, conifer and rhododendron forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; c. 1800-3300m. **ID:** Separated from other barwings by the unstreaked greyish throat and breast and black 'moustache'.
3. (1354-1356) **STREAK-THROATED BARWING** (MANIPUR BARWING, AUSTEN'S BARWING) *Actinodura waldeni* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Mossy, evergreen and mixed forest. Arunachal, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland; seasonally c. 1500-3300m. **ID:** Like Hoary-throated Barwing, but crown with pale edges giving a scalloped appearance. Underparts either tawny-brown or greyish-brown with streaks on throat and breast. Thinner 'moustache' than (2).
4. (1376-1377) **GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA** *Alcippe chrysotis* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Dense bamboo jungle on steep hillsides. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1800-3000m. **ID:** Crown blackish, ear-coverts pale silvery-grey. Throat grey; yellow below. Wings blackish with orange and yellow panels. Two-thirds of tail base edged with orange-yellow.
5. (1388) **RUSTY-CAPPED FULVETTA** *Alcippe dubia* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo jungle and secondary growth. NE hill states; Arunachal(?), Bhutan(?); c. 900-2400m. **ID:** Crown rufous-brown edged with black. Long and broad, white supercilium. Upperparts olive-brown, buffish-white below.
6. (1379) **RUFIOUS-WINGED FULVETTA** *Alcippe castaneiceps* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy evergreen undergrowth at the edge of forest and in abandoned clearings. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; Assam, NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); up to c. 3000m. **ID:** Crown and nape chestnut. Face whitish; blackish eye-stripe and moustache. Olive-brown above, and along sides of throat, breast and flanks; belly whitish. Black shoulder, rufous and white panel in wing. Tail dark brown.
7. (1378) **YELLOW-THROATED FULVETTA** *Alcippe cinerea* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Glades in deep evergreen forest, also bamboo clumps and cut-over scrub. E Himalayas, from Sikkim to N W Bengal and E Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hills); c. 1000-2100m. **ID:** Greyish-olive above. Supercilium, throat, breast and centre of belly yellow. Crown and nape yellowish-green, the feathers edged with black. Black lateral crown-stripe and eye-stripe.
8. (1386-1387) **RUFIOUS-THROATED FULVETTA** *Alcippe rufogularis* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Bamboo jungle, secondary growth in forest. E Himalayan foothills and duars from W Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 900m. **ID:** Brown above; crown rufous-brown bordered by a broad, black lateral crown-stripe. Lores, supercilium, eye-ring and throat white. Diagnostic, broad chestnut half-collar. Centre of belly whitish; olive-brown flanks and fulvous undertail-coverts.

9. (1392-1394) **NEPAL FULVETTA** *Alcippe nipalensis* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical, wet evergreen biotope. Forest, cut-over scrub and bamboo clumps. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hills); up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Head grey; prominent white eye-ring. Blackish supercilium from forehead to nape. Above fulvous-brown, uniformly buff below.
10. (1384) **BROWN-THROATED FULVETTA** *Alcippe ludlowi* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo and rhododendron forest. Himalayas, from E Bhutan to SE Arunachal; seasonally c. 2200-3500m **ID:** Crown and face chocolate-brown. Mantle dark brown; back, rump, belly, vent and undertail-coverts rufous. Heavy rusty-brown streaks on whitish throat, breast grey-brown. Tertiaries golden. See also (11).
- 11 (1385) **MANIPUR FULVETTA (STREAK-THROATED FULVETTA)** *Alcippe manipurensis* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Secondary scrub jungle and dense bamboo. SE Arunachal, Nagaland and Manipur; seasonally c. 1500-2800m. **ID:** Like Brown-throated Fulvetta (10), but crown and face is pale greyish-brown; dark lateral crown-stripe. Throat pale smoke-grey with fine brown streaks.
12. (1380-1383) **WHITE-BROWED FULVETTA** *Alcippe vinipectus* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Forest edges with ample undergrowth and bamboo. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1500 to 4200m. **ID:** Crown and ear-coverts dark brown, broad white supercilium. Rump and wings rusty. Throat and breast white, rest of underparts olive-brown. Throat either streaked or unstreaked.
13. (1389-1391) **BROWN-CHEEKED FULVETTA (QUAKER FULVETTA)** *Alcippe poioicephala* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Forest, bamboo jungle, open scrub and canebrakes. Peninsular India, hills and plains; Assam; NE hill states; E Bangladesh. **ID:** A nondescript, olive-brown babbler with greyish head, browner on cheeks. Rusty brown on wings and tail; pale fulvous underparts.
14. (1375) **WHITE-BELLIED ERPORNIS (WHITE-BELLIED YUHINA)** *Erpornis zantholeuca* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen or moist-deciduous biotope. Glades or along streams. Himalayas and adjacent areas from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong hills); up to c. 2600m. **ID:** Above, almost entirely yellow-olive with greyish ear-coverts, head tufted. Greyish below, vent and undertail-coverts yellow. Bill pinkish.
15. (1363-1365) **STRIATED YUHINA** *Staphida castaniceps* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and undergrowth in evergreen or light deciduous forest. E Himalayas, from Sikkim, W Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong); up to c. 1500m. **ID:** Olive-brown above and streaked with white. Crown either greyish or rufous; ear-coverts rufous-brown; narrow white supercilium. Greyish-white below. The white-tipped tail unique among yuhinas.
16. (1367-1370) **YELLOW-NAPED YUHINA (WHISKERED YUHINA)** *Yuhina flavicollis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Oak and deciduous forest and open secondary jungle. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 3000m. **ID:** Erectile greyish-brown crest, black moustachial-stripe, rusty-yellow nape, white eye-ring, and white throat and breast with fine streaks are identification pointers.
17. (1374) **BLACK-CHINNED YUHINA** *Yuhina nigrimenta* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest and secondary jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Black erectile

crest with scale-like grey edgings. Bill red, face and nape grey; lores and chin black. Olive-brown above; throat white; rest of underparts fulvous.

18. (1373) **RUFIOUS-VENTED YUHINA** *Yuhina occipitalis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; c. 1500-3900m. **ID:** Erectile crest, grey in front, bright rufous posteriorly; nape grey. Black 'moustache'. Underparts pale rufous except for bright rufous vent and undertail-coverts.

19. (1371-1372) **STRIPE-THROATED YUHINA** *Yuhina gularis* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Forests of oak and rhododendron. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1800-3600m. **ID:** Overall olive-brown with an erectile crest; streaked throat and orange-fulvous panel on blackish wing.

20. (1366) **WHITE-NAPED YUHINA** *Yuhina bakeri* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Secondary jungle and evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to SE Arunachal; S Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); up to c. 3000m. **ID:** Brown with chestnut head and upstanding crest; white nape. White streaks on cheeks, Olive-brown. above. Throat white, rest of underparts buff with ferruginous undertail-coverts.



PLATE 90: MINLAS, MYZORNIS, REEDLING AND PARROTBILLS

1. (1357) **RED-TAILED MINLA** *Minla ignotincta* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Humid, dense deciduous or evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); up to c. 3400m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and mask black, long white supercilium. Above chocolate-brown; wings black, edged white and crimson. Tail black, edged crimson. Underparts white, washed with yellow on belly. *Female:* Like male, but greyish-brown above.
2. (1358-1361) **BAR-THROATED MINLA** (CHESTNUT-TAILED MINLA, CHESTNUT-TAILED SIVA) *Minla strigula* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open mixed forest of birch, willow, oak, rhododendron, scrub and bamboo. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 800-3700m. **ID:** Crown orange-brown, slightly tufted. A pale yellow eye-ring and black moustache; ear-coverts grey. Above, greyish-olive; wings with bright orange outer edge and a black patch on shoulder. Secondaries pale ashy and black, tipped white. Tail black and chestnut, edged and tipped bright yellow. Chin orange; throat whitish, narrowly barred with black; rest of underparts yellow.
3. (1362) **BLUE-WINGED MINLA** *Minla cyanouroptera* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and evergreen forest and secondary growth. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); seasonally c. 600-2500m. **ID:** Slightly tufted. Dark blue crown streaked with white. Face and underparts whitish. Above fulvous, paler on rump. Wings blue, tipped-white. Tail blue narrowly tipped white.
4. (1338) **FIRE-TAILED MYZORNIS** *Myzornis pyrrhous* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; c. 1600-3950m. **ID:** Vivid green with red and green tail, tipped black. Crown scalloped with black. Wings black, streaked reddish and tipped white. Throat and upper breast red, reduced or absent in *female*. Thin and long, black bill.
5. (1235) **BEARDED REEDLING** (BEARDED PARROTBILL) *Panurus biarmicus* (V) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dense grass and tamarisk scrub. Single record of a flock in NWFP (Pakistan). **ID:** *Male:* Head bluish-grey with broad and tapering, black 'moustache'. Cinnamon-buff above; wings banded length-wise with whitish, rufous, blackish and pale buff. Throat white, breast and belly tinged with pink. Flanks tawny, undertail-coverts black. Tail long. *Female:* Duller without the 'moustache' and has a more brown head.
6. (1249-1250) **GREY-HEADED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis gularis* (R) Bulbul-:16cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo, bushes and low trees. E Himalayas, from S Sikkim, NW Bengal to Arunachal; S Assam; NE hill states; up to c. 2400m. **ID:** Head grey with black lateral crown-stripe till nape. Bill yellow. Upperparts rufous-brown, wings and tail darker. Underparts whitish, a black patch on throat.
7. (1251) **BLACK-BREASTED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis flavirostris* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Elephant grass, mixed grass along river banks. Endemic. Brahmaputra valley (Assam, N Bengal and NE Bangladesh). **ID:** The black ear-coverts separate it from all other parrotbills except Spot-breasted Parrotbill (8), which has whitish (*vs.* brown-fulvous) underparts and streaked (*vs.* unstreaked) breast. The black spot on throat and black collar on upper breast joining the ear-coverts are other identification pointers.

8. (1252) **SPOT-BREADED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and grass on abandoned cultivation, bushes and bamboo jungle. SE Arunachal; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh; c. 900-2100m. **ID:** See (7).
9. (1247-1248) **GREATER RUFIOUS-HEADED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis ruficeps* (R) Bulbul:18cm. **Occurrence:** Wet forest, bamboo and scrub jungle and reed-beds. E Himalayas, from Sikkim, N W Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** A rather plain parrotbill. Head deep ferruginous, rest of upperparts olive-brown. Below whitish, tinged with buff on sides of belly.
10. (1245-1246) **LESSER RUFIOUS-HEADED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo, high grass and scrub jungle. E Himalayas, from Sikkim and N W Bengal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to 1500m. **ID:** A smaller and smaller-billed version of Greater (9). Besides the size difference, the short black supercilium (10b), but absent in race *oatesi* of Sikkim and Darjeeling (10a), and paler ear-coverts, separate it from Greater.
11. (1239a-1244) **BLACK-THROATED PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis nipalensis* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and bamboo jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; Meghalaya and Manipur; c. 1200-3300m. **ID:** A tiny orange-brown parrotbill with prominent, long black supercilium, white face and black throat. Colour variations occur in the races (e.g. 11a and 11b).
12. (1238-1239) **FULVOUS PARROTBILL** (FULVOUS-FRONTED PARROTBILL) *Paradoxornis fulvifrons* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Dense bamboo forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; c. 2700-3400m. **ID:** A small buff parrotbill with a dark lateral crown-stripe, rufous wings and rufous streaked throat and breast.
13. (1236) **GREAT PARROTBILL** *Conostoma oemodium* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo growth and rhododendron bushes. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to E Bhutan; c. 2000-3600m. **ID:** A large, grey-brown parrotbill with an upright carriage and a stout orange-yellow bill. Forehead whitish, lores and supercilium blackish-brown.
14. (1237) **BROWN PARROTBILL** *Paradoxornis unicolor* (R) Bulbul±:21cm. **Occurrence:** Exclusively in bamboo and dwarf rhododendron growth. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; seasonally c. 2000-3400m. **ID:** A dull olive-brown parrotbill with dark head, black lateral crown-stripe and a short thick yellow bill. Throat and breast greyish-brown, rest of underparts olive-brown.

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps*

A resident of the eastern Himalayas. Affects wet forests, bamboo and scrub jungle of the foothills. Keeps in pairs or small parties. Feeds on insects and seeds.





**PLATE 91: GRASS-WARBLERS, GRASSBIRDS,
SCRUB WARBLERS AND PRINIAS**

1. (1546) **INDIAN BROAD-TAILED GRASS-WARBLER** (BROAD-TAILED GRASSBIRD) *Schoenicola platyurus* (R) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Reeds and grass in marshy depressions. Endemic. The W Ghats from Nashik southwards; records also from Madurai, Point Calimere, Delhi and Sri Lanka(?). **ID:** Plain, dark chocolate or grey-brown above. Buff or sandy-brown below with whitish throat and breast. Tail broad, rounded and blackish-brown, faintly cross-rayed above and with broad bands below.
2. (1547) **BRISTLED GRASSBIRD** (BRISTLED GRASS-WARBLER) *Chaetornis striata* (R) Sparrow+:20cm. **Occurrence:** Coarse grassland intermixed with bushes and also swampy areas. Endemic. *Summer:* From Punjabs of India and Pakistan, east to Assam valley and C Bangladesh. *Winter:* Central India and Pakistan; reports also from S India. **ID:** Large, striated, brown warbler with prominent rictal bristles and pale supercilium. Underparts cream-buff, sometimes with dark shafts on breast. Tail graduated, tipped white and sub-tipped black; undertail shows broad bands as in (1). Can be mistaken for larger (25cm) and longer-billed Striated Grassbird (Plate 95: 14), which is unstreaked on crown, always striated on breast, and has a longer and pointed tail without the broad bands on undertail.
3. (1534) **RUFIOUS-RUMPED GRASSBIRD** (RUFIOUS-RUMPED GRASS-WARBLER) *Graminicola bengalensis* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Tall grass and reeds. From W Nepal and adjoining Uttar Pradesh, east through Assam and W Bengal and flood plains of the Brahmaputra. **ID:** Head, hindneck and mantle streaked with black and rufous; white supercilium. Wings and rump rufous. Tail dark brown, broad and tipped white. Throat, breast and belly white; flanks rufous.
4. (1533) **SCRUB WARBLER** (STREAKED SCRUB-WARBLER) *Scotocerca inquieta* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and grass clumps on arid, rocky hillsides. Baluchistan, NW Pakistan; foothills to c. 3000m. **ID:** A small, sand-coloured warbler with a blackish tail. The diagnostic dark eye-stripe, clear supercilium, streaks confined largely to crown, cinnamon face, and the faint striations on throat and breast are other identification pointers.
5. (1532) **SWAMP PRINIA** *Prinia cinerascens* (R) Sparrow-:16cm. **Occurrence:** Elephant grass near large rivers and in swamps. Endemic. Assam plains of the Brahmaputra river system; Bangladesh(?); records also from W Bihar. **ID:** Like (6), but is shorter-tailed, more olive-grey above, and lacks the rufous undertail-coverts and fulvous tips to tail.
6. (1531) **RUFIOUS-VENTED PRINIA** *Prinia burnesii* (R) Sparrow-:17cm. Stretches of *sarkhan* grass and bushes near rivers. Endemic. Flood plains of the Indus river system in Pakistan and adjacent Indian Punjab. **ID:** Rufous-brown above with darker brown streaks. Pale eye-ring. Greyish-white below, flanks fulvous, vent and undertail-coverts rufous. Tail long, olive-brown and unmarked, and with the lateral feathers tipped fulvous.
7. (1529-1530) **BLACK-THROATED PRINIA** *Prinia atrogularis* (R) Sparrow-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Open scrub and grass jungle on hillsides. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; c. 900-2500m. **ID:** The black throat bordered by a white moustachial-stripe during the breeding season diagnostic, the tail is also very long. Upperparts either rufous-brown or grey-brown; crown rufous or dark grey-brown. Long white supercilium present or absent as per the races; cheeks greyish. In winter,

the throat and breast is fulvous-white, streaked with black. **Note:** The **HILL PRINIA** *Prinia supercilialis* (- : not illustrated), which occurs or probably occurs in NE Arunachal and NE hill states, is very similar to Black-throated Prinia during the non-breeding season, and is probably overlooked for this reason. Non-breeders have a clear-cut and longer white supercilium, broader black lores, and slaty ear-coverts.

8. (1526-1528) **STRIATED PRINIA** (BROWN PRINIA, LONG-TAILED HILL PRINIA) *Prinia crinigera* (R) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Grass and scrub jungle and open pine forest on hillsides. Baluchistan; foothills of Himalayas, from N Pakistan east to SE Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally c. 600-3100m. **ID:** Breeding birds have overall brown upperparts with fine streaking on breast, and are heavily striated on head, mantle, back and wings. Non-breeding birds are pale-fulvous below with mottling on breast. Tail is very long and buff-tipped. Lacks rufous vent of similar (6).

9. (1508-1509) **GRACEFUL PRINIA** *Prinia gracilis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Tamarisk, grass and scrub jungle in sandy, semi-desert country. NW Pakistan; NW India (Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab), Himalayan foothills and riverine plains east to Bangladesh. **ID:** A small prinia, pale drab-brown above. Crown and mantle with dark streaks. Lores, eye-ring and face whitish. Tail long, graduated faintly cross-banded, rectrices tipped white with subterminal dark spot. Whitish below, washed with buff on lower belly. **(458)**.

10. (1506) **RUFUS-FRONTED PRINIA** *Prinia buchanani* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Arid scrub and grass jungle in semi-desert. Pakistan (Indus valley) east to Bihar; south to N Andhra. **ID:** A small prinia with rufous crown. Lores and supercilium whitish. Above, grey-brown, tail dark brown with broad white tips except on central pair. Whitish below, tinged fulvous on flanks and vent. **(454)**.

11. (1524-1525) **YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA** *Prinia flaviventris* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Humid grassland mixed with bushes, elephant grass, reeds and thin secondary growth. Pakistan (Indus valley); sub-Himalayan terai through N and NE India; Bangladesh. **ID:** Crown and face dark grey, a short white supercilium (sometimes absent). Upperparts and tail olive-green, the tail tipped whitish and faintly subtipped brown. Throat and breast whitish-cream; belly and vent lemon-yellow. Race *sindiana* (11b) occurring in Pakistan, Indian Punjab and Haryana, is paler and duller.

12. (1507) **HODGSON'S PRINIA** (GREY-CROWNED PRINIA) *Prinia cinereocapilla* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Dense jungle, secondary growth and trees. Endemic. Himalayan foothills, duns and bhabar from Uttarakhand to Bhutan. **ID:** A small, short-tailed prinia. Identification pointers are the black bill, long rufous supercilium, and grey crown contrasting with rufous upperparts. Supercilium buff in non-breeding season.

13. (1519-1523) **JUNGLE PRINIA** *Prinia sylvatica* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Low bush jungle mixed with coarse grass. Endemic. Himalayan foothills of Himachal to Nepal up to 1000m; southwards to the tip of India up to 1500m; Sri Lanka up to 1800m. **ID:** Like smaller Plain Prinia (14), but has a stouter bill, shorter and less distinct supercilium, and longer and broader at base tail. Much plumage variation in the races. Non-breeder has brown supercilium and ear-coverts. Best differentiated by calls: *pit pretty, pit pretty, pit pretty* and *pit, pit, pit* in Jungle Prinia and *tee tee tee* and *click, tick-tick* in Plain Prinia. **(457)**.

14. (1510-1514) **PLAIN PRINIA** *Prinia inornata* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed thorn scrub and tall grass jungle, secondary growth and cultivation. Subcontinent south of the Himalayas; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A plain, sand-coloured Prinia with a longish

graduated tail. Outer rectrices white. Entirely cream-coloured below, more yellow in breeding plumage. Shows much variations in the plumage like very similar but larger Jungle Prinia (13). **(455)**.

15. (1501) **RUFESCENT PRINIA** (BEAVAN'S PRINIA, RUFOUS PRINIA) *Prinia rufescens* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Stands of long grass, secondary growth and weeds on open forested hillsides. Foothills of E Himalayas from NW Bengal to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh; Orissa; E Ghats of NE Andhra (Vishakhapatnam Hills); foothills to c. 1800m. **ID:** Separated from similar prinias by the rufous upperparts and tail, the tail with greyish tips. Crown grey in summer, reddish-brown during the non-breeding season. Distinct white down-curved supercilium forming a white spectacle around the eye.

16. (1515-1518) **ASHY PRINIA** *Prinia socialis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Grass, reeds, scrub and grass around cultivation, bracken-covered slopes, gardens. Endemic. Upper Indus (Pakistan) and along Himalayan foothills to Assam valley, W Bengal and Bangladesh; peninsular India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Crown and upperparts dark ashy-grey; rufescent wings. Eyes red. Supercilium either absent or white and short till eye; black lores. Tail with whitish tips and blackish subterminal spots. Throat whitish-buff, ochraceous on flanks and belly. Birds of NE (16b) are darker slaty above and more rufous on flanks. In non-breeding plumage, head grey with rest of upperparts rufescent-brown; short white brow. **(456)**.

17. (1502-1505) **GREY-BREASTED PRINIA** (FRANKLIN'S PRINIA) *Prinia hodgsonii* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub and grass jungle, undergrowth in deciduous forest, mangrove swamps and reed-beds. Most of Subcontinent except arid areas of NW; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small prinia, the grey breast diagnostic in summer. Non-breeder sports a short white supercilium and is more brown above. Tail grey with white tips (vs. rufescent tail with buff or greyish tips in non-breeding Rufescent Prinia). **(453)**.

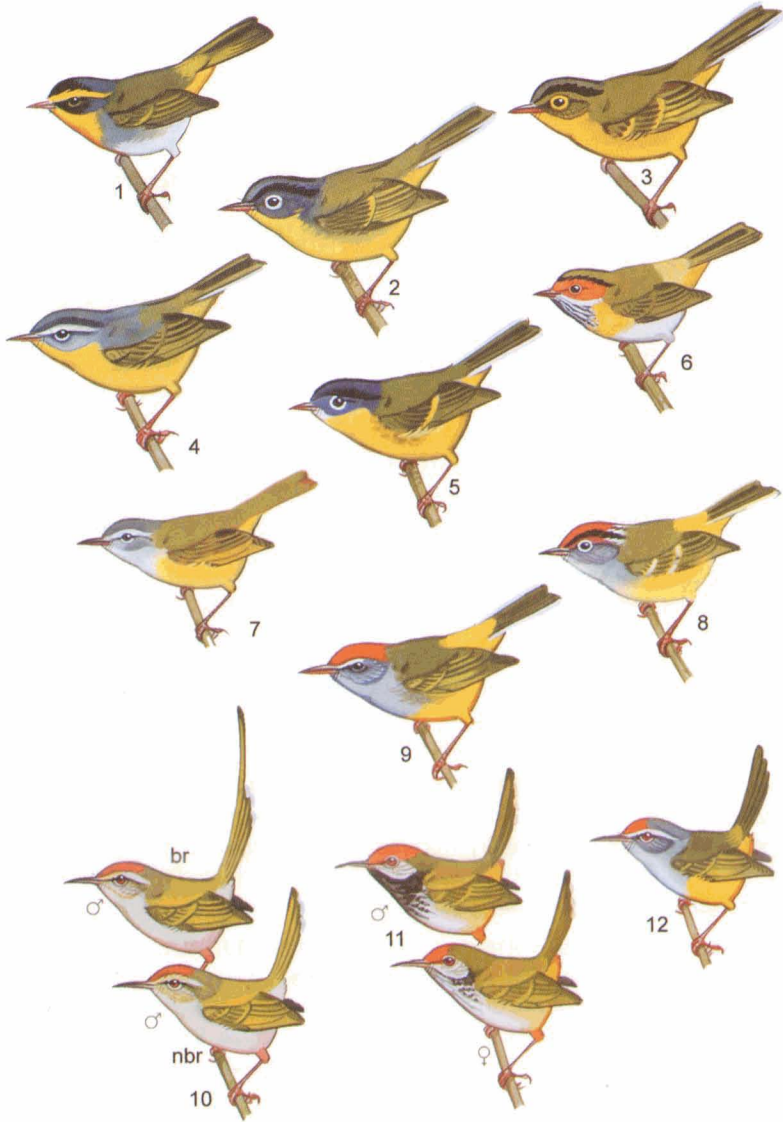


PLATE 92: FLYCATCHER-WARBLED, WARBLERS AND TAILORBIRDS

1. (1624-1625) **BLACK-FACED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (BLACK-FACED WARBLER) *Abrascopus schisticeps* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Forest with undergrowth of scrub or bamboo near streams. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to W Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1500-2500m. **ID:** Crown slaty-grey; blackish mask; broad yellow supercilium. Throat yellow; rest of underparts either yellow or whitish, tinged olive on breast. Pink bill and legs. Also see Yellow-bellied Fantail (Plate 69: 5).
2. (1613) **WHITE-SPECTACLED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (WHITE-SPECTACLED WARBLER) *Seicercus affinis* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen, broadleaved or pine forest. E Himalayas of W Bengal, SE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (winter); seasonally foothills to 2300m. **ID:** Crown grey with black lateral stripes; broad white eye-ring. Bright olive above; a yellow wing-bar. Bright yellow below. See also (5).
3. (1614-1615A) **GOLDEN-SPECTACLED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** *Seicercus burkii* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen, dense deciduous or mixed forest. **Breeding:** Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal. **Winter:** Foothills and plains of N and NE India, south to N Maharashtra and E Ghats of NE Andhra; seasonally foothills to 3700m. **ID:** Olive-green above; wing-bars either absent or present as per the races. Black lateral crown-stripes; distinctive yellow eye-ring. Deep yellow underparts. **Note:** The species has been split into three species in *The Ripley Guide*: **GREEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** *Seicercus burkii* (1615), **GREY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** *Seicercus tephrocephalus* (1615a) and **WHISTLER'S FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** *Seicercus whistleri* (1614). Race/Species *whistleri* has brighter green (less olive) upperparts than *burkii*; has paler yellow underparts with less wash of olive on flanks; the lateral crown-stripe is weak; and has a broader and more complete eye-ring. Race/Species *tephrocephalus* has a more greyish crown and darker green upperparts than *burkii*, lacks wing-bar and has very pronounced lateral crown-stripe. Race/Species *burkii* has an olive crown.
4. (1616-1619) **GREY-HOODED WARBLER** (GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER) *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Coniferous or open evergreen forest, scrub jungle and gardens. Entire Himalayas; NE hill states; NE Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to 2700m. **ID:** Crown and mantle grey; long silvery supercilium; black eye-stripe. Rump and wings greenish-yellow; lacks wing-bars. Bright yellow underparts including on throat. See also (7).
5. (1620) **GREY-CHEEKED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (GREY-CHEEKED WARBLER) *Seicercus poliogenys* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Open evergreen forest and dense bamboo jungle. Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal, also Uttarakhand(?); NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to 3000m. **ID:** Like White-spectacled Flycatcher-Warbler (2), but head is darker, chin white (vs. yellow), and has a more conspicuous yellow wing-bar.
6. (1626) **RUFOUS-FACED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (RUFOUS-FACED WARBLER) *Abrascopus albogularis* (R) Sparrow-:8cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo jungle, secondary scrub and moist-deciduous forest. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to SE Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); c. 300-1800m. **ID:** Face rufous; blackish lateral crown-stripes.

No wing-bars nor white in tail. Black streaks on white throat, breast yellow, belly white, rump yellowish-white.

7. (1622-1623) **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER) *Abroscopus superciliaris* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed bamboo forest, secondary and scrub jungle, and near streams. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally foothills to 2400m. **ID:** Face mottled dark and pale grey, a broad whitish supercilium. Yellowish-olive above; no wing-bars nor white in tail. Throat whitish, rest of underparts bright yellow. See also larger (4).

8. (1621) **CHESTNUT-CROWNED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER) *Seicercus castaniceps* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense subtropical, pine and wet-temperate forest. E Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region). **ID:** Crown chestnut with dark lateral bands becoming black on nape; the bands on nape bordered by white. White eye ring, Face, throat and upper breast ashy, rest of underparts yellow. Two wing-bars; rump bright yellow; tail edged white.

9. (1627) **BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER-WARBLER** (BROAD-BILLED WARBLER) *Tikellia hodgsoni* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense scrub and bamboo along forest edges. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; breeds between 1100-2700m. **ID:** Crown chestnut; face grey with a short whitish supercilium. Olive-green above; yellow rump and white edges to tail. Chin, throat, and breast dark grey; below bright yellow. See also Mountain Tailorbird (12).

10. (1535-1539) **COMMON TAILORBIRD** *Orthotomus sutorius* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub country near cultivation, gardens, wooded compounds and deciduous forest. Most of Subcontinent east of Indus; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Yellowish-green above with rust-coloured crown. Whitish-buff underparts. Tail pointed usually carried erect, the central rectrices narrow and elongated. Supercilium absent in the Sri Lankan race. Sexes alike, but tail usually longer in *breeding male*. Calls: A repeated, loud, *tow-it, tow-it, tow-it* (459).

11. (1540) **BLACK-NECKED TAILORBIRD** (DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD) *Orthotomus atrogularis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy scrub and edges of evergreen forest. NE hill states; Himalayas of W Bengal(?) and Sikkim(?). **ID:** *Male* separated from other tailorbirds by the black throat. The *female* lacks the black throat, and may or may not have grey streaks on breast. Both sexes separated from Common Tailorbird by the yellow rear underparts. Calls: *krri-krii-krii*.

12. (1541) **MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD** (GOLDEN-HEADED TAILORBIRD) *Orthotomus cuculatus* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Scrub, grass and bamboo jungle, secondary growth. E Himalayas of W Bengal to Arunachal; adjacent duars and terai in winter; NE hill states; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Separated from other tailorbirds by the clear-cut white supercilium, grey throat and breast, and bright yellow belly. Differs from similar Broad-billed Flycatcher-Warbler (9), by the long (*vs.* short) supercilium, only forecrown (*vs.* whole crown) being chestnut, and the green (*vs.* yellow) rump. Calls: *see-pipipi-tsee*.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

A common species of the Indian Peninsula. Affects herbaceous gardens even in the midst of noisy cities. Insectivorous. Noted for the nest built within a large leaf or by several small leaves sewn together





PLATE 93: WARBLERS

1. (1474-1475) **PALE-FOOTED BUSH-WARBLER** *Cettia pallidipes* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Grass-and-bush or secondary jungle. *Summer:* Himalayas from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal. *Winter:* Adjoining foothills and plains; NE hill states; foothills to 1500m. Reported from E Ghats in N Andhra, Andamans and Bangladesh. **ID:** A small bush-warbler, brown above and whitish-cream below. Long buff supercilium and dark eye-stripe. The underparts paler than in other bush-warblers and pale pinkish legs are other pointers.
2. (1476) **MANCHURIAN BUSH-WARBLER** *Cettia canturians* (V) Sparrow±: *Male* 16cm; *Female* 14cm. **Occurrence:** Three records: Assam, Meghalaya and W Bengal duars. **ID:** A large, heavy-billed warbler, the *male* larger than *female*. Russet-brown above, rufous on head and wings. A pale but broad supercilium and a dark eye-stripe. Dull white below, washed with fulvous on breast, belly and tail.
3. (1477-1478) **STRONG-FOOTED BUSH-WARBLER** (BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH-WARBLER) *Cettia fortipes* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in open mixed forest. Himalayas; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); foothills to c. 3300m. **ID:** Dark rufous olive-brown above. Long, narrow buff supercilium; brown eye-stripe. Dull whitish below, washed with olive-brown on sides of breast, fulvous on flanks. Dark bill; legs dark and stout.
4. (1481-1483, 1580) **ABERRANT BUSH-WARBLER** *Cettia flavolivacea* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth in forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Bhutan; NE hill states; seasonally c. 700-3600m. **ID:** Resembles yellow-bellied leaf-warblers (see Plate 94), but is longer-tailed and larger. Olive-brown above; pale yellowish supercilium; dark eye-stripe; no wing-bars. Dull fulvous-yellow below, tinged with olive on throat and flanks. Birds of S Assam hills are more rufous and have cinnamon flanks.
5. (1485-1487) **GREY-SIDED BUSH-WARBLER** *Cettia brunnirostris* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Stunted juniper and furze bushes on stony hillsides and in open coniferous forest. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas, c. 2700-4000m. *Winter:* Foothills and flood plains of Brahmaputra, also Meghalaya. **ID:** A small bush-warbler, rufous olive-brown above with a rufous-chestnut crown, long buff supercilium and dark eye-stripe. Throat and belly white, breast and flanks grey, vent olive-brown. See also similar but larger (6).
6. (1479-1480) **CHESTNUT-CROWNED BUSH-WARBLER** (LARGE BUSH-WARBLER) *Cettia major* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense rhododendron jungle in subalpine silver fir forest and dwarf rhododendron thickets. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; Assam; NE hill states; seasonally terai to 4000m. **ID:** Very similar to Grey-sided Bush-Warbler (5) with also a chestnut crown, but larger and has brownish (*vs.* greyish) wash to flanks and breast; rest of underparts dull whitish. Rufous wash on fore-supercilium diagnostic.
7. (1484) **HUME'S BUSH-WARBLER** (YELLOW-BELLIED BUSH-WARBLER) *Cettia brunnescens* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Dense bamboo stands or open forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; c. 2100-3700m. **ID:** A small rufous-brown bush-warbler with brighter rufous wings and tail. Mottled brown and yellowish on cheeks and ear-coverts; a broad, long pale buff supercilium; narrow dark eye-stripe. Throat and breast greyish. Pale yellow on belly, vent and undertail-coverts. Bill slender and dark.
8. (1493) **BROWN BUSH-WARBLER** *Bradypterus luteoventris* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy downs, high grass and bracken-covered hillsides. E Himalayas of

W Bengal and Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally foothills to 3300m. **ID:** Rufous-brown above, short pale supercilium and pale eye-ring. Chin, throat, and centre of breast and belly white tinged with buff on sides. Throat sometimes with fine dark specks.

9. (1494) **SRI LANKAN BUSH-WARBLER** *Elaphrornis palliseri* (R) Sparrow-:16cm. **Occurrence:** Undergrowth and dwarf bamboo in damp forest. Endemic to hill of SC Sri Lanka; above c. 900m. **ID:** A large bush-warbler, brown above with pale grey supercilium and pale eye-ring. The ochraceous throat diagnostic. Tail broad. Sexes alike, except that the iris is red in *male* and pale buff in *female*.

10. (1489-1490) **SPOTTED BUSH-WARBLER** *Bradypterus thoracicus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Bracken and other low scrub. Himalayas, with records from N Pakistan, Himachal, Uttarakhand, and C and E Himalayas; plains to 4000+m. **ID:** A short-billed version of the Long-billed Bush-Warbler (12). The boldly spotted grey throat and breast of breeding birds and barred undertail-coverts diagnostic. *Calls:* See-see. The similar Long-billed Bush-Warbler (12) may have spots on breast, but lacks the barred undertail-coverts. Non-breeding Spotted Bush-Warbler, with indistinct spotting on throat and breast, may be confused with **RUSSET BUSH-WARBLER** *Bradypterus mandelli* (- : not illustrated), but latter has pale (*vs.* white) tipped undertail-coverts. The Russet Bush-Warbler is distributed in the Himalayas, from W Bengal to Arunachal; Meghalaya; and probably Bangladesh.

11. (1488) **CETTI'S BUSH-WARBLER** *Cettia cetti* (M) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Partially submerged bulrushes. Pakistan; NW India (Rajasthan and Punjab). **ID:** Entirely ruddy-brown above. Broad, longish rounded tail. Greyish supercilium and cheeks. Centre of throat, breast and belly nearly white; buffy undertail-coverts.

12. (1491) **LONG-BILLED BUSH-WARBLER** (LARGE-BILLED BUSH-WARBLER) *Bradypterus major* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Low thorny scrub interspersed with rank grass. W Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Ladakh and Kashmir; c. 1200-3600m. **ID:** Long-bill diagnostic. Olive-brown above with a short pale supercilium and pale eye-ring. Chin, throat and centre of belly white. Brown spotting on throat and upper breast forming a gorget, sometimes absent. Undertail-coverts without barring unlike Spotted Bush-Warbler (10).

13. (1492) **CHINESE BUSH-WARBLER** *Bradypterus tacsanowskii* (M?) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Grass and bushes, stubble fields, standing rice and reed-beds. Himalayan terai from Nepal to duars of Assam, Meghalaya and N W Bengal. **ID:** A large warbler, russet olive-brown above. Short, narrow whitish supercilium (often indistinct). Chin and throat whitish, the throat with a few brown specks. Rest of underparts buffish, suffused with pale brown on breast and flanks.

14. (1549) **THICK-BILLED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus aedon* (M) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Reeds and bushes in marshy places, tall grass and weeds in abandoned clearings, tea and coffee plantations. Nepal terai to NE India; peninsular India especially N E Ghats, W Ghats, and from south Andhra to Point Calimere (Tamil Nadu). Records also from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bangladesh, and Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** A large, thick-billed warbler. Plain fulvous olive-brown above, whitish-buff below more or less tinged ochraceous. The relatively short and thick bill (the lower pale), rather rounded head, and plain face separate it from large reed-warblers. *Calls:* Loud, harsh *tschuk, tschuk*. (463).

15. (1555) **BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* (V/M?) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense cover near marshes, high grass and ricefields.

Unsubstantiated records from Kashmir to NE India, W Bengal, Bangladesh and Andamans. **ID:** An unstreaked, russet olive-brown reed-warbler with pale supercilium bordered above by blackish-brown lateral crown-stripe. Underparts pale fulvous-buff; whitish on throat. [**Hy-PCR**].

16. (1556) **BLYTH'S REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (RM) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes, hedges, orchards, bamboo clumps and grain fields, mainly in deciduous biotope. *Breeding:* N Baluchistan(?). *Winter:* Subcontinent. **ID:** Olive-brown above; pale supercilium only prominent in front of eye. Throat white, rest of underparts buffish. Legs grey. Bill rather thin and long. (465). **Note:** The same-sized **LARGE-BILLED REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus orinus* (1561; not illustrated), known only from an old (specimen) record from Himachal and a recent sight record from W Bengal(?), is russet above and with heavy fulvous wash on sides of breast and flanks; bill much longer.

17. (1557-1558) **PADDYFIELD WARBLER** *Acrocephalus agricola* (M) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds, elephant grass, sugarcane and wet rice cultivation. Subcontinent. **ID:** Rufous-brown above, rump and tail more rufescent. Long whitish supercilium. Throat whitish, rest of underparts ochraceous-buff. Bill short; legs greyish-brown. **Note:** The **BLUNT-WINGED REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus concinens* (1559-1560; not illustrated), recorded to breed in Kashmir, Hazara district of Pakistan and Assam and wintering in E Nepal duars, W Bengal and NE hill states, is similar and difficult to separate in the field, but has a less prominent supercilium.

18. (1555a) **EUROPEAN REED-WARBLER** (EURASIAN REED-WARBLER) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (R/M/V?) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds. One doubtful record of breeding in N Baluchistan and a sight record in Sind; occurs in Afghanistan. **ID:** A plain olive-brown reed-warbler with buff underparts. Like Paddyfield Warbler, but has a short (*contra* long) supercilium, and lacks the ochraceous-buff underparts and rufescent rump.

19. (1550-1552) **INDIAN REED-WARBLER** (INDIAN GREAT REED-WARBLER, CLAMOROUS REED-WARBLER) *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds and shrubs around lakes, jheels, ponds and canals. Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large plain olive-brown warbler with conspicuous white supercilium. Throat whitish, rest of underparts buff. Can be easily overlooked but for its loud harsh *ke or chur-r, chur-r* uttered every few seconds. (464). **Note:** The same-sized **ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus orientalis* (1554; not illustrated), a winter visitor to NE India and Andamans, is very similar, but has fine streaks on lower throat and breast. Another large and similar warbler **GREAT REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (1553), a vagrant (once each to Baluchistan and Ladakh), is more rufous above than Indian and Oriental reed-warblers, has a thicker and shorter bill, and a more distinct supercilium.



PLATE 94: WARBLERS

1. (1564) **UPCHER'S WARBLER** *Hippolais languida* (M) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Stunted, bush-covered stony hill slopes. Baluchistan. **ID:** Large warbler with a long, stout bill. Pale grey-brown above with darker wings and tail. White supercilium extending little beyond eye. Buffish-white below, flanks washed with pale brown. Tipped-white outer rectrices diagnostic. *Calls:* *Chick, chick.*
2. (1577) **PLAIN LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus neglectus* (R) Sparrow-:9.5cm. **Occurrence:** Low bushes, juniper forest, tamarisks and acacias. *Summer:* Baluchistan; 2300-2800m. *Winter:* Indus valley, mainly in Sind and Punjab of Pakistan. **ID:** Very small warbler with a short tail and tiny bill. Greyish olive-brown above, whitish below. Pale supercilium; lacks wing-bars. *Calls:* A sharp *chip.*
3. (1562-1563) **BOOTED WARBLER** *Hippolais caligata* (RM) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous scrub jungle. *Breeding:* Throughout Baluchistan, NWFP, Sind and NW India (Punjab). *Winter:* Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Pale olive-brown above; short whitish supercilium; tail square ended. *Calls:* Harsh *chuck...chuck* or *churr...churr.* **Note:** Race (1563) that breeds in Pakistan and Indian Punjab is treated as a species in THE RIPLEY GUIDE: **SYKES'S WARBLER** *Hippolais rama.* It has paler upperparts, is less fulvous-brown below, has a longer bill and tail; and its call is described as *schuck.*
4. (1575) **SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus tristis* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes, hedges, gardens, scrub jungle. *Summer:* NW Himalayas, from Gilgit to N Himachal; c. 2500-4400m. *Winter:* Himalayan foothills and northern Subcontinent. **ID:** A brownish warbler with greenish on edges of wing, tail, wing-coverts and rump. Short whitish supercilium; no wing-bar. Dull whitish below washed with buff on breast and flanks. Bill and legs dark brown or blackish. *Calls:* Plaintive *tweet, wheet* or *seet.* **Note:** The **MOUNTAIN CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus sindianus* (1576: not illustrated), which breeds in W Himalayas with winter records from Sind, Haryana, W Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is similar, but without any trace of greenish on upperparts; rump uniform with upperparts; no yellow tinge to supercilium. *Calls:* Clear, loud two-note *sweet-eet.*
5. (1578) **TYTLER'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus tytleri* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Coniferous forest, also dwarf willows and birches. *Summer:* Extreme NW Himalayas to Kashmir; c. 2400m up to timberline. *Winter:* Subcontinent, from Kashmir south to Kerala. **ID:** Bill slender and long. Olive above, belly washed with pale yellow. Long, yellowish-white supercilium; dark eye-stripe; no wing bar. Tail relatively short.
6. (-) **BUFF-THROATED LEAF-WABLER** *Phylloscopus subaffinis* (V) Sparrow: 10cm. **Occurrence:** Winter vagrant to NE hill states; breeds in China. **ID:** Like (7), but has buff-yellow (vs. canary-yellow) underparts. The Aberrant Bush-Warbler (Plate 93: 4) which also has yellowish underparts, is larger (13cm) and longer-tailed. *Calls:* *Tick* or *tscheck.*
7. (1579) **TICKELL'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus affinis* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub, secondary jungle, well-wooded country. *Summer:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; c. 2700m up to timberline. *Winter:* Sub-Himalayan plains, except Pakistan and Rajasthan. **ID:** Dark olive-brown above. Long, yellow supercilium; dark eye-stripe; no wing-bar. Canary-yellow below. *Calls:* *Chip* or *tsip* and *pick-pick...whi whi whi.*
8. (1581) **SULPHUR-BELLIED LEAF-WARBLER** (OLIVACEOUS LEAF-WARBLER) *Phylloscopus griseolus* (RM) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous biotope: stony hillsides with sparse bushes. *Summer:* N Baluchistan; NW Himalayas; c. 2400-4500m.

Winter: W Ghats northwards to Central India and W and C Himalayan foothills. **ID**: Olive-brown above and more brown than Buff-throated (6) and Tickell's (7) leaf-warblers. Dull greyish-yellow below. Yellow supercilium, brighter in front of eye, pale eye-ring and dark eye-stripe. No wing-bar. *Calls*: A hard finch-like *pick/quit* while foraging.

9. (1593) **BROOKS'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus subviridis* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence**: Coniferous forest, bushes, olive groves and acacias. NWFP; NW Himalayas; c. 2100-3600m. *Winter*: Indus valley of N Pakistan, east to W Rajasthan and W Uttar Pradesh and Himachal. **ID**: Olive above, dull yellowish-white below. Diagnostic clues are the two yellowish-white wing-bars (lower prominent, upper indistinct), yellow supercilium, pale yellow median crown-stripe and yellowish rump. *Calls*: *Chwey* or *twee*.

10. (1592) **YELLOW-BROWED LEAF-WARBLER** (YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER) *Phylloscopus inornatus* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence**: Scrub, gardens, groves and open forest. E Himalayan foothills from Nepal to Assam; NE hill states and Bangladesh. Reports from the Peninsula, including E Ghats; Andamans. **ID**: Whitish supercilium, double yellowish wing-bar and white-tipped tertials. Concolourous rump and mantle, whitish underparts, and absence of white in the relatively short tail are diagnostic clues. May have faint median crown-stripe as in Brook's (9). **Note**: Former race (1590: not illustrated), which breeds in the Himalayas and winters south till Goa and N E Ghats, is now treated as a species **HUME'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus humei*. It has darker legs and bill and is overall more drab. **Note**: Race (1591), which has darker upperparts, is more brown (except for the greenish rump) and has more yellow on the belly than Yellow-browed and Hume's, is tentatively treated as a species **MANDELLI'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus mandellii* in *The Ripley Guide*. Mandelli's is a winter visitor to NE India and E Himalayas.

11. (1583-1586) **DUSKY WARBLER** (DUSKY LEAF-WARBLER) *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence**: Scrub jungle, low bushes, reeds and long grass around pools, hedges and standing crops. Sub-Himalayan plains from Uttarakhand east to Assam, NE India and Bangladesh; up to c. 1400m; also Andamans. **ID**: Dusky olive-brown above; NE race is darker and almost like Smoky (12). Pale prominent supercilium, pale incomplete eye-ring and dark eye-stripe; no wing-bar. Whitish below with a grey wash on breast and flanks. Vent and undertail-coverts fulvous. *Calls*: A single repeated *chuck* or *tek*.

12. (1582) **SMOKY LEAF-WARBLER** (SMOKY WARBLER) *Phylloscopus fuligiventer* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence**: Low scrub and boulder-strewn alpine meadows along banks of watercourses. *Summer*: Himalayas from Uttarakhand to Bhutan. *Winter*: W Nepal terai and duns east; seasonally foothills to 4500m. **ID**: Distinct dark leaf-warbler with a dark bill. Olive-brown above, smoky-brown below. Supercilium dull; lacks wing-bar. *Calls*: Low *tsrrk*. See also (11).

13. (1612a) **RADDE'S WARBLER** (RADDE'S LEAF-WARBLER) *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (V?) Sparrow-:12.5cm. **Occurrence**: Four sight records (Nepal, Rajasthan and Bangladesh). **ID**: Like smaller Dusky Leaf-Warbler (11), but is larger billed, longer tailed, and has yellowish tinge to underparts; undertail-coverts rufous. Dark eye-stripe; black edge to the cream supercilium. Generally brownish-olive above. Legs reddish or flesh-coloured. [**Hy-PCR**].

14. (1587-1589) **ORANGE-BARRED LEAF-WARBLER** (BUFF-BARRED WARBLER) *Phylloscopus pulcher* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence**: Subalpine mixed conifer-rhododendron and birch forest, scrub. *Summer*: Himalayas from Kashmir to Bhutan. *Winter*: NE hill states; seasonally c. 500-4300m. **ID**: Diagnostic features include two orange-yellow wing-bars (lower very prominent), yellow supercilium extending to nape, pale yellow rump and white outertail feathers.

15. (1594-1596) **LEMON-RUMPED LEAF-WARBLER** (PALLAS'S WARBLER) *Phylloscopus chloronotus* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer or mixed forest, woods and bush-covered hillsides. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas; c. 2200-4200m. *Winter:* Foothills: NE India, Bangladesh(?). **ID:** Small, short-billed warbler with two yellow wing-bars. Dusky-olive, lateral crown-stripe on either side of pale yellow median crown-stripe. Long yellow supercilium and dark eye-stripe. Prominent pale greenish-yellow rump. Lacks white in tail unlike (14).
16. (1597-1599) **GREY-FACED LEAF-WARBLER** (ASHY-THROATED WARBLER) *Phylloscopus maculipennis* (RM) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Open mixed forest of oak and rhododendron, also mixed deciduous forest with plenty of undergrowth. Himalayas, from Kashmir to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally foothills to 3500m. **ID:** The small size, short dark bill, grey face and throat, greyish-white supercilium, yellow rump, double yellow wing-bars and white at inner tail edges are identification clues.
17. (1612) **YELLOW-VENTED WARBLER** (BLACK-BROWED LEAF-WARBLER) *Phylloscopus cantator* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen, open deciduous and mixed forest. Himalayas of E Nepal to SE Arunachal, NE India; SE Bangladesh. **ID:** Small warbler with distinctive yellow head. Two black lateral crown-stripes and a yellowish-green median crown-stripe; yellow supercilium and black eye-stripe. Two yellow wing-bars, the upper indistinct. Throat, vent and undertail-coverts bright yellow; belly whitish. Lacks yellow in rump unlike Lemon-rumped (15) and Grey-faced (16) leaf-warblers. *Calls:* A loud *pio, pio*.
18. (1606) **WESTERN CROWNED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus occipitalis* (M) Sparrow:-11.5cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous, evergreen or subtropical wet forest. *Summer:* W Himalayas, from NWFP and Baltistan to Uttarakhand; c. 1800-3200m. *Winter:* Subcontinent, largely hills of W Ghats, E Ghats and C India. **ID:** Crown with pale median-stripe. Yellow supercilium and dark eye-stripe. Two wing-bars, one noticeable. Also see (20).
19. (1607) **EASTERN CROWNED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus coronatus* (EL/M?) Sparrow:-11.5cm. **Occurrence:** Doubtful records from Sikkim to Bangladesh. **ID:** Like (18), but has whiter underparts and bright yellow vent and undertail-coverts. **[Hy-PCR]**.
20. (1608-1611) **BLYTH'S LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus reguloides* (R) Sparrow:-11cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, rhododendron, conifer, evergreen wet or pine forest. Himalayas of N Pakistan(?), Kashmir, Himachal, and from Nepal to Bhutan; NE hill states; Bangladesh; straggling to Gangetic Plains and Orissa; seasonally plains and foothills to 3600m. **ID:** Like (18), but has white outertail feathers, two broad yellowish wing-bars, and a shorter and finer bill.
21. (1602-1605) **GREENISH LEAF-WARBLER** (GREENISH WARBLER) *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (M) Sparrow:-11cm. **Occurrence:** Gardens, wooded compounds, groves and open deciduous forest. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas. *Winter:* Wooded areas of Subcontinent; Andamans, Sri Lanka (rare). **ID:** Dull greenish above, yellowish below. A faint wing-bar; yellowish supercilium; dark eye-stripe. Cheeks mottled. **Note:** Race (1605) is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **BRIGHT GREEN LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus nitidus*. It is very similar with underparts distinctly yellow, but not distinguishable in worn winter plumage.
22. (1601) **LARGE-BILLED LEAF-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus magnirostris* (M) Sparrow:-12.5cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous or evergreen forest. *Summer:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; c. 1800-3600m. *Winter:* Mainly W Ghats and Sri Lanka. *Passage:* Along NE, C, NW India and subHimalayas. **ID:** A large leaf-warbler with a large bill and faint wing-bar. Upperparts brownish-olive with a darker crown. Yellowish-white below with grey streaks on throat and flanks. Long yellowish supercilium, dark eye-stripe and mottled cheeks.



PLATE 95: WARBLERS

1. (1564a) **BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria* (V) Sparrow±:16cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes. A number of records from Gilgit and Ladakh. **ID:** Large warbler resembling whitethroats in shape and action. **Male:** Grey, fleckled with white on sides of crown, wing-coverts and tertials. Uppertail-coverts tipped white; outer rectrices partly white. Underparts finely scalloped, more faintly in **female**. Eyes yellow, brown in **immature**. Calls: *tschek*; *trrr-r-r-r*.
2. (1571a) **MENETRIES'S WARBLER** *Sylvia mystacea* (M) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes of willow and tamarisk. W and C Baluchistan. **ID:** A small version of the Eastern Orphean Warbler (3) with dark forehead and cheeks, reddish eyes and eye-ring. Grey above with wings and tail darker blackish-grey, outer rectrices white. **Female** and **immature** with sandy-grey upperparts and dark tail.
3. (1565) **EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER** *Sylvia crassirostris* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Shrubs on stony slopes and semi-desert. **Summer:** Baluchistan and NWFP. **Winter:** S Pakistan and most of continental and peninsular India except NE region; sight reports from SE Bangladesh. **ID:** **Male** with black head and grey upperparts; tail blackish, outer rectrices white. Throat white, rest buffish-white. **Female** with grey head, darker on cheeks, throat white. Upperparts, brownish-grey. **Calls:** Loud harsh *chack*. **(468)**.
4. (1570) **HUME'S WHITETHROAT** (HUME'S LESSER WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia althaea* (M) Sparrow±:12cm. **Occurrence:** Stony bush-covered hillsides, often along streams. Breeding in western Himalayas from Baluchistan to Ladakh. Winter visitor to Peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Dark grey upperparts. Eyes brown; bill brown, the lower mandible paler; legs black. Calls: *Tek, tek, churr* and *wheet-wheet-wheet*.
5. (1567-1569) **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (COMMON LESSER WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia curruca* (M) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert and drier areas of the Subcontinent. SubHimalayan N Pakistan to Uttar Pradesh south to W Tamil Nadu; also SE coastal forests of Sriharikota and Point Calimere, and probably elsewhere; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Has more brownish (*vs.* greyish) upperparts than Hume's (4). Eyes pale yellowish-brown. Bill bluish-grey, tipped black. **Calls:** A repeated *chek, chek* **(469)**. The race *minula* (1569: 5b), occurring in Pakistan east of the Indus Valley and NW India, is sometimes treated as a species: **DESERT WHITETHROAT** (DESERT LESSER WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia minula*. This race/species is the palest whitethroat with poor contrast between the ear-coverts and face. Eye yellowish-brown, bill bluish-grey. Calls: *Che-che-che-che-che*.
6. (1566) **GREATER WHITETHROAT** (COMMON WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia communis* (M) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes, hedges amidst cultivation and scrub in semi-desert. Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** Brownish-grey above, the head greyish in **male**. Edges of secondaries rufous-brown. Throat white, rest of underparts with a pinkish flush. Easily separated from other whitethroats by the orange legs, dark-tipped yellow bill, and lack of contrasting dark ear-coverts. **Calls:** Rasping *chur*, sharp *tak, tak*.
7. (1571) **ASIAN DESERT WARBLER** (DESERT WARBLER) *Sylvia nana* (M) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub in semi-desert, stony hillsides, and low vegetation on salty mudflats. Pakistan and NW India (mainly Haryana, Rajasthan and Kachchh); a recent photographic record from Uran mudflats near Mumbai. **ID:** A small, pale greyish-brown warbler with diagnostic rufous rump and tail; creamy-white below. Eyes yellow with a whitish eye-ring, Bill and legs yellow.
8. (1498-1500a) **ZITTING CISTICOLA** (STREAKED FANTAIL-WARBLER) *Cisticola juncidis* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Tall grass, reed-beds, ricefields and dry grassland.

Subcontinent except over most of Himalayas and dry zone in NW India (Rajasthan) and Pakistan; also occurs in Sri Lanka and Nicobars. **ID:** Tiny rufous-brown warbler boldly streaked with black above; whitish supercilium. Short white-tipped, tail; rump rufous. Underparts whitish-buff, darker on flanks. *Breeding male* without streaks on brownish crown.

9. (1496-1497) **GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA** (BRIGHT-CAPPED CISTICOLA, BRIGHT-HEADED CISTICOLA, GOLDEN-HEADED FANTAIL-WARBLER) *Cisticola exilis* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Tall coarse grass and scrub on hillsides and lowlands. W Ghats south of S Karnataka; Sub-Himalayan terai; NE India; Bangladesh; records from C India in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and SE Ghats. **ID:** Like (8), but non-breeder has narrow, buff (*vs.* broad, white) tips to tail, lacks streaks on hindneck and has a less rufous rump. *Breeding male* has unstreaked rufous crown, orangish underparts and rump.

10. (1542-1543) **RUSTY-RUMPED GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER** (RUSTY-RUMPED WARBLER, PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER) *Locustella certhiola* (M) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Swamps, reed-beds and ricefields. C Nepal to Assam, Meghalaya, Bangladesh; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Crown streaked grey; pale supercilium from lores to nape. Streaked dark brown on upperparts; rump rufous. Tail rounded and tipped white. Underparts very pale brown, darker on breast and flanks. *Juvenile* has (faint) spotting on throat, but not on breast and flanks (unlike adult 13). The rufous rump and white-tipped tail diagnostic for adult and juvenile. (460).

11. (1495) **MOUSTACHED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (M/R?) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds and partially submerged vegetation in jheels. Central E Pakistan and bordering areas of NW India to Delhi and Uttarakhand. *Breeding* in Baluchistan(?). **ID:** An *Acrocephalus* warbler somewhat like (10), but more rufous-brown above. Crown blackish-brown; brown ear-coverts. White (*vs.* pale) supercilium; distinct blackish eye-stripe; dark lateral crown-stripe. **Note:** The **SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, with two recent records from Ladakh, is almost identical, but paler without rufous tinge to mantle and has paler ear-coverts.

12. (1545) **PALE GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER** (GRASSHOPPER WARBLER) *Locustella naevia* (M) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Edges of reservoirs and swampy depressions, damp grass and tamarisk jungle. Subcontinent, wintering mainly in S W Ghats and C India, passage elsewhere; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Pale olive-brown above with broad dark-brown streaks; pale narrow supercilium. Whitish (12a) or pale yellow (12b) below, washed with buff on breast and flanks; lower throat often speckled. Lacks the white tips to tail and rusty rump of (10), and the prominent streaks on breast and flanks of (13).

13. (1544) **LANCEOLATED GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER** (LANCEOLATED WARBLER, STREAKED WARBLER) *Locustella lanceolata* (M) Sparrow: 13cm. **Occurrence:** Dense bush and grasslands, sugarcane and rice stubbles. Winter visitor mainly to Andaman and Nicobars, also NE Bangladesh. Records/Reports from Nepal, Uttar Pradesh terai and Sri Lanka. **ID:** Olive-brown above streaked with black; pale yellowish supercilium. Very pale yellow below, streaked prominently on breast and flanks with dark brown. Separated from other grasshopper-warblers by the bold streaks on underparts.

14. (1548) **STRIATED GRASSBIRD** (STRIATED MARSH WARBLER, STRIATED GRASS-WARBLER) *Megalurus palustris* (R) Bulbul+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Grass and reeds in marshes, tall grass and scrub in cultivation. Pakistan Punjab through the Gangetic Plains to NE India and Bangladesh, also along a belt in C India from the Tapti (W) to Mahanadi (E) rivers. **ID:** Very large, long-tailed warbler, striated above except on head and most of tail. Underparts plain, streaked only at breast. Long, pale supercilium. See also Plate 91(2). (462).

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris*

Tits are small, restless, active, arboreal, woodland birds with stout, conical or pointed bills. They feed on insects and seeds. Sexes are generally alike and they nest chiefly in tree-holes. The Rufous-vented Tit inhabits the subalpine and rhododendron scrub of the Himalayas. The rufous (*contra* grey) belly is a quick diagnostic clue to separate it from the similar Rufous-naped and Spot-winged tits – see Plate 97 for more details. However, the belly is grey in E. Himalayan birds (see bird on the top), but it lacks rufous on nape or the white spots on wing seen in the other two species.





**PLATE 96: TESIAS, GROUND-TIT, TIT-WARBLEDERS,
GOLDCREST AND TITS**

1. (1473) **CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA** (CHESTNUT-HEADED GROUND-WARBLEDER) *Tesia castaneocoronata* (R) Sparrow-:8cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth of bushes, ferns, nettles or bamboo near streams in high forest. Himalayas, from W Himachal to SE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally foothills to 3900m. **ID:** A tiny stubtailed wren-like bird with olive-green upperparts and bright yellow underparts. Crown, nape and face bright chestnut with a small white patch behind the eye. *Juvenile* duller with rufous head, also sports the white speck behind the eye.
2. (1472) **SLATY-BELLIED TESIA** (SLATY-BELLIED GROUND-WARBLEDER) *Tesia olivea* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Dense undergrowth of ferns, nettles and weeds in humid tropical forest. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states. **ID:** Very similar to Yellow-browed Tesia (3), but has dark slaty underparts, yellowish-green crown, less distinct eye-stripe, and lower mandible is orange-red (*vs.* orange-yellow).
3. (1471) **YELLOW-BROWED TESIA** (GREY-BELLIED TESIA, GREY-BELLIED GROUND-WARBLEDER) *Tesia cyaniventer* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Along small streams in dense shady evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); seasonally foothills to 2550m. **ID:** Olive-green above; ashy-grey below. Prominent black eye-stripe and yellowish supercilium.
4. (1041) **GROUND-TIT** (HUME'S GROUNDPECKER) *Pseudopodoces humilis* (R) Myna-:20cm. **Occurrence:** Sandy stone-littered hillsides. SE Ladakh, N Nepal and Sikkim; *c.* 4200-5200m. **ID:** A sandy-brown bird with darker brown wings. A whitish patch across nape and hindneck. Tail sandy-white, central rectrices brown. Decurved black bill.
5. (1632) **CRESTED TIT-WARBLEDER** *Leptopoecile elegans* (EL/R?) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Fir forest and juniper scrub. Possibly occurring in Arunachal areas adjacent to SE Tibet (where resident). **ID:** *Male:* White forehead, turning pale greyish-lilac on crown and crest. Loes black, face and hind-collar rich chestnut. Rest of upperparts in shades of pale blue. Throat pale chestnut, breast vinaceous, flanks lavender. *Female* has darker crown, blackish nape, shorter crest and dirty-white tinged vinaceous underparts. [**Hy-PCR**].
6. (1633-1634) **WHITE-BROWED TIT-WARBLEDER** (STOLICZKA'S TIT-WARBLEDER) *Leptopoecile sophiae* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Dwarf juniper and other scrub, and thickets of *Hippophae* and willows. Himalayas, N Pakistan to C Nepal; *c.* 1800-4000m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown chestnut washed with lilac, a broad creamy supercilium. Rump violet-blue; tail blackish-brown tinged with verditer. Underparts either entirely vineous-purple (*obscura*: 6a) or with a pale fulvous belly (*sophiae*: 6b). *Female:* A paler version of male with whitish throat, breast and belly, much darker in race *obscura*.
7. (1813-1814) **YELLOW-BROWED TIT** *Sylviparus modestus* (R) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and conifer forest. Himalayas, from W Kashmir to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally *c.* 1200-4200m. **ID:** A small, small-billed tit easily mistaken for a leaf-warbler. Olive-green above with a pale eye-ring; short tuft-like crest often raised. Short, bright yellow supercilium, not always visible in the field. Olive-buff below.
8. (1815-1816) **FIRE-CAPPED TIT** *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* (RM) Sparrow-:9cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed forest and orchards. *Summer:* Entire Himalayas between 2000-

3500m. *Winter*. Plains of NC and NE India. **ID: Male:** In summer, forecrown bright orange-scarlet. Above yellowish-olive, wings brown with two yellow wing-bars, the lower broader and more prominent. Throat bright orange. *Female:* Olive above, yellowish on rump. Throat, breast and upper belly yellowish, whitish below. *Non-breeding male* like *female*, but more greyish.

9. (1628-1631) **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* (R) Sparrow±:8cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer forest. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Bhutan; Arunachal(?); seasonally c. 1500m to upper limit of conifer forest. **ID:** Orange crown bordered by black lateral crown-stripes; crown yellow *in female*. White eye-patch. Greyish olive-green above; two white wing-bars; blackish blotches on wings.

10. (1809-1811) **BLACK-LORED YELLOW TIT** (BLACK-LORED TIT) *Parus xanthogenys* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. Himalayan and peninsular forests, but not S E Ghats. **ID: Male:** Differs from male Black-spotted Yellow Tit (11) by the black (*vs.* yellow) forehead and lores, long (*vs.* short) and downcurved eye-line, absence or insignificant spotting on mantle, and olive (*vs.* grey) rump. (495). **Note:** The species has been split into two in *The Ripley Guide*: **INDIAN YELLOW TIT** *Parus aplonotus* (1810-1811) of peninsular forests and **BLACK-LORED YELLOW TIT** *Parus xanthogenys* (1809) of the Himalayas. The Indian Yellow Tit has white wing-bars (*vs.* yellow in Black-lored Tit) and the female is duller than male (*vs.* female almost similar to male in Black-lored Tit).

11. (1812-1812a) **BLACK-SPOTTED YELLOW TIT** (YELLOW-CHEEKED TIT) *Parus spilonotus* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Light mixed forest. E Himalayas, from E Nepal to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1400-3700m. **ID:** See Black-lored Yellow Tit (10). *Female* is duller.

12. (1789) **SULTAN TIT** *Melanochlora sultanea* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. Foothills forest up to c. 700m. **Occurrence:** E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Chittagong (?). **ID:** A large, crested tit. Forehead, crown and long crest bright yellow. Rest of upperparts and tail black with a metallic-greenish cast. Throat and breast black, rest of underparts bright yellow. *Female* duller with blackish-olive upperparts; yellowish-olive throat.

Black-spotted Yellow Tit *Parus spilonotus*

A resident of the Himalayas. Affects light forests. Seen in pairs or small parties.
Food chiefly insects, berries and other vegetable matter also taken.





PLATE 97: TITS

1. (1821) **WHITE-CHEEKED TIT** *Aegithalos leucogenys* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Ilex and tamarisk scrub along rivers. NW Pakistan and N Baluchistan; seasonally *c.* 450-3600m. **ID:** Identification clues from similar tits (2-4) include the grey-brown (*vs.* grey) mantle and back, fulvous-brown (*vs.* fulvous) crown, black chin and throat, and white cheeks.
2. (1822) **WHITE-THROATED TIT** *Aegithalos niveogularis* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. Endemic. W Himalayas of N Pakistan to W Nepal; seasonally *c.* 1800-3600m. **ID:** The white throat and forecrown distinguish it from similar tits (1, 3 and 4).
3. (1823) **RUFIOUS-FRONTED TIT** *Aegithalos iouschistos* (R) Sparrow-: 10cm. **Occurrence:** Shrubby undergrowth in conifer and mixed forest. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Bhutan; Arunachal(?); seasonally *c.* 2400-3600m. **ID:** Identification clues from (1, 2 and 4) include the broad black mask, silvery throat and ferruginous underparts.
4. (1818-1820) **RED-HEADED TIT (BLACK-THROATED TIT)** *Aegithalos concinnus* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Light open hill forest. From Hazara (NWFP, Pakistan), east along the Himalayas to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally *c.* 600-3600m. **ID:** Identification pointers include the rufous-chestnut crown, white chin, black throat-patch, white supercilium (absent in race *manipurensis*. 4b) and the white belly (in race *manipurensis*. 4b). Young birds have a white throat.
5. (1817) **WHITE-CROWNED PENDULINE-TIT** *Remiz coronatus* (M) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Tamarisk-Acacia scrub along rivers and canals. Pakistan and Indian Punjab plains. **ID:** Crown, throat and neck whitish, otherwise overall cream-buff. Brown-black mask from forehead to nape. A dark chestnut patch on wing with a buff lower edge. Sexes alike, but mask does not reach nape in *female*.
6. (1799) **GREEN-BACKED TIT** *Parus monticolus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Hill forest. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; up to *c.* 3600m. **ID:** Very similar in pattern to Great Tit (7), but has olive upperparts, yellow underparts and has two wing-bars.
7. (1790-1797) **GREAT TIT (GREY TIT)** *Parus major* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Lightly wooded country. Most of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Crown black, cheeks white, a whitish patch on nape. Above grey. Tertials broadly edged with pale ashy; a broad, white wing-bar. Tail blackish with white outer rectrices. Throat black continued in a broad black band joining black of nape and running down middle of underparts. Flanks ashy. **(493).**
8. (1798) **PIED TIT (WHITE-NAPED TIT, WHITE-WINGED BLACK TIT)** *Parus nuchalis* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Hummocky semi-desert country. Endemic. Kachchh, N Gujarat, Rajasthan; disjunctly in S E Ghats and Karnataka; Wynad (Kerala)?. **ID:** Glossy black above with a white patch on nape, Much white in wings and white outer rectrices. A broad black band from chin to vent. Cheeks, sides of neck and flanks white, often suffused with yellow. **(494).**
9. (1804) **RUFIOUS-NAPED TIT (RUFIOUS-NAPED CRESTED TIT)** *Parus rufonuchalis* (R) Sparrow±:13cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed oak and conifer forest. N Baluchistan; W Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to C Nepal; seasonally *c.* 1500m to timberline.

ID: Crown, crest, sides of neck and breast black. Cheeks white; nuchal patch white, tinged rufous at base. Upperparts grey; no wing-bars. Belly grey, rufous on flanks and vent. Separated from similar Spot-winged Tit (10) by the absence of white-spotted wing-bars and the larger extent of black on breast.

10. (1802) **SPOT-WINGED TIT** (SPOT-WINGED CRESTED TIT) *Parus melanolophus* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Oak and conifer forest. W Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to C Nepal; seasonally from 100m to timberline. **ID:** The rusty-white spotted wing-bars and grey underparts diagnostic. Also see (9) and (11).

11. (1805-1806a) **RUFIOUS-VENTED TIT** (RUFIOUS-BELLIED TIT) *Parus rubidiventris* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine conifer and rhododendron scrub. Himalayas, from Himachal east to Bhutan, and Arunachal(?); seasonally *c.* 2200-4200m. **ID:** Like Rufous-naped (9) and Spot-winged (10) tits, but belly rufous (*vs.* grey) in birds of W Himalayas. Belly is grey in E Himalayan birds with rufous restricted to vent (like 9 and 10), but lacks rufous on nape (*contra* 9) and the spotted wing-bars (*contra* 10). Absence of wing-bars also separate it from Coal Tit (13).

12. (1807-1808) **GREY-CRESTED TIT** (BROWN CRESTED TIT) *Parus dichrous* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and conifer forest. Himalayas, from S Kashmir to Bhutan, and Arunachal (?); *c.* 2200m to timberline. **ID:** Crown, pointed crest and rest of upperparts brownish-grey. The pale half-collar diagnostic. Throat greyish-fulvous, rest of underparts brownish-buff.

13. (1803) **COAL TIT** *Parus ater* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine conifer forest. Himalayas, from Nepal east to Arunachal; seasonally *c.* 1800-3600m. **ID:** Identification pointers from similar tits include the small size, fulvous-buff underparts and two spotted whitish wing-bars. See also (10) and (11).

14. (1800a) **AZURE TIT** *Parus cyanus* (V?) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Willow, juniper and birch scrub in river beds. Two records from N Kashmir. **ID:** Pale ashy-blue above; dark eye-stripe. Wings blue with a broad white wing-bar and white tips to tertials. Blue tail edged with white. Throat pale ashy, breast and belly white with a blackish median band.

15. (1800) **YELLOW-BREASTED TIT** *Parus flavipectus* (R?) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes near water. Only one record of juvenile from extreme N Pakistan (Chitral); breeds in N Afghanistan. **ID:** Like Azure Tit, but with yellow on breast.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Resident in the Himalayas up to 3,600 m. Seen in pairs in the breeding season, otherwise in small parties of upto 20, in mixed hunting parties.
Has a loud and pleasant whistling song.





PLATE 98: NUTHATCHES, WALLCREEPER, TREECREEPERS AND CREEPER

1. (1825-1826) **CHESTNUT-VENTED NUTHATCH** *Sitta nagaensis* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous, evergreen, and coniferous forest. NE hill states; c. 1400-2800m. **ID:** Clues include the whitish to pale grey underparts with the flanks and vent chestnut, the vent spotted white. The White-cheeked Nuthatch (6), with similar colouration, has the crown black, face white, and lacks the eye-stripe and white spotting on vent.
2. (1834-1835) **WHITE-TAILED NUTHATCH** *Sitta himalayensis* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen broadleaved forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 930-3400m. **ID:** Separated from other nuthatches by the central white patch at base of uppertail. Rufous-buff below; vent unmarked. See also Kashmir Nuthatch (4).
3. (1827-1831) **CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH** *Sitta castanea* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest and light woods. Lower Himalayas, Uttarakhand to Arunachal up to c. 1800m; terai and plains of the Gangetic Plains; NE India and Bangladesh; hills of C India, N E Ghats and S W Ghats. **ID:** Identification clues include the distinct white cheeks and chin, chestnut underparts and white- or grey-spotted vent. *Female* similar but underparts cinnamon. **Note:** The species is split into two species in *The Ripley Guide*: **INDIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta castanea* (1830-1831) and **CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH** *Sitta cinnamoventris* (1827-1829), the latter confined to the Himalayas and NE region, has a longer bill and white- (*vs.* grey-) spotted vent.
4. (1824) **KASHMIR NUTHATCH** *Sitta cashmirensis* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Coniferous, deciduous and mixed forest. N Baluchistan; W Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Kashmir and disjunctly to W Nepal; up to c. 3300m. **ID:** Like White-tailed Nuthatch (2), but has a longer bill and lacks the white patch in centre of tail. *Female* paler than male.
5. (1836) **EASTERN ROCK NUTHATCH** *Sitta tephronota* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky valleys with broken cliffs, near streams. Baluchistan; seasonally c. 300-2500m. **ID:** A large, rock inhabiting nuthatch. The long bill, long black eye-stripe, pale grey upperparts, whitish underparts till lower breast and buff at the hindquarters are identification pointers.
6. (1832-1833) **WHITE-CHEEKED NUTHATCH** *Sitta leucopsis* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Pine, fir, deodar and mixed forest. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to C Nepal; Arunachal(?); seasonally from 1800m to timberline. **ID:** See (1). Race (1833), which may occur in Arunachal and has a finer and shorter bill and with rufous underparts, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **PRZEWALSKY'S NUTHATCH** *Sitta przewalskii*.
7. (1838) **VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH** *Sitta frontalis* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen hilly biotope. Lower Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE India and Bangladesh; patchily in the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small distinctive, red-billed nuthatch with velvety-black forehead, orange-yellow eye-ring and yellow eyes. *Female* lacks the black eye-stripe.
8. (1837) **BEAUTIFUL NUTHATCH** *Sitta formosa* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Deep, wet semi-evergreen and evergreen forest. E Himalayas, from W Bengal, Sikkim to

Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally *c.* 330-2400m. **ID:** A large, showy, blue and orange-rufous nuthatch with black and white markings above. Crown brilliant blue with lilac streaks.

9. (1839) **WALLCREEPER** *Tichodroma muraria* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Gorges and vertical cliffs. *Summer:* Himalayas above 3300m. *Winter:* Foothills, sometimes adjoining plains. **ID:** Unmistakable with its long, downcurved bill and dark grey and crimson plumage, the crimson more conspicuous in flight. White spots in wings. *Male* develops a black throat during the breeding season.

10. (1842-1844) **EURASIAN TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Pine, deodar, birch and rhododendron forest. Himalayas, seasonally from 1700m up to timberline. **ID:** Diagnostic features include the brown unbarred tail and overall whitish underparts. Bill shorter than (11).

11. (1845-1848) **BAR-TAILED TREECREEPER** *Certhia himalayana* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Forests of pine, fir, deodar and spruce. N Baluchistan; Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to C Nepal; seasonally from plains up to timberline. **ID:** The barred tail, long curved bill, white chin and throat grading to buffish on belly, and smoky flanks are pointers.

12. (1851) **RUSTY-FLANKED TREECREEPER** *Certhia nipalensis* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, mixed deciduous and coniferous forest. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Bhutan; seasonally *c.* 1500-3500m. **ID:** The rusty flanks separate it from other treecreepers. Crown and mantle blackish; bill relatively short. Tail rusty-brown and unbarred.

13. (1849-1850) **BROWN-THROATED TREECREEPER** (SIKKIM TREECREEPER) *Certhia discolor* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous, oak and rhododendron forest. E Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally *c.* 300-3600m. **ID:** Clues include the dull brown throat and breast, and the unbarred rufous-brown tail.

14. (1841) **SPOTTED CREEPER** *Salpormis spilonotus* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest and groves. Rajasthan and Gujarat, east to Bihar and south to N Maharashtra and N Andhra. **ID:** Stocky and larger than treecreepers. Entirely brown, spotted with white above. White supercilium and dark ear-coverts. Throat white, rest of underparts fulvous, spotted and barred with dark brown.

Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa*

See in Eastern Himalayas and the NE hill states. In flight, a white patch on the black underwing conspicuous. Affects dense forests. Seen in pairs or small family parties.





PLATE 99: FLOWERPECKERS AND WHITE-EYES

1. (1892-1894) **THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum agile* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Dry to moist-deciduous or semi-evergreen biotope, flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs in forest and cultivated country. Himalayan foothills of NE Pakistan east to Bihar and southwards into the entire Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** The short thick bill, olive-grey upperparts, faint streaks on underparts, white-tipped tail and orange-red eyes diagnostic. *Calls:* Like Tickell's *chik* but harsher. **(508).**
2. (1895) **YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Open jungle, forest edges and orange orchards. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Bhutan; Arunachal(?); Assam; NE hill states; E Bangladesh; foothills to c. 2000m. **ID:** The olive-green upperparts, dark brown wings and tail, dark moustachial-stripe, bright yellow vent and heavily streaked underparts are identification pointers.
3. (1899-1900) **TICKELL'S FLOWERPECKER (PALE-BILLED FLOWERPECKER)** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* (R) Sparrow:-8cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous biotope. Forest plantations, groves, orchards and scrub jungle. Endemic. Himalayan foothills of Himachal, east to W Bengal and Bangladesh, and south of S Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh through the entire Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Olive-brown with greyish-white underparts. Very similar to Plain Flowerpecker, but has a flesh-coloured (*vs.* blackish) bill. *Calls:* A repeated *chik*, also a pleasant *pseep*. **(509).**
4. (1901-1903) **PLAIN FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum concolor* (R) Sparrow:-8cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and mixed deciduous-evergreen forest and groves. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; W Ghats from Mumbai south; Andamans; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** See Tickell's Flowerpecker. **(510).** **Note:** The species is split into three in *The Ripley Guide*: **NILGIRI FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum concolor* (1902) of the W Ghats, **PLAIN FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum minullum* (1901) of E Himalayas and NE, and **ANDAMAN FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum virescens* (1903) of the Andamans
5. (1896) **YELLOW-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* (R) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Tall trees in open forest and forest clearings. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to W Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (two sight records); seasonally c. 1050-3600m. **ID:** A large flowerpecker. *Male:* Entirely slaty-black above. White from chin down to centre of throat and breast; bright yellow below. *Female:* Like male, but black replaced by olive-brown.
6. (1897) **LEGGE'S FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum vincens* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Tall trees and climbers in rain forest. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** A smaller version of the Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (5), which does not occur in Sri Lanka, but chin, throat and breast fully white.
7. (1898) **ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum trigonostigma* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Glades and margins of evergreen and tidal forest. S Bangladesh, W Bengal (Sundarbans), Assam(?), Nicobars(?). **ID:** *Male:* Slaty above, back and rump orange and yellow. Throat light grey, bright orange below. *Female:* Olive-grey above, rump yellow. Throat and flanks grey, tinged olive; abdomen yellow.
8. (1905) **FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum ignipectus* (R) Sparrow:-7cm. **Occurrence:** Tall forest, secondary growth and orchards. Himalayas, from SE Kashmir

to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally *c.* 600-2700m. **ID:** *Male:* Metallic blue-black above. Pale yellow below with a scarlet patch on breast and a black stripe on centre of belly; flanks olive. *Female:* Olive-green above; pale buff below, washed with olive on sides. **(512).**

9. (1904) **SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum cruentatum* (R) Sparrow-:7cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest groves and orchards. Base of E Himalayas, from E Nepal to Assam valley; NE hill states, Bangladesh and Sundarbans of W Bengal; up to *c.* 1400m. **ID:** *Male:* Crimson band from forehead to base of tail on the glossy blue-black upperparts. Centre of throat, breast and belly pale buff; flanks grey. *Female:* Olive above, wings dark brown. Rump and uppertail-coverts crimson, tail black. Ventrally buff with grey flanks. *Juvenile* has orangish rump. **(511).**

10. (1933-1936) **ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE** *Zosterops palpebrosus* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, groves, gardens and mangrove. Almost entire Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep. **ID:** Yellow-olive above; prominent white eye-ring. Lores and a patch under eye blackish. Throat, vent and undertail-coverts bright yellow. Breast greyish-white, belly whitish. **(520).**

11. (1937) **SRI LANKAN WHITE-EYE** *Zosterops ceylonensis* (R) Sparrow-:11cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, tea plantations and gardens. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like (10), but slightly larger, darker olive above, and has a longer bill and longer blackish tail.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

A common resident of the base of the E Himalayas and NE. Feeds at tree top level. Favours plant parasites on trees for feeding. Food largely insects, berries and nectar.



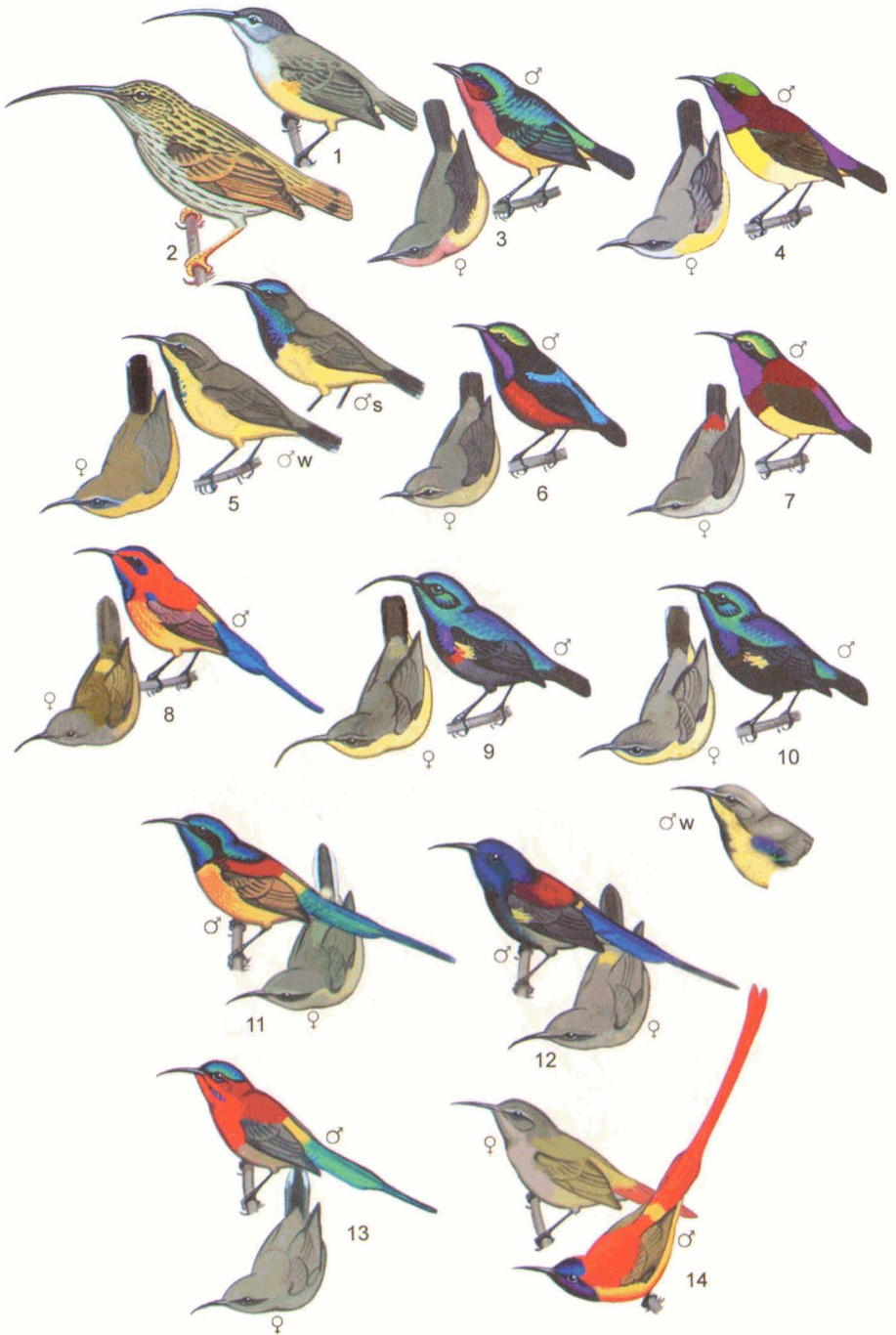


PLATE 100: SPIDERHUNTERS AND SUNBIRDS

1. (1931) **LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** *Arachnothera longirostra* (R) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest, secondary growth, heavy jungle and sholas. Himalayan foothills, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; patchily also in W Ghats; N E Ghats and Orissa; up to c. 1800m. **ID:** Like a large *female* sunbird but with a very long, stout and less downcurved bill. Olive above, tail dark brown and tipped white. Throat and breast greyish-white, belly yellow. **(518)**.
2. (1932) **STREAKED SPIDERHUNTER** *Arachnothera magna* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen biotope. Dense forest, abandoned cultivation clearings overgrown by wild banana stands. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; up to c. 2200m. **ID:** A heavily streaked yellow-olive spiderhunter with a long, downcurved bill. Underparts paler. Tail with a blackish subterminal band **(519)**.
3. (1906) **RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD** *Chalcoparia singalensis* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forest, open scrub jungle. E Himalayas, from Nepal to Bhutan; NE hill states; Bangladesh; from foothills to c. 700m. Records also from Uttarakhand and E Ghats in N Andhra. **ID:** A short-billed sunbird, the *male* metallic green above with copper-coloured ear-coverts. Throat and breast rufous, lemon-yellow below. *Female:* Olive-green above, darker on wings. Below, like male but paler. Young birds with yellow throat.
4. (1907-1908) **PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD** *Leptocoma zeylonica* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub, light secondary jungle, dry cultivated country, gardens. Endemic. E Gujarat east to S W Bengal; W Meghalaya; Bangladesh; entire peninsular India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Male:* Metallic green crown, maroon-chestnut mantle and metallic purple rump and throat. A green shoulder-patch. Breast and centre of belly lemon-yellow, flanks greyish-white. *Female:* Brown above, rufous on wings. Throat and flanks greyish-white. Breast and centre of belly lemon-yellow. **(513)**.
5. (1913-1915) **OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** *Cinnyris jugularis* (R) Sparrow:-10cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, scrub and mangroves. Andaman and Nicobars; recent record from coastal SE Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Olive-brown above; forecrown blue-purple in Nicobar birds. Tail black, tipped-white. Throat and breast metallic blue-purple with a broad rusty band on breast; underparts pale yellow. In eclipse plumage, like female, but with a dark gular-stripe. *Female:* Olive above, pale yellow below. Whitish supercilium. Tail dark brown and edged with white.
6. (1910) **VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD (PURPLE-THROATED SUNBIRD)** *Leptocoma brasiliana* (R) Sparrow:-9cm. **Occurrence:** Forest, gardens and dense cover in swampy habitat. Assam; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** A small sunbird. *Male:* Metallic green crown; black mantle; wings and tail blackish-brown. Scapulars, back and rump metallic purple-blue. Throat purple, breast and upper belly deep maroon-crimson; underparts sooty-brown. *Female:* Olive above with a black tail; yellow below, brighter on belly. **Note:** Was earlier treated as conspecific with **PURPLE-THROATED SUNBIRD** *Leptocoma sperata*.
7. (1909) **SMALL SUNBIRD (CRIMSON-BACKED SUNBIRD)** *Leptocoma minima* (R) Sparrow:-8cm. **Occurrence:** Forests in hilly evergreen biotope. Endemic. W Ghats from Nasik (Maharashtra) south; normally between 300-2000m. **ID:** A small sunbird. *Male* like larger Purple-rumped Sunbird, but has a deep crimson breast-band. Belly dull yellow. *Female:* Olive above and pale below, the small size and crimson-brown rump diagnostic. **(514)**.
8. (1919-1921) **MRS GOULD'S SUNBIRD** *Aethopyga gouldiae* (R) Sparrow:- *Male* 15cm. *Female* 10cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Himalayas, from Himachal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to c. 3600m.

ID: *Male:* Crown, ear-coverts and throat purple-blue. Face, nape, sides of neck and mantle crimson. Rump yellow. Tail blue, elongated central rectrices. Underparts yellow streaked with scarlet on breast and tinged with olive on vent. *Female:* Olive above, head and nape grey. Yellowish rump. Throat and upper breast pale grey, yellow below.

9. (1911-1912) **LOTEN'S SUNBIRD** *Cinnyris lotenius* (R) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous biotope. Endemic. Southern peninsular India especially along the W Ghats (south of N Maharashtra) and E Ghats (south of C Andhra); Sri Lanka. **ID:** Separated from Purple Sunbird (10) by the sooty-brown (*vs.* blue-black) belly, longer bill, and the dark crimson breast-band (sometimes seen in 10). Bright yellow tufts on sides of breast. *Female:* Dull olive above; tail blue-black and edged with white. Entirely dull yellow below. **(515).**

10. (1916-1918) **PURPLE SUNBIRD** *Cinnyris asiaticus* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Light deciduous forests and gardens. Subcontinent, except high Himalayas; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding Male:* See Loten's Sunbird. In eclipse plumage, pale olive-brown; ventrally yellow with a broad blue-black band down middle of throat and breast; glossy blue on shoulders. *Female:* Olive-brown above and uniform yellow below. **(516).**

11. (1922-1924) **GREEN-TAILED SUNBIRD** *Aethopyga nipalensis* (R) Sparrow-: *Male* 15cm; *Female* 10cm. **Occurrence:** Heavy forests and gardens. Himalayas, from W Uttarakhand to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh(?); seasonally *c.* 300-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* The metallic green tail diagnostic, except from the largely crimson-plumaged Crimson Sunbird (13). Crown and nape metallic blue-green, bordered on mantle by a broad maroon band, the band small or absent in NW and Manipuri birds respectively. Rump bright yellow. Ventrally yellow, streaked with scarlet on breast. *Female:* Olive-green above, yellowish below. Rump pale yellow; outer rectrices tipped white.

12. (1925-1926) **BLACK-BREASTED SUNBIRD** (BLACK-THROATED SUNBIRD) *Aethopyga saturata* (R) Sparrow-: *Male* 15cm; *Female* 10cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous biotope. Himalayas, from W Uttarakhand to NE Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally foothills to *c.* 2000m. **ID:** *Male:* The overall dark plumage, small yellow patch on back, pale belly, and purple tail with two elongated central rectrices diagnostic. *Female:* Olive above, greyish-olive below. Crown greyish, yellow patch on back.

13. (1927-1929a) **CRIMSON SUNBIRD** *Aethopyga siparaja* (R) Sparrow-: *Male* 15cm; *Female* 10cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayan foothills from Himachal to Arunachal, recent record from Himalayas in N Pakistan; continental and NE India; Bangladesh; also N Andhra; W Ghats from Narmada rivers south to Goa (but see note); Nicobars. **ID:** *Male:* Diagnostic clues are the metallic green crown, red mantle, crimson throat and breast, purple malar-stripe, yellow patch on back and rump, green long tail and the olive belly. *Female:* Entirely olive, with a pale yellow wash below. **(517).** **Note:** Race (1929), endemic to the W Ghats and W Satpuras and which is darker, longer-billed and with yellow streaks on the crimson breast, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **VIGOR'S SUNBIRD** *Aethopyga vigorsii*.

14. (1930) **FIRE-TAILED SUNBIRD** *Aethopyga ignicauda* (R) Sparrow-: *Male* 15cm; *Female* 10cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayas, from Uttarakhand east to E Bhutan; NE hill states; Bangladesh; seasonally *c.* 1200-4000m. **ID:** *Male:* Diagnostic clues are the scarlet plumage of upperparts including the much elongated central pair of tail feathers, yellow rump, metallic purple head, olive wings, and the yellow underparts washed with orange on breast. *Female:* Olive with yellow on rump and belly; tail a diagnostic brownish-orange. Bill rather straight. *Juvenile Male* like female but has a reddish patch between throat and breast.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*

Occurs in the Himalayas from Garhwal eastwards and NE hill states.
Identity unmistakable from the elongated central pair of bright crimson tail feathers
of the male. Very active while visiting flowers for honey.





PLATE 101: BUNTINGS

1. (2060) **CRESTED BUNTING** *Melophus lathamii* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dry, stony and sparsely scrubbed hillsides, rice stubbles, and open stony dry-deciduous jungle. Himalayan foothills from NE Pakistan to Bhutan; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); and hills of continental and peninsular India till Gujarat and N Andhra. **ID:** *Male:* Black with chestnut wings and tail; long pointed crest. *Female:* Crested, olive-brown above with dark brown streaks. Rufous wings and tail. Underparts paler, the breast streaked. **(538).**
2. (2041) **CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra* (V) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Wastelands. Reported from N Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** Somewhat like a *female* House Sparrow, but larger and dumper, and profusely streaked on underparts and rump. Sexes alike.
3. (-) **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella* (V) Bulbul-:17cm. **Occurrence:** Records from Jammu and Kashmir and Nepal. **ID:** *Breeding Male:* Identification pointers include the yellow head, thin malar-stripe and dark rusty rump. *Female:* Like Corn Bunting (2), but has a yellowish wash to head and underparts; rusty rump.
4. (2042) **PINE BUNTING** *Emberiza leucocephalos* (M) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Bush-covered grassy slopes and cultivation. NW Pakistan to Nepal; up to c. 1500m; also reported from Arunachal. **ID:** *Male:* Crown white, bordered by black lateral crown-stripes. Chestnut face with a white cheek-stripe. Throat, upper breast and rump chestnut. Collar and belly white. In winter, centre of crown ashy, and chestnut areas have white margins to feathers. *Female* like male in winter, but paler without rufous on head and throat.
5. (2050) **GREY-NECKED BUNTING** *Emberiza buchanani* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dry stony foothills with sparse bushes. *Summer:* N Baluchistan(?). *Winter:* Mostly Pakistan (on passage) and W India south to Kerala and N Andhra. **ID:** Whitish eye-ring and pink bill in both sexes. *Male:* Head grey; upperparts brown with rufous scapulars. *Female:* Duller and without grey head. *Juvenile* has streaks on crown and spots on breast. See also similar Ortolan Bunting (8).
6. (2048) **WHITE-CAPPED BUNTING** *Emberiza stewarti* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky or grassy hillsides, scrub jungle. *Summer:* N Baluchistan; Himalayas of Pakistan to Himachal and Uttarakhand. *Winter:* NWFP east to Nepal; the plains of NW India; south to Gujarat, NE Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** *Male:* Crown grey, a broad black eye-stripe from lores to nape. Dark moustachial-stripe; throat black. Crown becomes almost white before spring migration. *Female:* Has a greyish-brown head.
7. (2051-2054) **ROCK BUNTING** *Emberiza cia* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy and bush-clad slopes in boulder-strewn country. *Summer:* Himalayas of N Baluchistan, Ladakh, and east to C Nepal; also Arunachal (but see note); up to 4200m. *Winter:* Adjoining hills and plains. **ID:** *Male* with bluish-grey head. Black moustachial-stripe looping to join eye-stripe behind cheeks; blackish lateral crown-stripes. *Female:* A drab version of male. Race *stracheyi* is darker with chestnut (*vs.* tawny) underparts. **Note:** Former races (2053-54), with chestnut crown and occurring in Arunachal, are now treated as a species: **GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING** *Emberiza godlewskii*.
8. (2049) **ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana* (V) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Orchards or grassy slopes with bushes. Stray records from N Pakistan,

Baluchistan, Kashmir to Gujarat and Maharashtra. **ID:** *Male:* The greenish-grey head and breast, pale yellow eye-ring, and yellow submoustachial-stripe and throat diagnostic. *Female:* Paler, with fine streaks on crown and breast.

9. (2057) **STRIOLATED BUNTING** (HOUSE BUNTING) *Emberiza striolata* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky or stony, sparsely scrubbed hillsides. S Baluchistan; Sind and Punjab Salt Range; NW and C India; south to C Maharashtra and north to Delhi. **ID:** *Male:* Head, throat and breast greyish-white, streaked black. A white supercilium, black eye-stripe and moustachial-stripe; shoulders chestnut. *Female:* Like male, but duller. Yellow lower mandible in both sexes.

10. (2056) **LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla* (M) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Reeds and about cultivation in open country. W Himalayas (rare); E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (hill tracts); S Andamans. **ID:** Small bunting with a small bill. *Male:* Rufous median crown-stripe between broad black lateral crown-stripes. Face rufous with a dark spot on ear-coverts. Chin rufous, rest of underparts white, streaked with black on breast and flanks. *Female:* Like male, but duller.

11. (2055-2055a) **CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING** (GREY-HEADED BUNTING) *Emberiza fucata* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** *Summer:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to W Nepal; seasonally foothills to c. 2700m. *Winter:* NE India, Bangladesh and Nepal. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and nape grey, streaked with black; ear-coverts chestnut. Throat and upper breast white. Black moustachial-stripe and dense streaking on breast forming a black gorget. Rufous on sides of breast and shoulders. *Female:* Like male, but duller.

12. (2046) **YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Himalayan foothills, mainly from Nepal to Assam; NE hill states, NW Bengal; Bangladesh; up to c. 1500m; a record each from Baluchistan and Nicobars. **ID:** *Male* (summer): Forehead and face blackish-brown, chestnut upperparts and yellow underparts with a chestnut breast-band. Large, white patch on shoulder and white wing-bar. *Male* (winter): Lacks the black mask but has dark ear-coverts and a conspicuous yellow supercilium. *Female:* Brown streaked with darker brown above, the white on shoulder diagnostic; rump chestnut.

13. (2043) **BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza melanocephala* (M) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Cereal cultivation and adjoins. Winters in Pakistan and W India; straggling to Nepal, N and C Indian plains; Sri Lanka (once). **ID:** *Male:* Head black, mantle and back chestnut-rufous. Lemon-yellow below with sides of breast rufous. *Non-breeding male* has grey crown. *Female:* Breeding female is a very pale version of the male. *Non-breeding female* (and *juvenile*) fulvous-brown above with dark streaks. Buffish-white below with traces of yellow; undertail-coverts yellow. Also see Red-headed Bunting (17). (535).

14. (2045) **CHESTNUT BUNTING** *Emberiza rutila* (M) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Rice stubble, bushes in cultivation and forest clearings. Winters in hills of southern Assam, Manipur and Mizoram; records also from NWFP, Kashmir, Nepal, Sikkim and W Bengal. **ID:** *Male:* Almost entirely chestnut above. Throat chestnut, rest of underparts sulphur-yellow. *Female:* Crown ashy-brown with buffish supercilium and dark ear-coverts. Ashy-brown above with blackish streaks, rump chestnut. Throat buffish, breast yellowish-olive finely streaked, rest of underparts yellow.

15. (2047) **BLACK-FACED BUNTING** *Emberiza spodocephala* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** High grass, bamboo and scrub jungle, hedgerows, ricefields and reedy

marshes, up to c. 1000m. Assam and Bangladesh; also terai and duars west to Nepal. **ID:** *Male:* Base of bill, lores and borders of eye black. Head, throat and breast olive-grey. Upperparts streaked brownish; underparts below breast yellow and sparsely streaked. *Female:* Crown and upperparts rufous-brown streaked with dark brown. Pale supercilium and dark ear-coverts. Underparts pale yellow, streaked sparsely.

16. (2058) **REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* (M) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Reed-beds, tall grass and bush jungle in riverine country. Mostly Indus Valley of Pakistan and NW India. **ID:** *Male:* Head, throat and upper breast black; white collar around hindneck; white submoustachial-stripe. Rufous-brown above with broad blackish streaks; rump greyish. In autumn, the black of head and white supercilium fringed with rufous-brown. *Female:* Crown rufous-brown with dark streaks; pale buff throat with black streaks on sides.

17. (2044) **RED-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza bruniceps* (RM) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation, especially grain fields. *Summer:* N Baluchistan. *Winter:* Plains of N, W and C India; NE (rare); Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** *Male:* Forehead, forecrown, face, throat and breast chestnut. Hindcrown, mantle yellowish-olive with blackish streaks; rump bright yellow. Underparts below the breast yellow. *Female:* Very similar to female Black-headed Bunting (13) but has paler cheeks, and less uniform yellowish wash to underparts giving an indication of a breast-band and a pale throat.



PLATE 102: FINCHES

1. (1987, 1989) **EURASIAN GOLDFINCH** (EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH, HIMALAYAN GOLDFINCH) *Carduelis carduelis* (R) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Orchards, bare stony hillsides, open conifer forest, scrub and fields. N Baluchistan; Himalayas, from Pakistan to C Nepal; seasonally foothills to c. 3900m. **ID:** A brownish finch with a red face. The black and yellow wings, black and white tail, and the white rump are other diagnostic features. Sexes alike. *Juvenile* lacks red on face.
2. (1990, 1992) **HIMALAYAN GREENFINCH** (YELLOW-BREASTED GREENFINCH) *Carduelis spinoides* (RM) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Open slopes, forest edges, open conifer forest, scrub and cultivation. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Arunachal; Nagaland, Manipur; seasonally foothills to c. 4400m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown, ear-coverts, malar streak, mantle and back blackish-brown. Forehead, supercilium and sides of neck yellow forming an indistinct collar below the nape. Wings dark brown with a large yellow patch, inner secondaries edged with white. Rump yellow; tail dark brown with the basal half of outer rectrices yellow. Yellow underparts. *Female:* Like male, but duller; *immature* is heavily streaked.
3. (1991) **BLACK-HEADED GREENFINCH** *Carduelis ambigua* (M/EL?) Sparrow:-14cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation, openfields and edges of forests near cultivation. NE Arunachal (sight records). **ID:** *Male:* Like Himalayan Greenfinch but crown and face dull black. Dark olive above; yellow wing-patch and a whitish-grey bar on greater-coverts. Underparts more greyish, belly dirty greenish-white. *Female* like male, but with streaked dark grey head. *Juvenile* like (2) with yellow in wings, unlike (4). [**Hy-PCR**].
4. (1993) **TIBETAN SISKIN** *Carduelis thibetana* (M) Sparrow:-12cm. **Occurrence:** Alders, hemlock, birch and mixed fir forest. E Himalayas, Nepal to Arunachal; seasonally c. 1000-3800m. **ID:** Separated from (2) and (3) by the smaller size and small bill. *Male:* A rather plain olive-yellow finch, mantle faintly streaked with dark brown. Yellow ill-defined supercilium and collar on sides of neck; yellow wing-bar. Deep yellow below, washed with olive on sides of neck and flanks. *Female:* Duller, streaked with brown except on throat.
5. (1994) **EUROPEAN LINNET** (EURASIAN LINNET) *Acanthis cannabina* (M) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Open country and stony slopes. N Baluchistan, Punjab Salt Range, straggling to Gilgit, Baltistan, Kashmir and NW Nepal; up to c. 2400m. **ID:** *Male:* Head greyish with pinkish-red forehead. Mantle, back and wing-coverts brown. Rump whitish; tail black and white. Throat whitish with brown streaks; breast pinkish-red; flanks rufous-brown; centre of belly white. *Female:* Lacks red breast, instead fulvous streaked with dark brown; also lacks pink forehead. Rump whitish as in male.
6. (1995-1996) **TWITE** *Acanthis flavirostris* (R) Sparrow:-13cm. **Occurrence:** Stony and grassy slopes in arid country and boulder-strewn alpine meadows. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Nepal and N Sikkim; seasonally c. 1500-4800m. **ID:** *Male:* Like female European Linnet, but rump greyish-pink (*vs.* whitish). Fulvous-brown above streaked with dark brown; two buffish wing-bars. Streaked on breast; belly an unstreaked cream-buff. *Female* lacks pink on rump.
7. (2008) **DESERT FINCH** (LICHTENSTEIN'S DESERT FINCH) *Rhodospiza obsoleta* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Orchards, fallow fields and weed-patches. C Baluchistan to Chitral; up to c. 1400m. **ID:** Pale brown above, lores black. Wings blackish-brown, pink and white. Tail black with whitish outer edge and tips. Throat and

breast fulvous-brown, belly white. Black bill of *male* diagnostic in the breeding season. *Female* without black lores and has a brown bill.

8. (2009) **CRIMSON-WINGED FINCH** (CRIMSON-WINGED DESERT FINCH) *Rhodopechys sanguineus* (V/R?) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Semi-desert, rocky and scrub-covered hillsides. Chitral and Ladakh (once each); breeds in Afghanistan. **ID:** A large finch, the *male* with blackish crown, crimson face, broad buff supercilium and tawny collar on sides of neck. Mantle rufous-brown streaked with darker brown; rump pink. Wings largely pink with dark brown and white tips. *Female* has a dark brown crown, lacks pink on rump, and has less pink in plumage. Bill dull yellow in both sexes.

9. (2006) **TRUMPETER FINCH** (TRUMPETER BULLFINCH) *Bucanetes githagineus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** *Summer:* Bare hills and stony semi-desert. Baluchistan, Sind and NWFP north to Chitral. *Winter:* Makran coast, Punjab Salt Range and Rajasthan, scarce in Haryana and Gujarat. **ID:** *Male:* Crown ashy. Greyish-brown mantle washed with pink in the breeding season. Wings and rump pink; lacks white in wings (*contra* 7, 8 and 10). Tail dark brown with pale margins. Pale greyish-buff below, washed with pink in the breeding season. Bill scarlet or orange during the breeding season, dull orange-yellow in winter. *Female* without the pink wash in winter, and has only a faint pinkish flush below in summer. Bill dull yellow.

10. (2007) **MONGOLIAN FINCH** (MONGOLIAN TRUMPETER BULLFINCH) *Bucanetes mongolicus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Dry rocky or stony slopes and steep ravines. *Summer:* Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Ladakh; c. 1500-3000m. *Winter:* Baluchistan, also recorded in NW Nepal (vagrant). **ID:** Somewhat like Trumpeter Bullfinch (9) but bill brownish-yellow in *male*, is faintly streaked (*vs.* unstreaked) above, and has white in wings. *Female* with less pink plumage and streaked above unlike female Trumpeter.

Eurasian Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident and winter visitor. The red face of adult diagnostic.
Keeps in pairs when breeding, otherwise in small flocks.





PLATE 103: SNOWFINCHES AND FINCHES

1. (1955) **PLAIN-BACKED SNOWFINCH** (BLANFORD'S SNOWFINCH) *Pyrgilauda blanfordi* (R?) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Steppe country and cultivation near upland villages. Presumably resident in E Ladakh, N Nepal and Sikkim; c. 4000-5500m. **ID:** The horn-like, black lateral crown-stripes diagnostic for the species. Face white; throat, lores and eye-stripe black. Fulvous above and creamy-white below. Rufous on sides of breast.
2. (1952) **BLACK-WINGED SNOWFINCH** (TIBETAN SNOWFINCH) *Montifringilla adamsi* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Stony plateaux, boulder-strewn hillsides and neighbourhood of upland villages. **Breeding:** E Kashmir, Ladakh, N Himachal, NW Nepal and N Sikkim; c. 3600-5100m. **Winter:** Down to 2500m. **ID:** Grey-brown above and streaked. Wings blackish with white on forewing and secondaries. Central tail feathers dark brown, outer white and tipped dark brown. Cream ventrally; blackish throat-patch. See also (3).
3. (1951) **WHITE-WINGED SNOWFINCH** (PALLAS'S SNOWFINCH) *Montifringilla nivalis* (EL/R?) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Occurs in Afghanistan and could occur in adjoining areas of Pakistan and NE Kashmir. **ID:** Like Black-winged Snowfinch (2) with black on throat, but has much more white in wings and has a dark eye-stripe.
4. (1953) **WHITE-RUMPED SNOWFINCH** (MANDELLI'S SNOWFINCH) *Onychostruthus taczanowskii* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Steppe facies. SE Ladakh, NW Nepal and Sikkim; 4500-5500m. **ID:** Easily separated from the other snowfinches in flight by the white rump. Forehead, supercilium and face whitish. Lores and eye-stripe black. Wings brown with broad ashy-white outer edges and double white wing-bars. Ashy-white underparts.
5. (1954) **RUFIOUS-NECKED SNOWFINCH** *Pyrgilauda ruficollis* (R?) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open gravel plains, grassy plateaux and banks of meandering streams. Himalayas of N Nepal, N W Bengal and Sikkim; 3300-5500. **ID:** Identification clues include the rufous half-collar from breast to nape, fine malar-stripe and eye-stripe, and the dingy-white face.
6. (1999-2000) **PLAIN MOUNTAIN-FINCH** (HODGSON'S MOUNTAIN-FINCH) *Leucosticte nemoricola* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Alpine meadows, screes, moraines and dwarf scrub; also open forested slopes and fallow fields (winter). Himalayas, from N Pakistan to E Bhutan; seasonally c. 1000-5300m. **ID:** Brown streaked with darker brown above. Pale supercilium. Wings dark brown with a buff bar and buff edges to tertials. Rump grey, uppertail-coverts speckled with white.
7. (2001-2003, 2004) **BRANDT'S MOUNTAIN-FINCH** (BLACK-HEADED MOUNTAIN-FINCH, ROSY-RUMPED MOUNTAIN-FINCH) *Leucosticte brandti* (RM) Sparrow+:18cm. **Occurrence:** Desolate stony hillsides, screes, moraines and alpine meadows. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Sikkim; seasonally c. 1500-5400m. **ID:** A dark mountain-finch with rosy rump. Forehead, face and crown dark brown; rest of upperparts pale brown scalloped with sandy. Drab grey underparts.
8. (1979) **COMMON CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Orchards. Baluchistan; Himalayas from NW Pakistan to Bhutan. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and nape blue-grey. Buff-brown above; two broad white wing-bars on blackish wings. Rump greenish; tail blackish with white outer rectrices. Pinkish-brown below. Non-breeding *male* and *female* overall duller.

9. (1980) **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* (M) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Gardens and orchards. N Baluchistan, NWFP, Himalayas of Pakistan, straggling till Bhutan. **ID:** *Male* (winter): Mottled rufous-brown and black above with white rump. Breast orange, belly white. *Male* (summer): Black head and mantle. *Female:* Like male in winter, but with a greyish face and dark crown.

10. (1998) **FIRE-FRONTED SERIN** (GOLD-FRONTED SERIN) *Serinus pusillus* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Rocky hillsides with stunted bushes near cultivation. N Baluchistan; Chitral and east along the Himalayas to Nepal; seasonally c. 750-4700m. **ID:** A small dark finch easily identified by the blackish head and reddish-orange forehead. Sexes alike. *Juvenile* has a rufous head without the reddish-orange forecrown, and is overall paler and more brown streaked.

Brandt's Mountain-Finch *Leucosticte brandti*

Common resident of the Himalayas, subject to vertical movement according to weather.
Keeps in pairs or flocks in desolate stony hillsides, moraines and alpine meadows.





PLATE 104: FINCHES

- (2016) **BLANFORD'S ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus rubescens* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer or mixed conifer and birch forest. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; c. 1300-3900m. **ID:** *Male:* Crimson-brown above, brighter crimson on head and rump. Double crimson wing-bar. Differs from Common Rosefinch (3) in lacking the dark brown ear-coverts and having uniform pinkish-red on breast and belly. *Female:* Differs from all other female rosefinches except (2) in having unstreaked underparts; orange tinged rump.
- (2014-2015) **DARK-BREASTED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus nipalensis* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Forest of oak, grassy slopes. Himalayas, from W Himachal to Arunachal; Kashmir(?); seasonally c. 1200-4400m. **ID:** *Male* with forehead, forecrown and supercilium vinaceous-crimson; brown eye-band. Separated from all other rosefinches by the dark maroon breast-band. *Female* is darker than other female rosefinches and is the only other female rosefinch, besides Blanford's, with unstreaked underparts; rump brown (*contra* orange in 1).
- (2010-2013) **COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus* (RM) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Willows along streams and rocky bush-covered slopes and thorny scrub. *Summer:* N Baluchistan and Himalayas. *Winter:* Subcontinent. **ID:** *Male:* Head, throat, breast and rump crimson; rest of upperparts brownish. Lacks supercilium; brown ear-coverts. Belly and vent whitish. *Female:* Plain with two wing-bars and streaked underparts. (534).
- (2017) **PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus rodochroa* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open fir and birch forest and grassy slopes. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Sikkim; c. 600-4200m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and eye-band crimson-brown. Forehead, supercilium, rump and unstreaked underparts rose-pink. A pale wing-bar. *Female:* Olive-brown above streaked with dark brown; conspicuous pale supercilium. Below ochraceous-buff streaked with dark brown. See also (13).
- (2023-2024) **HIMALAYAN BEAUTIFUL ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron and other bushes in dry biotope. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Bhutan; also Arunachal (but see note); seasonally c. 1800-4500m. **ID:** *Male:* A paler version of the Pink-browed Rosefinch (4) and separated by the finely streaked (*vs.* unstreaked) rosy underparts and thinner eye-band. *Female:* Paler than Pink-browed with lighter ear-coverts and has a less prominent supercilium. **Note:** Race (2024) of Arunachal, with paler and with more finely streaked upperparts, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **CHINESE BEAUTIFUL ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus davidianus*.
- (2025) **DARK-RUMPED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus edwardsii* (R) Sparrow±:17cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron and silver fir forest. E Himalayas, from C Nepal to Arunachal; c. 1000-3900m. **ID:** *Male* rather dusky, the brown rump and dark breast diagnostic. Crown and eye-band dull crimson-brown. Forehead, supercilium and throat pink. Two pinkish wing-bars. *Female:* Fulvous-brown with a conspicuous buff supercilium and a double wing bar.
- (2017a) **VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus vinaceus* (R?) Sparrow-:13cm. **Occurrence:** Bamboo forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Nepal; seasonally c. 1000-3200m. **ID:** *Male:* Overall deep crimson with a conspicuous pale supercilium. Wings brown with white spots on tertials diagnostic. *Female:* Olive-brown with indistinct darker streaks; diagnostic spots on tertials buff.
- (2019) **SPOT-WINGED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus rodopeplus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Grassy hillsides with bushes. Himalayas from Uttarakhand to Nepal.

ID: *Male:* Crimson-brown above with dark brown streaks. Dark pink below with streaks on breast. The shiny, pale pink supercilium, pink rump and two pink wing-bars help identify the male. *Female:* Ochraceous brown, streaked with dark brown above. Buffy, streaked with dark brown below. Two pale wing-bars and a prominent whitish supercilium. Broad eye-band (mask) diagnostic for both sexes.

9. (2026) **THREE-BANDED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus trifasciatus* (EL/R?) Bulbul:17cm. **Occurrence:** Orchards and hedges. Probably occurs in Bhutan (one sight record) and Arunachal; resident in SE Tibet. **ID:** The striking wing pattern aids identification in both sexes. *Male:* Overall crimson, centre of belly white. Forehead, face and throat streaked with silvery-white. *Female:* Dark grey above; rump yellow. Olive-yellow below and streaked with dark brown. [**Hy-PCR**].

10. (2020-2022) **HIMALAYAN WHITE-BROWED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus thura* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Light fir, juniper and rhododendron forest. NWFP; Himalayas of Pakistan to E Bhutan; also Arunachal (but see note); c. 1800-4200m. **ID:** *Male:* Broad pink and white supercilium, the white end to the pink supercilium diagnostic. Fine white streaks on face, throat and breast. *Female:* Brown above streaked with darker brown, whitish below with streaks. Has a broad white supercilium, a fine whitish wing-bar and diagnostic olive-yellow rump. Race *blythi* (10b) is the palest in both sexes. **Note:** Race (2022), which probably occurs in Arunachal, is treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*. **CHINESE WHITE-BROWED ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus dubius*.

11. (2027) **SPOTTED GREAT ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus severtzovi* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Boulder-strewn ground with sparse vegetation. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Sikkim; seasonally c. 1500-5000m. **ID:** *Male:* Forehead and crown bright red, spotted with white. Upperparts including rump an unstreaked pink. Underparts rosy-red spotted with white, fading to pink on belly and flanks. *Female:* Pale brown streaked with darker brown above; whitish with brown streaks below.

12. (2028) **STREAKED GREAT ROSEFINCH** (STREAKED ROSEFINCH) *Carpodacus rubicilloides* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub in arid country. Northern Himalayas and Tibetan plateau from Ladakh east to Bhutan; breeding c. 3700-5200m. **ID:** *Male:* Like Spotted Great Rosefinch, but is darker above and distinctly streaked (vs. unstreaked) with dark brown. *Female:* Overall darker than Spotted Great Rosefinch (11).

13. (2018) **BLYTH'S ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus grandis* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Bushes and shrubs in dry biotope, gardens and cultivation (winter). *Summer:* Mountains of N Baluchistan and Himalayas of Pakistan to N Himachal; up to 3800m. *Winter:* Foothills of Pakistan Himalayas and Uttarakhand. **ID:** *Male:* A larger edition of the Pink-browed Rosefinch (4). *Female:* Like female (12).

14. (2029-2031) **RED-FRONTED ROSEFINCH** *Pyrrospiza punicea* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Steep, rugged mountain sides. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; seasonally c. 1500-5200m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown brown; forehead, supercilium and face red; brown eye-band. Crimson on underparts till mid-belly, rest brownish. *Female:* Grey-brown above streaked with dark brown.

15. (2033) **CRIMSON-BROWED FINCH** (CRIMSON-BROWED ROSEFINCH) *Propyrrhula subhimachala* (R) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest with dense bush undergrowth. Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1800-4200m. **ID:** The crimson and fine white-spotted breast (in *male*) or pure yellowish breast (in *female*), contrasting with the unstreaked greyish-brown underparts diagnostic. Upperparts tinged with crimson in *male* and yellow in *female*. Rump reddish in *male* and greenish-yellow in *female*.

Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi*

The male is a brilliant scarlet overall with brown wings and tail. Female dark brown.
Resident in the Himalayas east of Himachal; subject to altitudinal movements
according to weather conditions.





PLATE 105: FINCHES

1. (2032) **RED CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Coniferous forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to Bhutan, and Arunachal(?); c. 2700-4000m, rarely down to 1500m in winter. **ID:** Distinguished by the unique crossed mandibles. *Male:* Rusty-red, crown blotched with brown; dark wings and tail. *Female:* Streaked dark brown above with an olive-yellow wash; rump yellow. *Juvenile* is greyish with dark streaks.
2. (2034) **SCARLET FINCH** *Haematospiza sipahi* (R) Bulbul-:18cm. **Occurrence:** Open conifer forest. Himalayas, from Himachal east to Arunachal; south through Meghalaya; c. 1600-2400m. **ID:** *Male:* Overall brilliant scarlet with dark wings and tail and a thin eye-stripe. *Female:* Dark scaly grey-brown above and below. Olive on throat; rump either bright yellow or yellowish-orange.
3. (1997) **SPECTACLED FINCH (RED-BROWED FINCH)** *Callacanthis burtoni* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Open forest of fir, pine, deodar and birch. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to Sikkim; c. 800-3000m. **ID:** Overall brown, female paler and less rufous. Crown black in *male* and dark brown in *female*. The white-spotted wings and crimson (*male*) or yellow (*female*) 'spectacles' diagnostic. *Juvenile* pale brown with buff spectacles.
4. (2036-2037) **BROWN BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula nipalensis* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Dense fir, oak and rhododendron forest. Himalayas, from Himachal to NC Arunachal; NE hill states; c. 1500-3900m. **ID:** A greyish-brown bullfinch with a scaly crown and a narrow white rump. The nominate race has a white patch below the eye, less apparent or obsolete in race *ricketti*.
5. (2040) **ORANGE BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula aurantiaca* (R) Sparrow±:14cm. **Occurrence:** Open fir, birch and mixed forest. *Summer:* W Himalayas from N Pakistan to Kashmir. *Winter:* Himachal, Uttarakhand(?); c. 1600-2700m. **ID:** *Male* is ochraceous-orange; rump and vent white. *Subadult male* is yellowish. *Female* has the crown, nape and ear-coverts grey. Mantle and breast yellowish-brown; belly dull yellow-orange.
6. (2039) **RED-HEADED BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous forest. Himalayas, from SE Kashmir to Bhutan; c. 1500-4200m. **ID:** *Male:* Crown and nape red; mantle grey. Face, throat, breast and flanks rusty-red, grey in *subadult male*. Rump white; belly ashy; undertail-coverts white. *Female:* Overall grey, the crown and nape is yellowish-olive.
7. (2038) **BEAVAN'S BULLFINCH (GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH)** *Pyrrhula erythaca* (R) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Conifer and rhododendron forest. E Himalayas, from N W Bengal to Bhutan; also C Nepal to NE Arunachal; c. 2000-3800m. **ID:** *Male:* Like male Red-headed Bullfinch (6), but has a grey head. Orange on breast and flanks. *Female:* Like male but has upper and underparts washed with brown. Lacks the yellowish crown-nape of female Red-headed Bullfinch (6).
8. (1981) **HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (M) Sparrow±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Groves, orchards, gardens and wooded foothills. N Baluchistan; Himalayas of N Pakistan to W Kashmir. **ID:** A stout, tawny-brown finch with a huge bill and a broad ashy collar on hindneck. A small black mask. White at shoulders and tail tip. Attains black head and wings in (extralimital) breeding grounds, pale bill turns black.
9. (2035) **GOLD-NAPED BLACK FINCH (GOLD-NAPED FINCH)** *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Rhododendron and bamboo undergrowth.

Himalayas, from Nepal to Arunachal, also Himachal (?); *c.* 1400-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* Overall blackish with orange-yellow crown. The white on inner tertials show as a distinctive white line. *Female:* Head olive-green, mantle grey; rest of body rufous-brown with blackish wings and tail.

10. (1982) **BLACK-AND-YELLOW GROSBEAK** *Mycerobas icterioides* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Pine, silver fir and deodar forest. Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to W Nepal; *c.* 1800-3500m. **ID:** *Male:* A large black and yellow, massive-billed finch. The colour pattern is almost identical with that of Collared Grosbeak (11), but thighs black (*vs.* yellow) and has a paler orange-chrome collar on mantle. *Female:* Drab grey above and on breast. Lacks collar on hindneck seen in *female* Collared Grosbeak (11). Rump and belly buff.

11. (1983) **COLLARED GROSBEAK** *Mycerobas affinis* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Oak, rhododendron, or mixed conifer and broadleaved forest. Himalayas, from W Himachal to Arunachal; *c.* 1800-4200. **ID:** *Male:* See Black and Yellow Grosbeak (10). *Female:* Head and throat dark grey, otherwise olive-green, more yellowish on collar and rump. Wings and tail blackish.

12. (1986) **SPOT-WINGED GROSBEAK** *Mycerobas melanozanthos* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed conifer and broadleaved forest. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; Mizoram, Meghalaya(?); *c.* 600-3600m. **ID:** *Male:* A large black and yellow finch with a massive bill and white spots on wings. Rump black (*vs.* yellowish-olive in 13). Throat and upper breast blackish, rest of underparts yellow. *Female:* Yellow, boldly streaked all over with blackish; white spots on wings. See also (13).

13. (1984-1985) **WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK** *Mycerobas carnipes* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Fir, rhododendron or juniper and mixed forest. Baluchistan; Himalayas, from NW Pakistan to W Arunachal; *c.* 1500-4200m. **ID:** *Male:* Like Spot-winged Grosbeak (12), differs in having the rump yellowish-olive (*vs.* black), more extensive black on underparts and lacks the white spots in wing except for a carpal-patch. *Female:* Head and mantle grey; grey-brown wings with a white carpal patch; wax-yellow rump. Easily separated from similar female Black-and-Yellow and Collared grosbeaks by the white carpal patch.

Black-and-Yellow Grosbeak *Mycerobas icterioides* (above: female, centre: male).
Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* (below: female)

Grosbeaks are massive-billed finches occurring in broad-leaved and conifer forests of the Himalayas. The striking black and yellow males of the Black-and-Yellow and Collared grosbeaks are almost identical, but the black thighs of the former are a quick 'give away'. The female Black-and-Yellow Grosbeak lacks the collar on the hindneck seen in the more drab female Collared Grosbeak, giving it a distinct grey 'hood'.





PLATE 106: MUNIAS

1. (1964) **RED AVADAVAT** (RED MUNIA) *Amandava amandava* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy reed-beds, tall grasslands, sugarcane fields, gardens and around villages. Endemic. Sub-Himalayas terai and duars; Pakistan east to Bangladesh; and south to mostly the moister and plains areas of Peninsula. **ID:** *Male:* A red-billed, brown and crimson munia, spotted with white. *Female:* Brown with white-spotted wing-bars; bill and rump red. *Juvenile* like female with pink bill, but lacks the red rump; wing-bars buffy. (527).
2. (1965) **GREEN AVADAVAT** (GREEN MUNIA) *Amandava formosa* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Grass and low bushes, sugarcane fields and boulder-strewn scrub jungle. Mainly C India from Rajasthan (Mt. Abu) to Bihar and S Uttar Pradesh to N Andhra. **ID:** *Male:* A red-billed munia, olive-green above and yellow below. Tail blackish-brown; flanks barred with olive-brown and white. *Female:* Browner above, duller and paler below. *Juvenile:* Brownish with pink bill; lacks wing-bar seen in juvenile (1). (528).
3. (1976-1977) **CHESTNUT MUNIA** *Lonchura atricapilla* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation, tall grass and swampy areas. N and NE India; Bangladesh; south to Bihar and N Orissa. **ID:** Bill bluish-grey. Hood black, rest of upperparts rufous-chestnut. Centre of belly, vent, undertail-coverts and thighs black; breast and flanks chestnut. Sexes alike. *Juvenile* brownish above, paler below with a bluish bill. **Note:** The former white-bellied race (1978: 3b), endemic and distributed in the Peninsula (south of Gujarat to S Orissa) and Sri Lanka, is now treated as a species: **TRICOLOURED MUNIA** *Lonchura malacca*. (533).
4. (1974-1975) **SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA** (SPOTTED MUNIA) *Lonchura punctulata* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Open woodland, bush-clad hillsides, grassland, gardens and cultivation. Subcontinent; in Pakistan occupying a narrow foothill zone; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Head, throat, upper breast and upperparts chestnut-brown. Lower breast, flanks and rump speckled black and white; belly white. *Juvenile* like juvenile (3), but bill dark. Sexes alike. (532).
5. (1971-1973) **BLACK-THROATED MUNIA** *Lonchura kelaarti* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub, grassland, fallow fields in forest clearings, cultivation and near settlements. Endemic. W Ghats south of the Palghat Gap; NE Ghats of Orissa and N Andhra; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Somewhat like (4) but more blackish above than chestnut-brown. The Sri Lankan race *kelaarti* (5b) has scaly underparts and rump like (4); the peninsular race *jerdoni* (5a) is plain brown below. *Immature* is dull brown above and faintly scaled below (*kelaarti*), or plain below (*jerdoni*) with very fine white streaks. Sexes alike. (531).
6. (1966) **INDIAN SILVERBILL** (WHITE-THROATED MUNIA) *Euodice malabarica* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation, grassland, sparsely scrubbed country and light secondary jungle. Foothills and plains of Pakistan, continental and peninsular India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; not NE hill states. **ID:** A plain earthy-brown munia with a long and pointed blackish tail. Whitish underparts and rump. Bill pale bluish. Sexes alike. (529).
7. (1967-1970) **WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA** *Lonchura striata* (R) Sparrow-:10cm. **Occurrence:** Open country, light scrub jungle and secondary growth. Himalayan foothills, from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal; NE India; Bangladesh; moister parts of continental and peninsular India especially W Ghats and NE Peninsula; Sri Lanka; Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Like (5), but lower back is whitish. Dark bluish bill. Underparts white, buff to fine scally. Sexes alike. (530).
8. (1978a.) **JAVA SPARROW** *Padda oryzivora* (R-Introduced). Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Paddy fields, gardens and reed-beds. Colombo, Kolkata, earlier Chennai (no records for past several decades). **ID:** Unmistakable. Sexes alike.



PLATE 107: SPARROWS AND BAYAS

1. (1938-1939a) **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus* (R) 15cm. **Occurrence:** Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. Introduced to Maldives and Andamans, Nicobars(?). **ID:** *Male:* Crown grey; lores, borders of eyes and throat black. Sides of crown and nape chestnut; cheeks white. Mantle rufous-chestnut, black streaked. Wing rufous with a broad, white wing-bar. Rump grey-brown; tail dark brown. *Female:* Greyish-brown above, streaked with fulvous and dark brown except on head. A pale supercilium. **(521)**.
2. (1940) **SPANISH SPARROW** *Passer hispaniolensis* (M) Sparrow:15cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation and semi-desert. Plains of NW Pakistan and NW India; also reported from Nepal, Uttar Pradesh and Baluchistan. **ID:** The chestnut crown and conspicuously streaked flanks and black streaks on mantle separate the *male* from male House Sparrow. *Female* like female House Sparrow, but has fine streaks on underparts.
3. (1941-1944) **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* (R) Sparrow:15cm. **Occurrence:** Villages and fields, near human settlement. N Baluchistan; NWF; Himalayas; NE hill states; Bangladesh; E Ghats in N Andhra; foothills to c. 2700m. **ID:** Identification pointers include the chocolate-brown crown and nape and the black patch on white ear-coverts. Sexes alike.
4. (1947a) **DEAD SEA SPARROW** *Passer moabiticus* (R/M?) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Scrub of *Prosopis*, *Rubus*, *Tamarix*. N Baluchistan. **ID:** Identification pointers for *male* include the grey crown, nape and face, pale supercilium, the yellow wash on underparts, and the rufous-chestnut wing-panel with two buff bars. In *female*, the white supercilium, two wing-bars and yellow wash to underparts are identification clues.
5. (1945) **SIND SPARROW** *Passer pyrrhonotus* (R) Sparrow-:12cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed tamarisk, acacia and grass jungle along rivers and canals, and around jheels and marshes. Endemic. Flood plains of the Indus in Pakistan Punjab and Sind; also Indian Punjab to Delhi. **ID:** *Male:* Like House Sparrow, but is smaller, smaller-billed and with black restricted to chin and throat; lacks chestnut on nape. *Female:* Like female House Sparrow, but is smaller, more grey, and has a broader and brighter supercilium.
6. (1946-1947) **CINNAMON SPARROW** (CINNAMON TREE SPARROW, RUSSET SPARROW) *Passer rutilans* (R) Sparrow:15cm. **Occurrence:** Light forest of oak and rhododendron and terraced cultivation near villages. Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; seasonally foothills to c. 2700m. **ID:** In *male*, the reddish-brown crown and nape, rufous rump and yellowish wash on underparts are identification clues. *Female* has streaked-brown mantle, dark crown, cream supercilium and yellowish underparts.
7. (1950) **ROCK SPARROW** *Petronia petronia* (M) Sparrow+:17cm. **Occurrence:** Stony or rocky ground. N Pakistan, also northern parts of Baluchistan and Sind. **ID:** Stocky with a stout bill. Pale brown above streaked with darker brown. Broad pale supercilium, bordered by dark lateral crown- and eye-stripe. Tail tipped white. Ventrally brownish-white with darker streaks; yellow patch on centre of throat (absent in young birds). Sexes alike.
8. (1948-1949) **YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW** (CHESTNUT-SHOULDERED PETRONIA) *Petronia xanthocollis* (R) Sparrow-:14cm. **Occurrence:** Dry-deciduous forest, scrub, thorn jungle. Most of Subcontinent from Himalayan foothills, not desert region of

NW India, NE India and Bangladesh; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Grey-brown above, wings and tail darker. Chestnut shoulder-patch; two whitish wing-bars. Pale grey-brown ventrally; yellow throat-patch. *Female:* Throat-patch paler; shoulder-patch is rufous (*contra* chestnut). **(522)**.

9. (1961) **BLACK-BREASTED WEAVER** (BLACK-THROATED WEAVER) *Ploceus benghalensis* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy reed-beds. Endemic. Indus valley of Pakistan, N, NE and Continental India; Bangladesh. **ID:** *Breeding male* with crown golden-yellow. Throat usually pale, sometimes dark. Cheeks usually dark, sometimes whitish. The dark breast-band, less distinct or incomplete in *non-breeding male* and *female*, separates the species from other weavers. **(525)**.

10. (1960-1960a) **FINN'S WEAVER** *Ploceus megarhynchus* (R) Sparrow+:16cm. **Occurrence:** Sub-Himalayan terai country with marshes, *sarpat* and *Saccharum* grass sparsely dotted with isolated trees. Endemic. Uttarakhand terai, east to Nepal, W Bengal and W Assam; escapees near Delhi. **ID:** *Breeding male* has head and nape bright yellow with contrasting dark brown ear-coverts. Dark brown above and broadly streaked. Rump is yellow or brown. Throat and breast yellow; belly either yellow or whitish. *Breeding female* is paler. Head and nape either yellowish or brownish suffused with yellow; upperparts rich brown and streaked. Pale canary-yellow or fulvous-white below. *Non-breeding* birds are overall brown without tinge of yellow. **(524)**.

11. (1962-1963) **STREAKED WEAVER** *Ploceus manyar* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Swampy reed-beds in cultivated lowland. Pakistan; N and NE India; Bangladesh; capriciously in the Peninsula; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding male* with golden-yellow crown and nape; face and throat blackish. The boldly streaked breast diagnostic. *Female* and *non-breeding male* have yellowish supercilium, continued as a loop around the brownish ear-coverts. **(526)**.

12. (1957-1959) **BAYA WEAVER** *Ploceus philippinus* (R) Sparrow±:15cm. **Occurrence:** Open cultivation, grassland and secondary scrub. Subcontinent except desert region of NW; Sri Lanka. **ID:** *Breeding male* has both the crown and breast (12a) or only the crown (12b) yellow. Blackish face. Dark brown and broadly streaked upperparts. Throat either blackish or cream-buff; ventrally cream-buff. *Female:* Crown, mantle and wings yellowish-buff streaked with dark brown. Supercilium and face yellowish-buff. Throat white, tinged with yellow. Breast and upper belly yellowish-buff with brown streaks on flanks; cream-buff lower belly.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Usually found in or near human habitations, but in winter often collects in large flocks – sometimes mixed with migratory subspecies and of enormous 'pest' proportions – feeding in the countryside, in standing crops or in open scrub jungle.





PLATE 108: STARLINGS AND MYNAS

1. (985-986a) **ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING** *Aplonis panayensis* (R) Myna±:22cm. **Occurrence:** Forest and coconut groves. Andaman and Nicobars, Meghalaya, Assam and Bangladesh. **ID:** A small, black starling brilliantly green-glossed all over; scarlet-crimson eyes. *Juvenile* has black-streaked white underparts and yellowish-white eyes. **(368)**.
2. (984) **SPOT-WINGED STARLING** *Saroglossa spiloptera* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Open tall forest. *Summer:* W and C Himalayan foothills. *Winter:* Assam south to NE hill states and C Bangladesh. **ID:** *Male:* Brownish-grey above scalloped with black; dark mask; white patch on blackish wings. Chin and throat deep chestnut-rufous; rufous-buff breast and flanks, belly white. *Female:* Sooty-brown above; whitish below with streaks on throat and breast; white spot on wing. **(364)**.
3. (990-992) **ANDAMAN WHITE-HEADED STARLING** (WHITE-HEADED STARLING) *Sturnia erythropygia* (R) Myna:21cm. **Occurrence:** Forest and secondary jungle. Endemic to Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** Head, neck and belly white; pale blue eyes. Mantle and scapulars pale grey. Wings and tail blackish. Rump, lower belly, vent and undertail-coverts either rufous or faintly-tinged rufous.
4. (987, 989) **GREY-HEADED STARLING** (CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING) *Sturnia malabarica* (R) Myna:21cm. **Occurrence:** Thinly wooded country and secondary jungle. Continental and peninsular India; has wandered in winter to Lower Sind and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A silvery-grey and rufous starling with whitish eyes. Hood silvery-grey, mantle and wings grey-rufous, tail largely ferruginous. Breast and underparts bright rufous, but is almost whitish with only a pale rosy vent in NE hill birds. **(365)**.
5. (988) **MALABAR WHITE-HEADED STARLING** *Sturnia blythii* (R) Myna:21cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. W Ghats from Goa south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu; a few records north of Mumbai. **ID:** Like Grey-headed Starling (4), but head, throat and breast more whitish. Underparts rufous.
6. (994) **BRAHMINY STARLING** *Temenuchus pagodarum* (R) Myna:22cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest and scrub jungle, and near cultivation and habitations. Himalayas of Pakistan to Himachal, southwards (from Himachal) to Gujarat and east and south through the Subcontinent except NE; N Sri Lanka (migrant). **ID:** A crested starling, grey-brown above and orangish-buff below. Forehead, crown, nape and long pointed crest glossy-black. Tail brown with white edges. **(366)**.
7. (995) **DAURIAN STARLING** (PURPLE-BACKED STARLING) *Sturnia sturnina* (V) Myna:19cm. **Occurrence:** Isolated records from N Pakistan (Chitral), Nepal, S India, Andamans (on a ship) and Nicobars (Camorta), and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A small greyish starling with a purplish mantle, metallic-greenish tail and wings; two whitish wing-bars. Head grey with a purple patch on nape. Rump and vent cinnamon.
8. (993) **SRI LANKAN STARLING** (WHITE-FACED STARLING) *Sturnia albofrontata* (R) Myna:22cm. **Occurrence:** Tall forest edges and clearings. Endemic to Sri Lanka (SW). **ID:** Forehead and face white. Crown and rest of upperparts blackish-slate. Feathers of nape and sides of neck white-shafted. Chin and throat white, below dusky grey paling to whitish on belly and undertail coverts.
9. (997-1001) **COMMON STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* (M) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivation, and vicinity of habitations. *Summer:* Indus valley, NWFP, and

Punjab to Kashmir. *Winter*: Pakistan and N India, east to Bangladesh; most of Peninsula but scarce towards south and east; Maldives. **ID**: A gregarious, slim, glossy-black, yellow-billed starling with metallic green and purple reflections and finely stippled with whitish. Feathers of head, neck and breast pointed and hackle-like. Duller and heavily spotted all over in winter. *Juvenile* is muddy-brown.

10. (996) **ROSY STARLING** *Sturnus roseus* (M) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Open cultivation and semi-desert. Subcontinent, no definite records from NE region; Sri Lanka; Andamans. **ID**: A rose-pink starling with glistening black hood, crest, wings, thighs, vent and tail. Bill and legs reddish. Colours turn drab during winter. *Juvenile* crestless, pale sandy-brown with darker wings and tail. **(367)**.

11. (1002-1004) **ASIAN PIED STARLING** *Gracupica contra* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Open country and cultivation. From NE Pakistan east to NE India and Bangladesh, south through Madhya Pradesh to Deccan. **ID**: A large, pied myna with orange-red orbital-skin, orange-yellow bill and large white cheeks. **(369)**.

12. (1006-1007) **COMMON MYNA** *Acridotheres tristis* (R) 23cm. **Occurrence**: Neighbourhood of homesteads, villages and cities. Subcontinent; Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobars, Lakshadweep and Maldives. **ID**: A dark brown myna with glossy black head, yellow legs, bill and orbital-skin. A large white wing-patch seen in flight. **(370)**.

13. (1005) **WHITE-SHOULDERED STARLING** *Sturnia sinensis* (V/EL?) Bulbul±:20cm. **Occurrence**: Record based only of an old sighting of a flock in Manipur. A small, greyish and black myna with a large white patch on shoulder; tail edged white. **[Hy-PCR]**.

14. (1008) **BANK MYNA** *Acridotheres ginginianus* (R) Myna-:21cm. **Occurrence**: Neighbourhood of human habitation. Endemic. Eastern Pakistan; east to Assam, Meghalaya and Bangladesh and south to Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and recently recorded from N Andhra. **ID**: Like Common Myna, but smaller and overall pale bluish-grey with reddish-orange orbital-skin. Wing-patch and tips of tail feathers pinkish-buff. A distinct tuft on forehead. **(371)**.

15. (1009-1011) **JUNGLE MYNA** *Acridotheres fuscus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Well-wooded country in the vicinity of cultivation and villages. Foothills of Himalayas, from N Pakistan to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh. Patchily in continental and peninsular India especially along the W and E Ghats and NE Peninsula forests; foothills up to c. 2000m. **ID**: Prominent tuft of erect feathers at base of bill on forehead; lacks orbital-skin. Somewhat like White-vented Myna (18), but less blackish and has a smaller tuft on forehead. **(372)**.

16. (1014) **GOLD-CRESTED MYNA** *Ampeliceps coronatus* (R) Myna±:21cm. **Occurrence**: Moist deciduous and semi-evergreen open forest and cultivation clearings. Manipur and Assam. **ID**: A glossy, black myna with golden-yellow crested forehead, crown and throat; orange-yellow orbital-skin. *Female* has less extent of yellow in plumage. *Juvenile* has whole head blackish with a wash of yellow on white throat and pale yellow orbital-skin. **(373)**.

17. (1013) **COLLARED MYNA** *Acridotheres albocinctus* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Meadows, elephant grass and vicinity of cultivation and villages. Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. **ID**: Somewhat like Jungle (15) and White-vented (18) mynas, but whitish collar at sides of neck and white-scaled vent diagnostic.

18. (1012) **WHITE-VENTED MYNA** (ORANGE-BILLED JUNGLE MYNA, GREAT MYNA) *Acridotheres grandis* (R) Myna±:23cm. **Occurrence**: Semi-cultivation, tall grass and

near villages. Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram to the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh; up to *c.* 1300m. **ID:** Like Jungle Myna, but is overall blackish with a more developed tuft on forehead, vent more pure white and clear-cut. *Juvenile* has a small tuft.

19. (1015, 1017-1018) **COMMON HILL-MYNA** *Gracula religiosa* (R) Myna±:29cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and semi-evergreen forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong); NE Peninsula; Andaman and Nicobars. **ID:** A large, jet-black myna with bright orange-yellow wattles on cheek and nape. See also (20) and (21).

20. (1016) **LESSER HILL-MYNA** (SOUTHERN HILL-MYNA) *Gracula indica* (R) Myna±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Endemic. W Ghats south of Maharashtra; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like larger Common Hill-Myna (19), but the nape-wattle extends to hind-crown and does not join the cheek-wattle; finer bill.

21. (1019) **SRI LANKAN HILL-MYNA** *Gracula ptilogenys* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** High trees in forest and cultivation. Endemic to Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like Common Hill-Myna (19), but wattle only on nape and has blue at base of the slimmer bill.

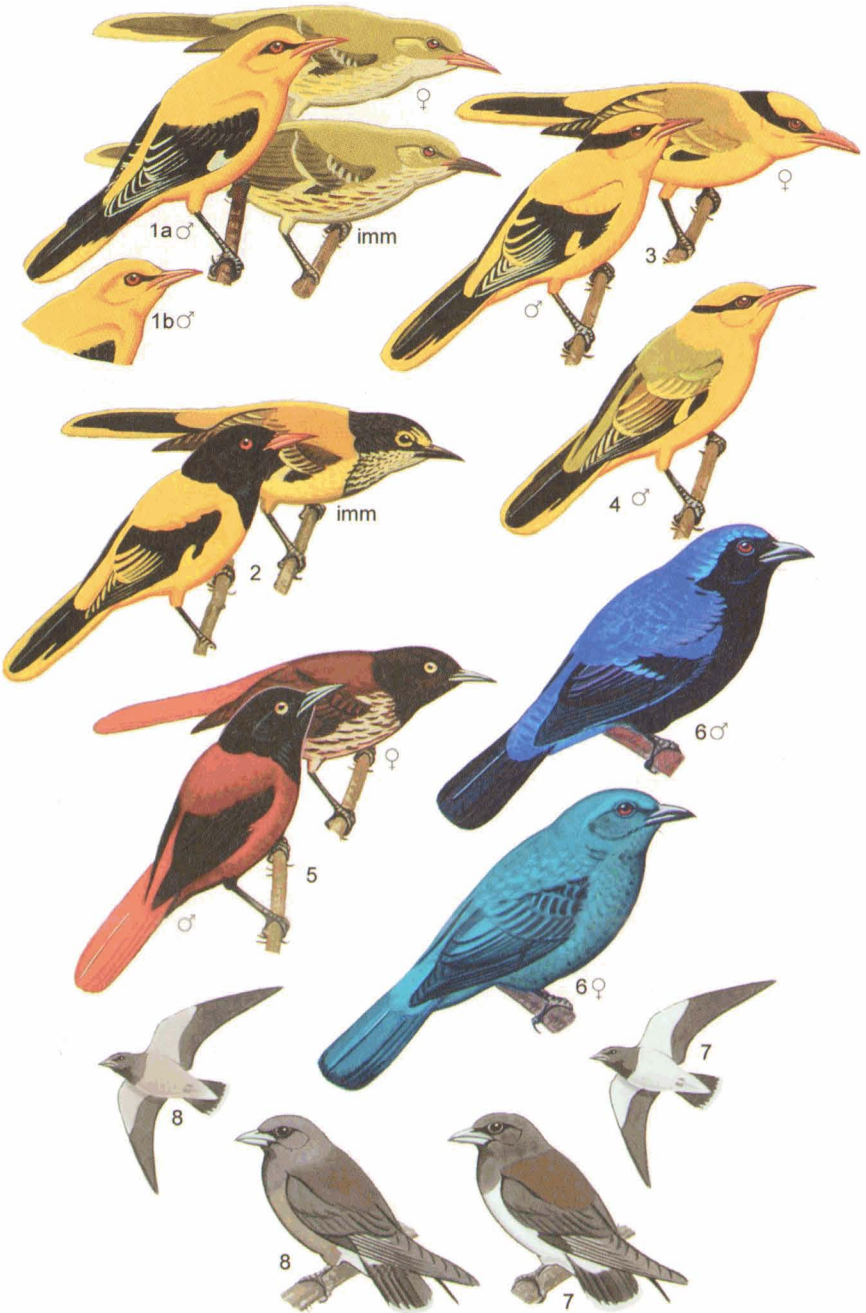


PLATE 109: ORIOLES, FAIRY-BLUEBIRD AND WOODSWALLOWS

1. (953) **INDIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus kundoo* (RM) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and semi-evergreen biotope. Groves, cultivation and gardens. Subcontinent, except arid NW, NE hill states and Bangladesh; Sri Lanka, Maldives(?), Andamans(?). **ID:** *Male:* Golden-yellow with black in wings and tail. *Female* is duller and greenish-yellow with underparts paler and streaked with dull brown. *Juvenile* is like female, but more heavily streaked below and with a blackish bill. **Note:** In similar **EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus* (952: 1b), a vagrant with records from Ladakh, coastal Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives(?) and Andamans(?), the black eye-stripe does not extend behind the eye; bill also shorter. **(352).**
2. (958-960a) **BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE** (BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE) *Oriolus xanthornus* (R) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical moist-deciduous biotope. Light forest, plantations, village groves and gardens. Himalayan foothills and subcontinent east of Himachal and Gujarat and till the southern tip of Peninsula; Sri Lanka and Andamans. **ID:** Unmistakable, the *female* tinged with olive above. *Immature birds* with yellow forehead and black-streaked chin and throat. **(354).**
3. (954, 956-957) **BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE** *Oriolus chinensis* (RM) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed deciduous and evergreen jungle, plantations and gardens. Resident in Andaman and Nicobars; winter visitor to especially NE and Peninsula; Sri Lanka (vagrant). **ID:** Like Indian Golden Oriole, but has a thick eye-stripe that extends behind to meet over nape. See also very similar Slender-billed Oriole (4).
4. (955) **SLENDER-BILLED ORIOLE** *Oriolus tenuirostris* (RM) Myna+:25cm. **Occurrence:** Pine forest and semi-evergreen jungle. Reports primarily from E Himalayan foothills, Assam, NE hill states and Bangladesh; *c.* 1500-2100m. **ID:** Differs from Black-naped Oriole in the eye-stripe being narrower at the nape and in the more slender bill. Mantle, back and rump greenish-yellow in both sexes (*contra* yellow in male and yellow-olive in female in Black-naped Oriole). Female is faintly streaked on nape and breast. **(353).**
5. (961) **MAROON ORIOLE** *Oriolus traillii* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. Lower Himalayas from Himachal east; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong region); up to *c.* 2400m. **ID:** *Male:* Glossy crimson-maroon with black hood and wings. *Female* and *immature* is browner with throat either blackish, or greyish and streaked with black as rest of underparts. **(355).**
6. (1109-1110) **ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD** *Irena puella* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Distribution disjunct: E Himalayan foothills from Nepal east; NE hill states and hills of Bangladesh; up to *c.* 1200m; Andaman and Nicobars; southern E Ghats and NE Orissa; and W Ghats south of Mumbai, up to *c.* 1800m; **ID:** *Male:* Brilliant ultramarine-blue above, deep velvety-black below with blue vent. *Female:* Dull blue-green with blackish lores. **(397).**
7. (983) **WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus leucorhynchus* (R) Bulbul±:18cm. **Occurrence:** Open wooded country, forest clearings and plantations. Andamans **ID:** Slaty-hood. Purplish grey-brown above, wings and tail ashy-black. Rump, uppertail-coverts, lower breast and abdomen white. Bill bluish.
8. (982) **ASHY WOODSWALLOW** *Artamus fuscus* (R) Bulbul±:19cm. **Occurrence:** Open dry- and moist-deciduous country, closely associated with toddy palm. Subcontinent from foothills of Himalayas east of Himachal to tip of Peninsula, not Pakistan and arid NW India; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Like (7), but darker above, has vineous-grey underparts, and has only the edge of uppertail coverts (and not also rump) white. **(363).**

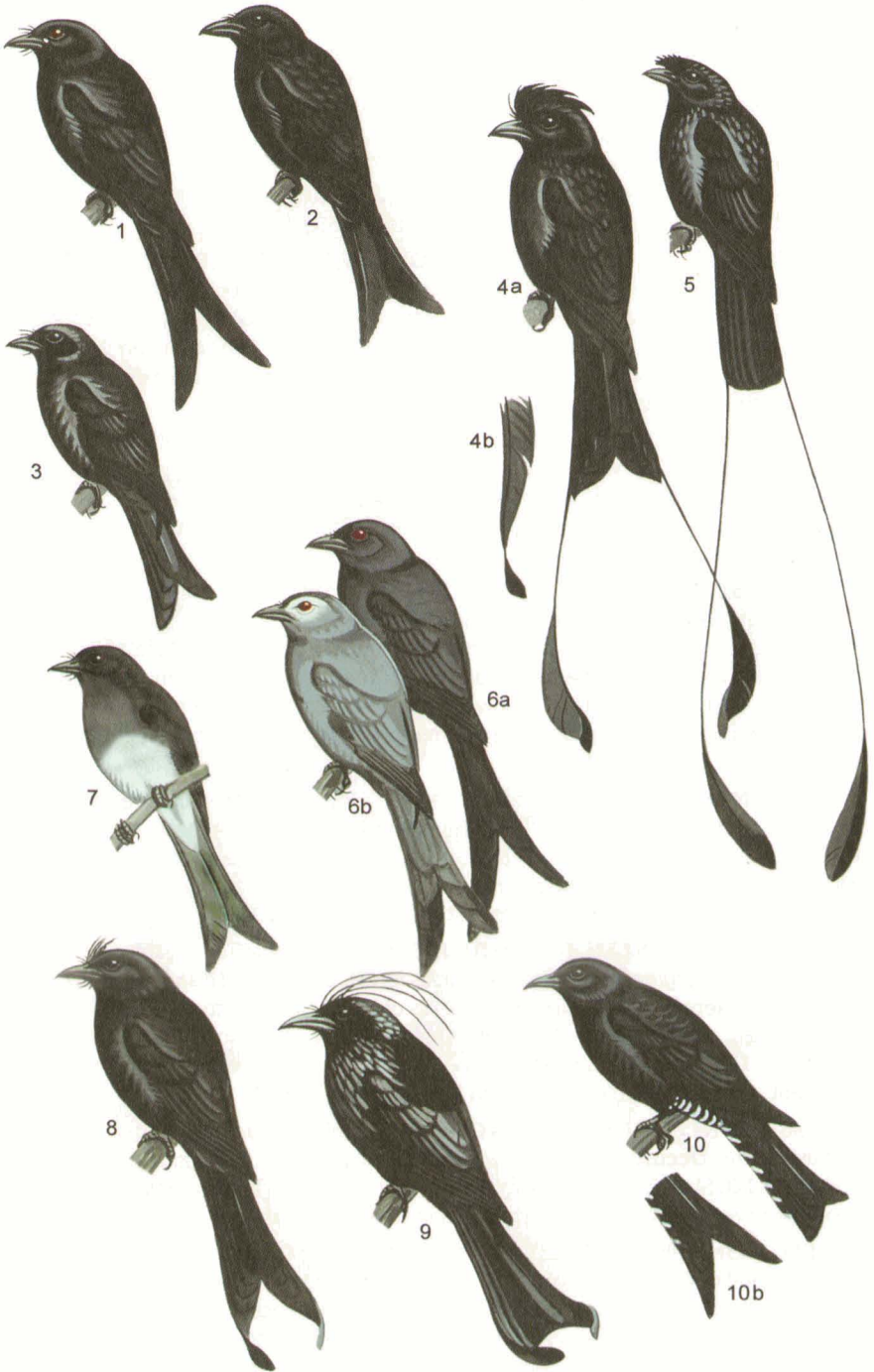


PLATE 110: DRONGOS AND DRONGO-CUCKOOS

1. (962-964) **BLACK DRONGO** *Dicrurus macrocercus* (R) Bulbul+:31cm. **Occurrence:** Open deciduous forest and cultivation. Most of Subcontinent; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Slim, glossy, jet-black with long deeply forked tail; white rictal spot usually present. Young birds have white edges to black underparts and are a duller black. The Ashy Drongo (6) is slimmer, has brighter crimson eyes, always lacks the white rictal spot and has dark grey underparts. **(356).**
2. (970) **CROW-BILLED DRONGO** *Dicrurus annectans* (R) Myna+:27cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen, moist-deciduous and sal forest. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; up to c. 600m; NE hill states; Bangladesh. **ID:** Like Black Drongo (1), but more stocky, larger billed, and tail is shorter and less deeply forked. *Juvenile* is paler black and mottled with white below. Larger, larger-billed and with a more triangular (*vs.* forked) tail than Bronzed Drongo (3). **(359).**
3. (971) **BRONZED DRONGO** *Dicrurus aeneus* (R) Bulbul+:24cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical evergreen and moist-deciduous forest. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE India; Bangladesh; E and W Ghats and associated hills in Tamil Nadu; up to c. 2000m. **ID:** A small, black forest drongo, highly glossed with bronze-green and blue. See also (2).
4. (976-981) **GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** *Dicrurus paradiseus* (R) Myna±:35cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and evergreen forest. Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh; most of Peninsula east of Gujarat and southwards; Andaman and Nicobars and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large metallic-black drongo with a conspicuous backward curving crest on forehead and two furled, spatula-tipped streamers. Streamers absent during moult and in *immature*. The crest is most well-defined in Himalayan birds and smaller in the Peninsula, Sri Lankan and Andaman and Nicobar races; also shorter in *immature*. Illustration (4b) shows the furled outertail feather (lacking spatula) of race *lophorhinus* of the SW wet zone of Sri Lanka, treated as a species in *The Ripley Guide*: **SRI LANKAN CRESTED DRONGO** *Dicrurus lophorhinus*. See also Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (5). **(362).**
5. (972) **LESSER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** *Dicrurus remifer* (R) Myna+:28cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. Himalayan foothills, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; Assam, Meghalaya to Chittagong (Bangladesh); up to c. 2000m. **ID:** A smaller edition of Greater Racket-tailed Drongo; also differs by the smaller bill, short tuft on forehead, absence of crest, and the flat (*vs.* furled) spatula webbed on both (*vs.* one) sides.
6. (965-966b) **ASHY DRONGO** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* (RM) Bulbul+:30cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous, semi-evergreen and pine forest. **Breeding:** Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh; up to c. 3000m. **Winter:** Well-wooded plains and hills, east of arid NW and south to Kerala and Tamil Nadu; Sri Lanka and Andamans. **ID:** See Black Drongo (1), which is partial to open forest and cultivation. Race *salangensis* (6b), a vagrant to Nagaland and Andamans, is pale grey with a whitish face. **(357).**
7. (967-969) **WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO** *Dicrurus caerulescens* (R) Bulbul+:24cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous and bamboo forest. Endemic. India south of Himalayas except NW and NE regions; Sri Lanka. **ID:** Glossy-indigo above brownish-grey below with white belly, vent and undertail-coverts. The extent of white in underparts decreases from north to south. **(358).**

8. (974-975) **ANDAMAN DRONGO** *Dicrurus andamanensis* (R) Myna±:35cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. Andamans. **ID:** A slimmer and shorter-billed version of the Hair-crested Drongo, also having an up-curved tail. Differs in the much shorter hair-like filaments over forehead, the straight (*vs.* down-curved) bill, and forked (*vs.* square-cut) tail.

9. (973) **HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (SPANGLED DRONGO)** *Dicrurus hottentottus* (R) Myna±:31cm. **Occurrence:** Moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. Himalayan foothills from Himachal to Arunachal; NE India; Bangladesh; Madhya Pradesh and Orissa; E and W Ghats and associated ranges; and sporadically over the Subcontinent. **ID:** An iridescent, glossed and spangled blue-black drongo with a distinctive up-curved square-cut tail. A few fine hair-like feathers springing from forehead and extending over hindcrown and mantle. Bill long and pointed. **(361).**

10. (588-589) **DRONGO-CUCKOO** *Surniculus lugubris* (R) Myna±:25cm. **Occurrence:** Well-wooded country and orchards. Himalayas, from Kashmir east to Arunachal; NE hill states and E Bangladesh; hill tracts of N and peninsular India; Sri Lanka; up to 1600m. **ID:** A cuckoo but species included in this plate as it resembles drongos. Overall metallic-black, tail either square-cut or forked (10b). Vent, undertail-coverts and underside of tail barred white. **Note:** The species has been (tentatively) split into two in *The Ripley Guide*. **SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO-CUCKOO** *Surniculus lugubris* (588) and **FORK-TAILED DRONGO-CUCKOO** *Surniculus dicruroides*, the former comprising of the birds of Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh.

Black Drongo *Dicurus macrocercus*

A slim glossy jet black drongo with long deeply forked tail, the white rictal spot (sometimes absent) diagnostic. Tail fork disappears while moulting.





PLATE 111: JAYS, MAGPIES, TREEPIES AND NUTCRACKERS

1. (1022) **BLACK-HEADED JAY** *Garrulus lanceolatus* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Deciduous and mixed conifer forest. NW Pakistan; Himalayas east to Nepal; c. 1000-3000m. **ID:** Pinkish-grey, more greyish above. Crested black head. Chin, throat and foreneck black, boldly streaked with white. Wings and tail blue, barred with black. A white wing-patch conspicuous in flight.
2. (1020-1021) **EURASIAN JAY** *Garrulus glandarius* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Wet-temperate mixed forest of oak and pine. Himalayas; NE hill states; seasonally c. 1000-2500m; Bangladesh(?). **ID:** A pinkish-brown jay with closely black-barred, bright blue wings, a broad black moustache. White rump, vent and undertail-coverts; tail black.
3. (1029-1030) **EURASIAN MAGPIE (BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE)** *Pica pica* (R) Myna±:52cm. **Occurrence:** Upland valleys among barren windswept hills, groves and orchards. Chitral south to Baluchistan and east along the Himalayas through N Kashmir to Himachal; also Bhutan and Sikkim(?); c. 1500-4500m. **ID:** Strongly contrasting black, white and blue plumage with the long, glossy green or purple tail diagnostic. Rump either white or black. Bill black.
4. (1023) **COMMON GREEN MAGPIE** *Cissa chinensis* (R) Myna±:47cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical and sub-tropical evergreen secondary forest and moist-deciduous bamboo jungle. Himalayas, from Uttarakhand to Arunachal; NE hill states; Bangladesh (Chittagong); up to c. 1600m. **ID:** A bright green, long-tailed magpie with a black mask. Wings cinnamon-red, sub-tipped black; tertials and tail tipped white. Bright coral-red bill and legs. **(375).**
5. (1024) **SRI LANKAN BLUE MAGPIE** *Urocissa ornata* (R) Myna+:47cm. **Occurrence:** Dense evergreen forests. Endemic to Sri Lanka; c. 150-2100m. **ID:** A bright blue magpie with bright chestnut hood and wings. Tail blue, tipped white and sub-tipped black.
6. (1025-1026) **YELLOW-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE** *Urocissa flavirostris* (R) Pigeon±:66cm. **Occurrence:** Wet-temperate mixed forest of pine and oak. Entire Himalayas; seasonally c. 1000-3300m. **ID:** A purplish-blue magpie with black hood and whitish underparts; white patch on nape. Tail blue and tipped white, ending in pliant arching streamers. Bill yellow, legs orange. **(376).**
7. (1027-1028) **RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* (R) Pigeon±:70cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical and subtropical dry- and moist-deciduous forest, also around cultivation and villages. Himalayas, from Himachal to E Nepal; NE hill states; Bangladesh(?); seasonally c. 300-1800m. **ID:** Like Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, but has larger white nuchal patch and bright red legs and bill.
8. (1037-1039) **GREY TREEPIE** *Dendrocitta formosae* (R) Myna±:42cm. **Occurrence:** Tropical and subtropical moist-deciduous and semi-evergreen forest and well-wooded country. Himalayas; seasonally c. 600-2100m; NE hill states; SE Bangladesh; E Ghats in Orissa and N Andhra. **ID:** A grey and sooty-brown treepie with an ashy-grey and broadly black-tipped tail. The small blackish mask and largely grey underparts easily separate it from other treepies. **(379).**
9. (1036) **WHITE-BELLIED TREEPIE** *Dendrocitta leucogastra* (R) Myna+:50cm. **Occurrence:** Wet evergreen biotope. Endemic. W Ghats south of Goa (but also reported

from Surat Dangs, Gujarat) through Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and east to Bangalore and E Ghats in S Andhra. **ID:** Easily separated from other treepies by the extensive white in the plumage including on the belly. **(378).**

10. (1030a-1034) **RUFIOUS TREEPIE** (INDIAN TREEPIE) *Dendrocitta vagabunda* (R) Myna±:50cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-deciduous biotope, lightly wooded country and gardens. Almost entire Subcontinent from Himalayan foothills. **ID:** A cinnamon-buff treepie with dark sooty-grey hood and largely whitish wings, especially conspicuous in flight. Tail grey, tipped black. **(377).**

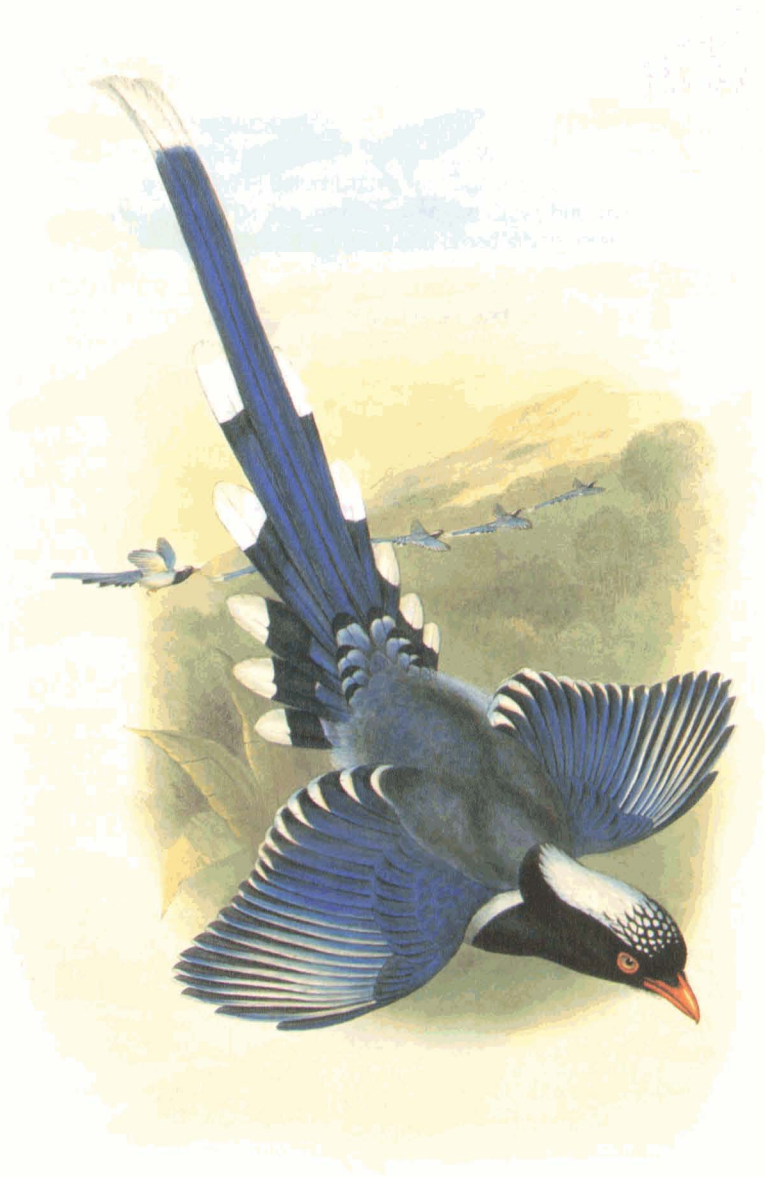
11. (1035) **COLLARED TREEPIE** (BLACK-BROWED TREEPIE) *Dendrocitta frontalis* (R) Myna±:38cm. **Occurrence:** Mixed evergreen forest and bamboo jungle. E Himalayas, from Bhutan to Arunachal; E Assam; NE hill states(?); up to c. 2100m. **ID:** A pale grey and chestnut treepie with black face, throat and foreneck. Nape, neck, breast and upper belly grey forming a broad collar. Mantle, back, rump and rear underparts rufous. The entirely black tail diagnostic.

12. (1040) **ANDAMAN TREEPIE** *Dendrocitta bayleyi* (R) Myna±:36cm. **Occurrence:** Evergreen forest. Endemic to Andamans **ID:** Small, dark chestnut treepie with a black hood, black tail, white wing-patch and pale eyes. The only treepie in the Andamans.

13. (1042-1044) **SPOTTED NUTCRACKER** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (R) Pigeon±:32cm. **Occurrence:** Subalpine conifer forest, especially pine. From Chitral south and east along Himalayas to Arunachal; c. 1000m up to timberline. **ID:** A chocolate and umber-brown crow-like bird, streaked and spotted with white. Tail black, faintly tipped white. Races (1043-44: 13b), distributed from Murree east through Kashmir, Nepal and Darjeeling, is darker with chocolate-brown belly. Race (1042: 13a) is lighter and more white spotted. These have been treated as two species in *The Ripley Guide*. **DARK SPOTTED NUTCRACKER** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (1043, 1044) and **PALE SPOTTED NUTCRACKER** *Nucifraga multipunctata* (1042) respectively.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Resident in western Himalayas and NE hill states. Sociable, parochial. Seen in noisy flocks of 4 to 10 in the non-breeding season. Seen in forest-clad hillsides.



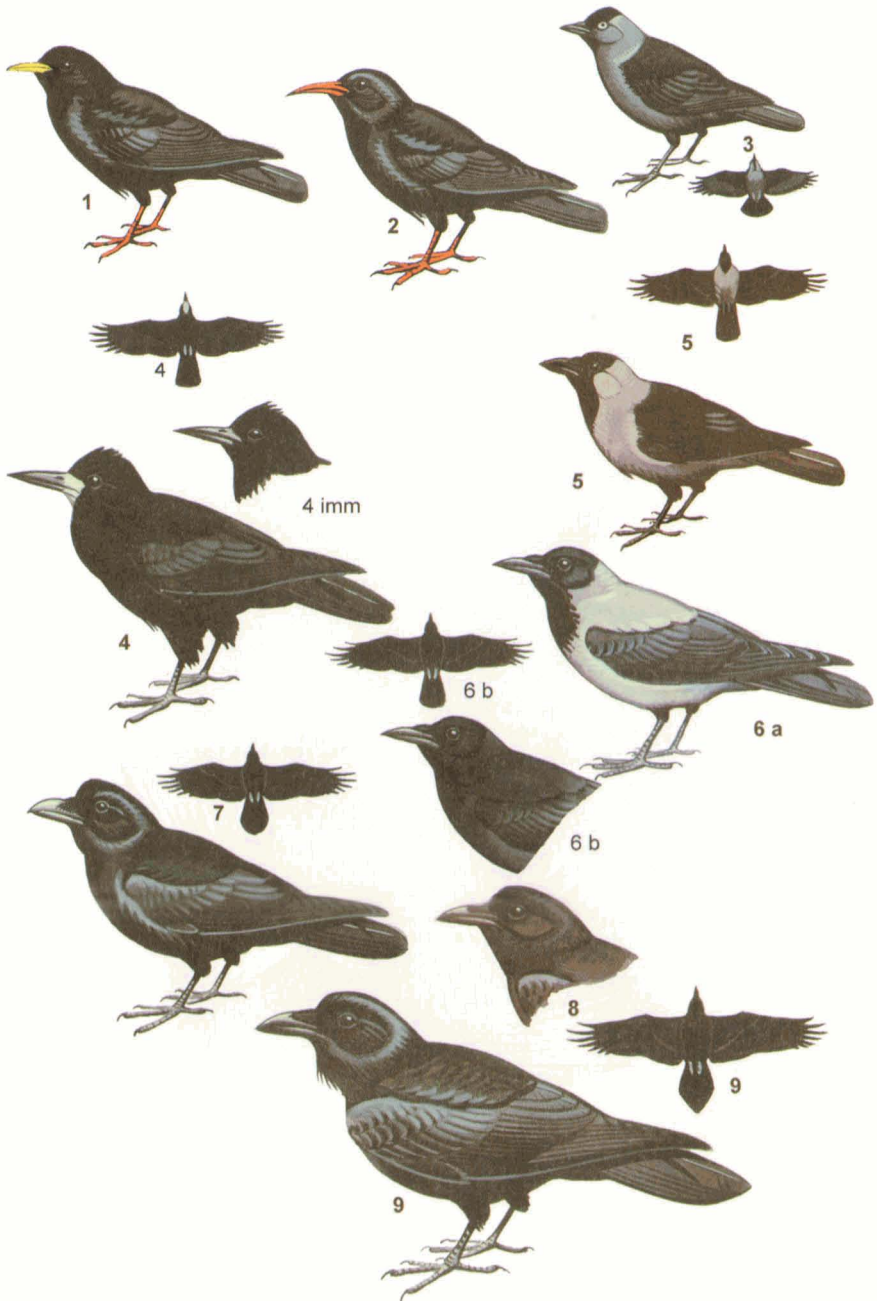


PLATE 112: CHOUGHS, CROWS AND ALLIES

1. (1045) **YELLOW-BILLED CHOUGH** (ALPINE CHOUGH) *Pyrhcorax graculus* (R) Crow-:38cm. **Occurrence:** High altitude crags, rocky slopes and alpine meadows. N Baluchistan; Himalayas, from NW Pakistan east to Bhutan; seasonally c. 1500-5000m. **ID:** A glossy jet-black chough with yellow bill and bright red legs.
2. (1046-1047) **RED-BILLED CHOUGH** *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* (R) Crow±:45cm. **Occurrence:** Dry- and moist-temperate high mountain biotope. From N Baluchistan to Chitral; Himalayas till Bhutan; seasonally c. 1200-3500m. **ID:** Like (1), but has a slender, slightly curved, long red bill. Bill orange-yellow in *immature*.
3. (1053) **EURASIAN JACKDAW** *Coloeus monedula* (R) Pigeon±:33cm. **Occurrence:** Pastures and cultivated fields. *Summer:* Breeding in W Himalayas east till Kashmir between 1700-2100m. *Winter:* NWFP; Baluchistan hills; Gilgit east to Ladakh and straggling south to Punjab and Haryana. **ID:** Reminiscent of House Crow, but smaller and smaller-billed with greyish-white eyes. Short thick neck and broad silvery-grey hind-collar.
4. (1052) **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus* (M) Crow+:48cm. **Occurrence:** Cultivated fields. From Chitral and Gilgit south to N Baluchistan and east to N Punjab, Haryana and Ladakh. **ID:** A glossy, jet-black crow with bare unfeathered face and chin, straight and pointed bill, and shaggy feathered thighs.
5. (1048-1051) **HOUSE CROW** *Corvus splendens* (R) Pigeon+:43cm. **Occurrence:** Human habitations, towns and cities. Subcontinent, south of Himalayan foothills. Sri Lanka, Maldives and Lakshadweep. **ID:** The well-known 'Indian Crow' of villages, town and cities.
6. (1058-1058a) **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone* (RM) Crow+:47cm. **Occurrence:** Willow and poplar groves and cultivation with trees and open forest. *Summer:* Baltistan, Murree and Ladakh. *Winter:* Kashmir, Karachi (vagrant), NW India. **ID:** Race *orientalis* (6b) is black like Jungle Crow, but with a finer bill and flatter head. Race *sharpii* (6a), which winters in NW India, differs from all other crows by the pale drab-grey mantle and underparts.
7. (1054-1057) **JUNGLE CROW** *Corvus macrorhynchos* (R) Crow+:47-50cm. **Occurrence:** Wooded country and outskirts of towns and cities. Subcontinent except for the arid regions of NW Pakistan and Rajasthan; also Andamans (not Nicobars) and Sri Lanka. **ID:** A large, uniformly black crow with metallic-purple sheen and heavy black bill. **(382). Note:** *The Ripley Guide* opines that the races of the Jungle Crow occurring in the Indian region could comprise of three (or even five) species: **LARGE-BILLED CROW** *Corvus japonensis* (1054, 1056) of the Himalayas from Pakistan to Arunachal Pradesh; **EASTERN JUNGLE CROW** *Corvus leuallantii* (1055) of NE India, Bangladesh and Andamans; and **INDIAN JUNGLE CROW** *Corvus culminatus* (1057) occurring in the rest of the distributional range of the species in the Subcontinent.
8. (1061) **BROWN-NECKED RAVEN** *Corvus ruficollis* (R) Kite±:58cm. **Occurrence:** Flat desert, semi-desert and arid country. Baluchistan and Sind. **ID:** Like Common Raven, but smaller, smaller-billed, less 'bearded', and washed with brownish on head and neck.
9. (1059-1060) **COMMON RAVEN** *Corvus corax* (R) Kite+:69cm. **Occurrence:** Near towns, villages and desert settlements. NWFP; Baluchistan; Sind; desert areas of NW India; Himalayas (Tibetan steppe facies) from N Pakistan to Arunachal. Stragglers recorded in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. **ID:** A large replica of the Jungle Crow, glistening jet-black with massive bill and 'beard'. In flight, the large size, peculiar creaking noise of wing quills and wedge-shaped outline of tail distinctive. **(381).**

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