

AVIFAUNA OF HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT

By Jamal Ara

The first published work on the avifauna of Hazaribagh district was the paper by V. Ball on the birds of Chota Nagpur which appeared in Stray Feathers in 1874 and 1875. Captain R.H. Baillie contributed a paper on the subject to the Journal of the Bengal Natural History Society, Volume XX, 1946. Dr. S.C. Law, Professor of Zoology, Calcutta University, who has had considerable experience of the district made a number of observations on Captain Baillie's paper in the same journal in its volume XXIII in 1948. ~~ExHx~~ The late E.H.N. Lowther, a railway official who in 1946 wrote the book A Bird Photographer in India also worked in northern parts of the district along the railway and obtained some excellent photographs, particularly of the Crested Swift at nest near Hazaribagh. Black and white reproductions of several Hazaribagh birds can ~~xxx~~ be seen in that book.

Most of the commoner birds of ~~Hazaribagh~~ the district can be identified with a little practice by comparison with the coloured plates and field characters given in the Book of Indian Birds published by the Bombay Natural History Society, 114 Apollo Street, Bombay, and Salim Ali's Hill Birds of India, Oxford University Press, Calcutta.

It is surprising that so little work has been done on this big district which being most centrally-situated in Bihar should have been the type-area for the study of the avifauna of the State.

The location of Parasnath Hill, over 4,000 feet above ~~xxx~~ sea-level, in this district is ornithologically important. It is likely habitat for many Eastern Himalayan species not found in the lower country around and deserves to be intensively worked. Some Himalayan species instead of shifting merely from a higher to lower level in winter migrate over many degrees of latitude to reach life zones, analogous to their summer habitats, on mountains situated in southern and warmer regions. Familiar examples of such "mountain-top migrants" are the Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), the Indian Blue-Chat (*Luscinia brunnea*) and the Pied Ground-Thrush (*Geocichla wardi*). These birds have their home in the Himalayas in the sense that they breed only there, but they habitually spend the winter in the Nilgiris. From the fact that they are so rarely met with in the intervening country it has been presumed so far that they perform their journeys between the Himalayas and the Nilgiris in a single hop covering from twelve to fifteen

fifteen hundred miles. It is possible that these mountain-top migrants use the Parasnath Hill as a halt on their long journeys during spring and ~~XXXXXX~~ autumn. An early investigation of this ~~XXXXXX~~ possibility is necessary.

The present list has been compiled out of the work of all observers from Ball to Lowther and as a result of two seasons of field work in the district during the years 1948 and 1950.

The following are the breeding birds of the district: Jungle Crow (Corvus macrorhynchus), House Crow (Corvus splendens), Tree-Pie (Crypsirina vagabunda), Grey Tit (Parus major), Yellow-cheeked Tit (Parus xanthogenys), Jungle Babbler (Turdoides sommervillei), Common Babbler (Turdoides caudata), Rufous-bellied Babbler (Dumetia hyperythra), Yellow-eyed Babbler (Chrysomma sinensis), Quaker Babbler (Alcippe poicephala), Common Iora (Aegethina tiphia), Marshall's Iora (Aegethina nigrolutea), Gold-fronted Chloropsis (Chloropsis aurifrons), Jerdon's Chloropsis (~~Chloropsis~~ Chloropsis jerdoni), Red-vented Bulbul (Pycnonotus cafer), Red-whiskered Bulbul (Pycnonotus jocosa), White-browed Bulbul (Pycnonotus ~~luteolus~~ ² luteolus), Spotted Grey Creeper (Salpornis spilonotus), ~~Sex~~ Stone-chat (Saxicola caprata) ¹ ~~h~~ ² Bushchat (S. torquata), Brown-backed Robin (Saxicoloides fulicata), Dhayal (Copsychus saularis), Orange-headed Ground Thrush (Zoothera citrina), Brown Flycatcher (Alseonax latirostris), Paradise Flycatcher (Terpsiphone paradisea), Black-naped Blue Flycatcher (Hypothymis azurea), White-browed Fantail Flycatcher (Rhipidura aureola), Grey Shrike (Lanius excubitor), Bay-backed Shrike (Lanius vittatus), Black-headed Shrike (Lanius schach), Rufous-backed Shrike (L.s. nigriceps), Wood Shrike (Tephrodornis pondicerianus), Scarlet Minivet (Pericrocotus flammens), Short-billed Minivet (Pericrocotus brevirostris), Small Minivet (Pericrocotus cinnamomeus), White-bellied Minivet (Pericrocotus erythro- ⁷ ^{? Seen by C.W. only in the end of the cold weather in 1944-45} pygius), Black-headed Tuckoo Shrike (Coracina sykesii), Ashy Swallow Shrike (Artemus fuscus), Black Drongo (Dicrurus macrocerus), Grey Drongo (Dicrurus longicaudatus), White-bellied Drongo (Dicrurus ~~x~~ caerulescens), Large Racket-tailed Drongo (Dicrurus paradiseus), Tailor Bird (Orthotomus sutorius), Streaked Fantail Warbler (Cisticola juncidis), Franklin's Wren Warbler (Frankiliana gracilis), Rufous-fronted Wren Warbler (Frankiliana buchananii), Ashy Wren Warbler (Prinia socialis), Jungle Wren Warbler (Prinia sylvatica), Indian Wren Warbler (Prinia inornata), Indian Oriole (Oriolus oriolus), Black-headed Oriole (Oriolus xanthornus), Grey-headed Myna (Sturnus malabaricus), Black-headed Myna (Sturnus pagodarum), Common ~~w~~ Large Cuckoo Shrike (C. novae-hollandiae)

Common Myna (*Sturnus tristis*), Bank Myna (*Sturnus ginginianus*), Jungle Myna (*Sturnus fuscus*), Pied Myna (*Sturnus contra*), Baya (*Ploceus philippinus*), Black-throated Baya (*Ploceus benghalensis*), White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*), White-throated Munia (*Lonchura malabarica*), Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*), Red Munia (*Estrilda amandava*), Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Gymnorhis xanthocollis*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*), Dusky Crag Martin (*Riparia concolor*), Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*), Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo fluvicola*), Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*), Large Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla madraspatensis*), Indian Pipit (*Anthus richardi rufulus*), Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*), Bush Lark (*Mirafa assamica*), Red-winged Bush Lark (*Mirafa erythroptera*), Rufous-tailed Finch Lark (*Ammomanes phoenicura*), Ashy-crowned Finch Lark (*Eremopterix grisea*), White Eye (*Zosterops palpeberosa*), Purple Sunbird (*Nectarina asiatica*), Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchum*), Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*), Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*), Marhatta Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus mahrattensis*), Pigmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus moluccensis*), Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Dinopium benghalense*), Black-backed Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes festivus*), Tickell's Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*), Northern Green Barbet (*Megalaima zeylonica*), Crimson-breasted Barbet (*Megalaima haemecephala*), Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*), Large Hawk Cuckoo (*Cuculus sparveroides*), Papiha (*Cuculus varius*), Plaintive Cuckoo (*Coccyzus merulinus*), Drongo Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*), Pied-crested Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*), Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*), Large Green-billed Malkoha (*Rhopodytes tristis*), Sirkeer Cuckoo (*Taccouca leschenaulti*), Crow Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*), Large Indian Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*), Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*), Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*), Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*), Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctiornis athertoni*), Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Ramphalcyon capensis*), White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), ~~Fix~~ Grey Hornbill (*Tockus birostris*), Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), Malabar Trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*), House Swift (*Apus affinis*), Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*), White-rumped Spinetail (*Indicapus sylvaticus*), Crested Swift (*Hemiprocne coronata*), Long-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrourus*), Jungle Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*), Franklin's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus monticolus*), Indian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus asiaticus*), Indian Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Brown Fish Owl (*Bubo zeylonensis*),

zey nensis), Great Horned Owl (Bubo bubo), Dusky Horned Owl (Bubo
coromandus), Collared Scops Owl (Otus ~~xxx~~ asio), Spotted Owlet (Athene
brama), Jungle Owlet (Glaucidium radiatum), Brown Hawk Owl (Ninox
scutulata), Pondicherry Vulture (Sarcogyps calvus), Griffon Vulture
(Gyps fulvus), Long-billed Vulture (Gyps indicus), White-backed Vulture
(Pseudogyps bengalensis), Scavenger Vulture (Nephron percnopterus),
Laggar Falcon (Falco jugger), Red-headed Merlin (Falco chiquera),
Tawny Eagle (Aquila rapax), Small Spotted Eagle (Aquila pomarina),
Crested Hawk Eagle (Spizaetus cirrhatus), Short-toed Eagle (Circaetus
ferrox), Crested Serpent Eagle (Haematornis cheela), White-eyed Buzzard
Eagle (Butaster teesa), ~~Pallas's Fishing Eagle~~ Pallas's Fishing Eagle
(Haliaeetus leucoryphus), Brahminy Kite (Haliastur indus), Pariah Kite
(Milvus migrans), Black-winged Kite (Elanus caeruleus), Shikra (Accipiter
badius), Crested Honey Buzzard (Pernis ptilorhynchus), Green Pigeon
(Treron phoenicoptera), Orange-breasted Green Pigeon (Dendrophassa
bicolor), Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps indica), Blue Rock Pigeon (Columba
livia), Rufous Turtle Dove (Streptopelia orientalis), Spotted Dove
(Streptopelia chinensis), Little Brown Dove (Streptopelia senegalensis),
Ring Dove (Streptopelia decaocto), Red Turtle Dove (Oenopopelia
tranquebarica), Painted Sand Grouse (Pterocles ~~xxxx~~ indicus), Common
Sand Grouse (Pterocles exustus), Peafowl (Pavo ~~xxx~~ cristatus), Red
Jungle Fowl (Gallus gallus), Red Spur Fowl (Galloperdix spadicea), Painted
Spur Fowl (Galloperdix lunulata), Grey Quail (Coturnix coturnix), Jungle
Bush Quail (Perdicula asiatica), Blewitt's Bush Quail (Cryptoplectron
erythrorhynchum), Black Partridge (Francolinus francolinus), Painted
Partridge (Francolinus pictus), Grey Partridge (Francolinus pondicerianus),
Bustard Quail (Turnix suscitator), White-breasted Waterhen (Amaurornis
phoenicurus), Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus), Coot (Fulica atra), Bronze-
winged Jacana (Metopidius indicus), Pheasant-tailed Jacana (Hydrophasianus
chirurgus), Painted Snipe (~~Rxxxxxxx~~ Rostratula benghalensis), Lesser
Floricorn (Syphoetides indica), Stone Plover (Burhinus oedicnemus), Indian
Courser (Cursorius coromandelicus), Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias leucopareia),
River ~~Tern~~ Tern (Sterna aurantia), Black-bellied Tern (Sterna melanogaster),
Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius), Spur Winged Plover (Hoplopterus
duvauceli), Red Wattled Lapwing (Lobivanellus indicus), Yellow Wattled
Lapwing (Lobipluvia malabarica), Shag (Phalacrocorax fuscicollis), Little

Common Cuckoo (Phalacrocorax niger), Snake Bird (Anhinga rufa), White Ibis (Threskiornis melanocephalus), Black Ibis (Pseudibis papillosa), White-necked Stork (Ciconia episcopus), Adjutant Stork (Leptopilos dubius), Openbill (Anastomus oscitans), Purple Heron (Ardea purpurea), Grey Heron (Ardea cinera), Small Egret (Egretta intermedia), Little Egret (Egretta garzetta), Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), Pond Heron (Ardeola grayii), Little Green Heron (Butorides stratus), Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), Chestnut Bittern (Ixobrychus cinnamomeus), Cotton Teal (Nettapus coromandelinus), Whistling Teal (Dendrocygna javanica), Spotbill (Anas pœcilorhyncha) and Little Grebe (Podiceps ruficollis).

The following are birds which visit Hazaribagh only in the cold weather:

Bush Chat (Saxicola torquata), Indian Redstart (Phoenicurus ochrurus), Red-spotted Blue Throat (Cyanosylva svecica), Red-throated Thrush (Turdus ruficollis), Blue Rock Thrush (Monticola solitaria), Red-breasted Flycatcher (Muscicapa parva), White-browed Blue Flycatcher (Muscicapa superciliaris), Little Pied Flycatcher (Muscicapa melanoleuca), Blue-throated Flycatcher (Muscicapa rubeculoides), Verditer Flycatcher (Eumyias thalassina), Grey-headed Flycatcher (Culicicapa cydonensis), Grey-backed Shrike (Lanius tephronotus), Brown Shrike (Lanius cristatus), Great Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus), Blyth's Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus dumetorium), Thick-billed Warbler (Phragmaticola aedon), Sykes's Tree Warbler (Hippolais rama), Eastern Orphean Warbler (Sylvia hortensis), Tickell's Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus affinis), Brown Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus collybita), Dusky Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus fuscatus), Hume's Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus inornatus), Tickell's Flycatcher Warbler (Seicercus cantator), Black-naped Oriole (Oriolus chinensis), Rose Finch (Carpodacus erythrinus), Central Indian Bunting (Emberiza schoeniclus), Common Swallow (Hirundo rustica), White Wagtail (Motacilla alba), Eastern Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea), Indian Blue-headed Wagtail (Motacilla flava), Black-headed Wagtail (Motacilla feldegg), Yellow-headed Wagtail (Motacilla citreola), Indian Tree Pipit (Anthus hodgsonii), Rock Pipit (Anthus sordidus), Richard's Pipit (Anthus richardi), Short-toed Lark (Lark Calendrella brachydactylla), Wryneck (Jynx torquilla), Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus), Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus), Hobby (Falco subbuteo), Kestrel (Cerchneis tinnunculus), Great Spotted Eagle (Aquila clanga), Pale Harrier (Circus macrurus), Montagu's Harrier (Circus pygargus), Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus), Pied Harrier (Circus melanoleucus), Marsh Harrier (Circus aeruginosus), Common Crane (Grus grus), Brown-headed Gull (Larus brunneiceps), White-winged

White-edge Black Tern (Chlidonias leucoptera), Grey-headed Lapwing (Microsarcops cinerus), W. Sandpiper (Tringa glareola), Redshank (Tringa totanus), Fantail Snipe (Capella gallinago), Gadwall (Anas strepera), Pintail (Anas acuta), Blue-winged Teal (Querquedula querquedula), Shoveller (Spatula clypeata), and Red-crowned Pochard (Netta rufina) / Smew (Mergellus albellus).

- ✓ Spotted Babbler
- ✓ Shama
- ✓ Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
- 103 white spotted fantail flycatcher
- ✓ Large Cuckoo Shrike
- ✓ Common Pitta
- Green Barbet
- 104 Green Parakeet
- 105 Bonelli's Eagle

The following are the Winter Visitors:-

4 of Turdidae, 5 of Muscicapidae, 2 of Laniidae, 2 of Perierocitidae, 9 of
Sylviidae, 2 of Sturnidae, 2 of Fringillidae, 3 of Hirundinidae, 14 of
Motacillidae, 2 of Alaudidae, 1 of Cuculidae, 5 of Falconodae, 1 of
Phasiidae, 2 of Gruidae, 3 of Charadriidae, 11 of Scolopacidae (Sandpipers
& Stints), 1 of Ibiidae, 3 of Ciconiidae, 1 of Ardeidae, and 15 of the
Anatidae.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Bainbrigg, Fletcher and Inglis: Birds of an Indian Garden. (Thacker, Spink
& Co. Ltd., Calcutta).

NOTE: The first named author was resident at Pusa for a number of
years and the book has excellent illustrations of the more common birds.