

A SHORT NOTE ON THE FAUNA OF THE  
KODARMA RESERVED FORESTS.

By Jamal Ara.

The Kodarma reserves were converted into a sanctuary late in 1947 and the study now given was made after this period. It would have been very interesting to compare the variation, if any, that occurred on conversion into a sanctuary, but, unfortunately, no records of any detailed studies having been made earlier were available. But two subsequent visits have revealed certain variations due to poaching and these have been pointed out later in this note.

The orders dealt with here will be only the Aves and the Mamalia. From the forestry point of view the order Insecta is of paramount importance but this has not been dealt with here as it calls for a very specialised study. At the same time the importance of the orders dealt with to the biome cannot be underestimated, though it has suffered so far from a lack of attention.

The balance of the different species is still fairly well represented in Kodarma, but if attention is not paid to a tighter application of the shooting rules, this balance is bound to be upset in the near future. At the moment both Carnivora and Herbivora in the Mamalia are present in sufficient numbers; and in the Aves the balance between ground and winged birds is also good. But my own observations have revealed that ground birds are suffering; thus for example the Red Spur Fowl (*Gallus spadicea*) was observed to be plentiful in the compound of the Kodarma Forest House in 1948, but on a subsequent visit in 1950 they were not observed even inside the forests. This one example alone suffices to show that ground birds are more subject to predatory activities, and deserve special attention.

For its area Kodarma is very rich in bird life, though due to an absence of any large stretches of perennial water migratory birds are rather scarce, and ducks and Cranes completely absent.

Below is given a list of the birds and mammals observed:

A V E S.

(a) CORVIDAE.

1. Cervus macrorhynchus: The Jungle Crow: Fairly common.
2. Cervus splendens, The House Crow: More common than the last.
3. Crypsirina vagabunda, The Tree-Pie: Common in the area.

(b) PARIDAE.

4. Parus major, The Grey Tit: Fairly common near the FRH but not seen in heavy forest. Rather sociable, as often seen in small parties searching for insects.

(c) SITTIDAE.

5. Sitta frontalis, The Velvet-fronted Nuthatch: Common.

(d) TIMALIIDAE.

6. Turdoides semervillei, The Jungle Babbler: Common.
7. Turdoides carlii, The Striated Babbler: Fairly common in long grasses and bushes; does not descend to the ground like the other babblers.
8. Turdoides caudata, The Common Babbler: Less common than the Jungle Babbler.
9. Dumetia hyperythra, The Rufous-bellied Babbler: Common near Meghatari.
10. Chrysomma sinensis, The Yellow-eyed Babbler: Common in the scrub forests near the FRH. 2 nests were seen which were in lantana bushes.
11. Aegithina tiphia, The Common Iora: Fairly common.
12. Chloropsis jerdonii, Jerdon's Chloropsis: Less common in the area though numerous in Hazaribagh town.

(e)

(e) PYCNONOTIDAE.

13. Pycnonotus cafer, The Red-vented Bulbul: Common.  
14. Pycnonotus jocosus, The Red-whiskered Bulbul: Frequent.

(f) TURDIDAE.

15. Saxicola torquata, The Bush Chat: Frequent.  
16. Saxicola leucurus, The Indian Robin: Numerous. Breeds in the outhouses of the FRH.  
17. Copsychus saularis, The Dhayal: Less common than the Robin.  
18. Copsychus malabaricus, The Shama: Scarce. A few seen in the Rajauli ghats in dense forest.

(g) MUSCICAPIDAE.

19. Terpsiphone paradisea, The Paradise Flycatcher: Numerous in a patch of forest near a stream. In the month of July, 1950 six or seven young ones were seen being fed by the female only. Only 2-year and 3-year males seen, no adults observed.  
20. Hypothymis azurea, The Black-Naped Blue Flycatcher: Numerous in the same patch where the Paradise Flycatchers seen.  
21. Rhipidura aureola, The White-Browed Fantail Flycatcher: Common.  
22. Rhipidura pectoralis, The White-Spotted Fantail Flycatcher: Frequent.

(h) LANIIDAE.

23. Lanius excubitor, The Grey Shrike: Common.  
24. Lanius schach, The Rufous-Backed Shrike: Less common than the L. excubitor. Likes to hunt in open land and light forest.  
25. Hemipus picatus, The Black-Backed Pied Shrike: Common.  
26. Tephrodornis pendicerranus, The Wood Shrike: Fairly common near scrub jungle.

(i) PERICROCOTIDAE.

27. Pericrocotus cinnamomeus, The Small Minivet: Fairly common.  
28. Coracina sykesii, The Black-Headed Cuckoo-Shrike: Frequent.

(j) DICRURIDAE.

29. Dicrurus macrocerus, The Black Dronge: Common.  
30. Dicrurus caeruleus, The White-Bellied Dronge: Frequent.

(k) SYLVIIDAE.

31. Orthotomus sutorius, The Tailor Bird: Quite common.  
32. Franklinia gracilis, Franklin's Wren-Warbler: Frequent.  
33. Franklinia buehneri, The Rufous-Fronted Wren-Warbler: Less than the F. gracilis. Seen hunting in Lantana bushes.  
34. Phylloscopus inornatus, Hume's Willow Warbler: Near Meghatari.  
35. Seiurus cantator, Tickell's Flycatcher Warbler: Fairly common. It is an active little bird, spreads its tail and gives upward flicks like an Ashy Wren-Warbler.  
36. Prinia sylvatica, The Jungle Wren-Warbler: Common, resident.  
37. Prinia inornata, The Indian Wren-Warbler: Frequent, resident.

(l) ORIOOLIDAE.

38. Oriolus oriolus, The Indian Oriole: Frequent, resident.  
39. Oriolus chinensis, The Black Naped Oriole: Frequent winter visitor.

40. Oriolus xantherus, The Black Headed Oriole: Common.

(m) STURNIDAE.

41. Sturnus malabaricus, The Grey Headed Myna: Frequent, local migrant.

42. Sturnus pagedarum, The Black Headed Myna: Very common and resident having taken the place of the Common Myna.

43. Sturnus tristis, The Common Myna: Frequent.

44. Sturnus ginginianus, The Bank Myna: Fairly common.

45. Sturnus fuscus, The Jungle Myna: Uncommon.

46. Sturnus contra, The Pied Myna: More than the Common Myna.

(n) PLOCEIDAE.

47. Ploceus philippinus, The Baya: Not observed in the area, though it is very common in Hazaribagh.

48. Lonchura striata, The White-Backed Munia: Fairly common.

49. Lonchura malabarica, The White Throated Munia: Common in FRH.

50. Lonchura punctulata, The Spotted Munia: Common near FRH.

(o) FRINGILLIDAE.

51. Passer domesticus, The House Sparrow: Common in the bazar.

52. Emberiza schoeniclus, The Central Indian Bunting: Only a female observed. Rare winter visitor.

53. Melophus lathami, The Crested Bunting: Frequent.

(p) HIRUNDINIDAE.

54. Hirundo rustica, The Common Swallow: Winter visitor.

55. Hirundo smithii, The Wire-tailed Swallow: Common near water.

56. Hirundo fluviicola, The Cliff Swallow: Frequent.

57. Hirundo daurica, The Red-rumped Swallow: Less common.

(q) MOTACILLIDAE.

58. Metacilla alba, The White Wagtail: Frequent winter visitor.

59. Metacilla maderaspatensis, The Large Pied Wagtail: Frequent.

60. Metacilla cinerea, The Eastern Grey Wagtail: Common winter visitor.

61. Anthus richardi, The Indian Pipit: Common.

(r) ALAUDIDAE.

62. Alauda gulgula, The Sky Lark: Common.

63. Mairafa assamica, The Bush Lark: Frequent.

64. Mairafa erythroptera, The Red-winged Bush Lark: Common.

(s) ZOSTEROPIDAE.

65. Zosterops palpebrosa, The White Eye: Regular visitant of the FRH.

(t) NECTARINIDAE.

66. Nectarina asiatica, The Purple Sunbird: Common.

(u) DICAELIDAE.

67. Dicaeum erythrorhynchum, Tickell's Flowerpecker: Frequent.

(v) PICIDAE.

68. Dendrocepus maharattensis, The Mahratta Woodpecker: Common.

69. Dinopium benghalense, The Golden Backed Woodpecker: Common.

70. Chrysocolaptes lucidus, Tickell's Golden Backed Woodpecker: Fairly common, frequently seen feeding on the ground with babblers.

- (w) CAPITONIDAE.
- (71) Magalaima haemacephala, The Crimson-breasted Barbet: Common.
- (x) CUCULIDAE.
72. Cuculus varius, The Papiha: Fairly common.
73. Eudynamis scolopacea, The Keel: Frequent.
74. Centropus sinensis, The Coucal: Common.
- (y) PSITTACIDAE.
75. Psittacula krameri, The Rose-ringed Parakeet: Fairly common.
76. Psittacula cyanocephala, The Blossom-headed Parakeet: Less than P.krameri.
- (z) CORACIIDAE.
77. Ceracias benghalensis, The Roller: Not many in numbers, but 2 or 3 always seen hunting in the FRH.
- (aa) MEROPIIDAE.
78. Merops orientalis, The Green Bee-eater: Common in the open.
79. Merops philippinus, The Blue-tailed Bee-eater: Less common.
- (bb) ALCEDINIDAE.
80. Ceryle rudis, The Pied Kingfisher: Common.
81. Alcedo atthis, The Common Kingfisher: Very few seen.
82. Ramphaleya capensis, The Sterk-billed Kingfisher: Frequent.
83. Halcyon sylvensis, The White-breasted Kingfisher: Frequent.
- (cc) BUCEROTIDAE.
84. Tockus birestris, The Grey Hornbill: Frequent.
- (dd) UPUPIDAE.
85. Upupa epeps, The Heepee: Frequent.
- (ee) MICROPIDAE.
86. Apus affinis, The House Swift: Common, specially near the graveyard close to the FRH.
87. Cypsiurus parvus, The Palm Swift: Common.
- (ff) CAPRIMULGIDAE.
88. Caprimulgus indicus, The Jungle Nightjar: Fairly common. The call "Wak-kukree" or "Uk-kukree" can be heard even in the late mornings.
89. Caprimulgus monticolus, Franklin's Nightjar: Common. Seen hunting on the roadside early in the evening. The Call is "Chwees-chwees" or "Sweesh".
90. Caprimulgus asiaticus, The Indian Nightjar: Common. The call is "Tuk-tuk-tuk-tukree".
- (gg) ASIONIDAE.
91. Strix scollata, The Mottled Wood Owl: Frequent.
92. BUBO bubo, The Great Horned Owl: Twice seen in Rajauli Ghats.
93. Bubo coremandus, The Dusky Horned Owl: Only 1 in the heart of the sanctuary.
94. Athene brama, The Spotted Owlet: Most common of all the owls. A pair lived on a mango tree in the FRH and could be seen hunting in the noon.
95. Glaucidium radiatum, The Jungle Owlet: Seen near Meghatari.
- (hh) AEGYPIIDAE.

(hh) AEGYPTIIDAE.

96. Sarcogyps calvus, The Pondicherry Vulture: Frequent.  
97. Gyps indicus, The Long Billed Vulture: Frequent.  
98. Pseudogyps bengalensis, The Bengal Vulture: Common.

(ii) FALCONIDAE.

99. Falco chiquera, The Red Headed Merlin: Uncommon.  
100. Aquila pumalina, The Small Spotted Eagle: Frequent.  
101. Haliastur indus, The Brahminy Kite: Frequent.  
102. Milvus migrans, The Pariah Kite: Fairly common inside Kodarma bazar but absent from the sanctuary.  
103.. Accipiter badius, The Shikra: Frequent.

(jj) COLUMBIDAE.

104. Columba livia, The Blue Rock Pigeon: Fairly common.  
105. Streptopelia orientalis, The Rufous Turtle Dove: Frequent.  
106. Streptopelia chinensis, The Spotted Dove: Numerous.  
107. Streptopelia decaocto, The Ring Dove: Infrequent in the area.  
108. Oenopopelina tranqueberica, The Red Turtle Dove: Infrequent.

(kk) PHASIANIDAE.

109. Pavo cristatus, The Pea-fowl: Common in the dense forests particularly in the Rajauli Ghats. 3 or 4 can always be seen crossing the road in the early mornings or late evenings.  
110. Gallus gallus, The Red Jungle Fowl: Fairly common in 1948 but could not be seen in 1950. Needs investigation.  
111. Galliperdix spadicea, The Red Spur-Fowl: Rxx Common in 1948 but could not be seen in 1950.  
112. Francolinus pondicerianus, The Grey Partridge: Common. It is greatly to be regretted that Police Officers at Kodarma force captures from the Sanctuary even during the breeding season. I saw one adult with 2 young in captivity in a Police Officer's house in 1950.  
113. Francolinus pictus, The Painted Partridge: Rare.

(ll) STERNIDAE.

114. Sterna aurantia, The River-Tern: Frequent.

(mm) CHARADRIIDAE.

115. Charadrius dubius, The Little Ringed Plover: Frequent.  
116. Lebivanellus indicus, The Red Wattled Lapwing: Plentiful.  
117. Lebiplovius malabarica, The Yellow Wattled Lapwing: Frequent.

(nn) PHALACROCORACIDAE.

118. Phalacrocorax fuscicollis, The Shag: Uncommon.  
119. Phalacrocorax niger, The Little Cormorant: Frequent near water in small flocks.

(oo) CICONIIDAE.

120. Ciconia episcopus, The White-Necked Stork: Uncommon.

(pp) ARDEIDAE.

121. Egretta garzetta, The Little Egret: Fairly common.  
122. Bubuleus ibis, The Cattle Egret: Common.  
123. Ardeola grayii, The Pond Heron: Fairly Common.  
124. Nycticorax nycticorax, The Night Heron: Fairly Common.

MAMMALIA.

1. Panthera tigris, The Tiger: Exceedingly rare, in urgent need of protection.
2. Panthera pardus, The Panther: Less rare than the tiger but still in need of protection.
3. Felis chaus, The Jungle Cat: Infrequent.
4. Herpestes edwardsii, The Mongooses: Common.
5. Hyaena hyaena, The Striped Hyaena: Frequent.
6. Canis aureus, The Jackal: Very common.
7. Vulpes bengalensis, The Indian Fox: Common.
8. Melurus ursinus, The Sloth Bear: Uncommon.
9. Suncus caeruleus, The Grey Musk Shrew: Very common.
10. Funambulus pennanti, The 5-striped Palm Squirrel: Common.
11. Funambulus palmarum, The 3-striped Palm Squirrel: Less common.
12. Bandicota bengalensis, The Mole Rat: Common.
13. Rattus rattus, The House Rat: Very common.
14. Lepus ruficaudatus, The Common Hare: Common.
15. Rusa unicolor, The Sambhar: Frequent.
16. Axis axis, The Spotted Deer: Less frequent than the Sambhar.
17. Muntiacus muntjak, The Barking Deer: Infrequent.
18. Sus cristatus, The Wild Bear: Frequent.

NOTE: A large number of bats occur in the cemetery close to the FRH, as also at other places, but have not been mentioned as identification proved difficult in the absence of specimens.