

Sighting of Hemivert in Bheed or crop.
 1987

| Date | crop | Bheed | BPC | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|---------------|--|------|----|-------|
| 30/6 | | 1♂ | | | 23/8 | 1♂ | 1♂ |
| 7/7 | | 1♂ | | | 24/8 | | 1♂ |
| 8/7 | | 2♂ | | | 27/8 | | 1♂ |
| 11/7 | 1♀ | 1♂ | 1♀ | | 29/8 | | 1♂ |
| 14/7 | 1♀ | 1♂ | 1♂ | | 1/9 | | 1♂ |
| 15/7 | | | 1♂ | | 5/9 | 1♂ | 1♀ |
| 17/7 | 2♂+2♀ | | 1♂ | | 6/9 | 2♂ | 1♂+1♀ |
| 25/7 | | | 1♂ | | 7/9 | 1♂ | 1♂ |
| 28/7 | 1♀ | | | | 8/9 | | 1♂ 1♂ |
| 29/7 | 1♂+1♀ | | | | 9/9 | | 1♂ |
| 31/7 | 1♀ | | | | 12/9 | | 1♂ |
| 2/8 | 1♀+1♂ | | | | 13/9 | | 1♂ |
| 3/8 | 1♂+1♀ | | | | 14/9 | | 1♂ |
| 4/8 | | | 1♀ | | 15/9 | | 2♂ |
| 5/8 | 1♂ | | 1♀ | | 16/9 | 1♂ | |
| 6/8 | 1♀ | | | | 17/9 | | 1♂ |
| 7/8 | 1♂ | | 1♂ | | 18/9 | | 1♂ |
| 9/8 | 1♂ | | 1♂ | | 23/9 | | 1♂ |
| 10/8 | 1♂ | | 1♂ | | | | |
| 13/8 | 1♂ | | 1♀ | | | | |
| 14/8 | 1♂ | | | | | | |
| 15/8 | 1♂ | | | | | | |
| 16/8 | 1♂ | | | | | | |
| 17/8 | 2♂ | | | | | | |
| 18/8 | 1♂ | | | | | | |
| 21/8 | 2♂ | | | | | | |
| 22/8 | 1♂ | | | | | | |



The author spent hours observing (on the following page), locally called the gond.

SPOT SURVEY. [LESSER FLORICAN]
DAHOD.

~~11/12/1987~~
Date: 11-12 Sept 1987
1 October 1987

This bleed owned by the forest department falls within two talukas. The part in Dahod taluka is called Mohalia bleed and the other half in Limkheda taluka is called Kheria bleed.

The size of the bleed couldn't be ascertained but is not less 2000 hectares. From the start of the bleed (along S.H. from Dahod) to the division of talukas and along the dividing dirt track upto ^{just before} the far end was about 8 km.

Very well protected the entire periphery has a cattle proof fencing of a kind of cactus.

On the first evening ~~did~~ checked along the dividing dirt track (from opposite ^{grass of odorous} ~~factories~~?) stopping approximately at every kilometre. Was able to locate (by hearing display calls) not less than 10 ♂ floricans most of which whom ^{were} concentrated at the far end.

The next morning checked along the far road (S.H.) Rough Spotchecks ~~was~~ were carried out only at 3 places due to the problem of entering the bleed. Was able to locate 6 ♂s. But this stretch along the far road is quite disturbed due to the heavy vehicular traffic.

The grass was estimated to be of an average height of not less than 75 cm. while protection appeared excellent, a few small

patches were either grazed or the fodder cut on the spot.

The chowkidhars of Kheria bleed whom I met knew of the floricans, and were able to identify the males that were displaying there. They estimated only 5-7 ♂s. However there was quite a big communication gap.

I must have covered only 25% or less of the grassland. A detailed survey of this grassland, in mid-end August, ~~or~~ covering 4-6 field sessions, is required to accurately estimate the total number of floricans that this grassland attracts.

Some other smaller patches of grassland were seen on the other side of the ~~tar~~ road. However they were not investigated.

Information from Forest ^{Dept.} ~~Dept.~~ files.

Area of grassland in Dahod range:- 1987 ha

| <u>Break up</u> | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Mahoalia | - 750 ha |
| Kalitarai | - 858 ha |
| Rosum | - 378 ha |

Limkheda ^{taluka} - 300+ ha more but some area has been denotified. Now grassland c. 2000 ha totally.

Productivity:- 15-20 lakhs kg of fodder in good monsoon,
3-4 " " in bad monsoon,

Sailana 1987

26/6/87 sunny | rained briefly in the evening

Very slight green - traces of sprouting. Only rain that too brief - day before.

No floricans.

27/6/87 sunny mostly

No florican

28/6/87 mostly sunny morning rained heavily in the afternoon

No floricans

29/6/87 clear sky | sunny

No floricans

30/6/87 clear sky |

6.00 p.m. 1st of season R.h main flushed landed close to footpath back of R.h small part disappeared among butea on crop/breed borders.

Head and neck mostly buff - seemed like button breast as well. Belly blackish/dark. Couldn't notice plumes - either not present or just sprouting.

(2)

1/7/87 cloudless sunny

No florican seen

2/7/87 Mostly sunny - clouded in the evening slight drizzle

No floricans seen

3/7/87 cloudy most of day - no rain

No floricans

4/7/87 cloudy most of day - no rain - windy

No floricans.

5/7/87 cloudy most of day windy

No floricans.

6/7/87 Mostly cloudy - rained ^(drizzled) night 6/7-

No floricans.

7/7/87 cloudy damp to wet ground. Evening rained well for about 1/2 hr.

Morning c. 8.30 am flushed 1 ♂ back part of R4
flew low and landed beyond temple in wellwood
and clump of butea/bheed amidst crop field. Flushed
again flew landed in bheed patch/butea beyond

(3)

fields near Adwanya Mango-grove.

Butt on head and neck - seemed like black streaks - Plumes present - fairly long.

No florican upto nachu.

8/7/87

cloudy day with some sunshine.

Morning c. 7.30 a.m.

2 ♂ floricans c. 50m apart flushed from R.5 disappeared from sight beyond R.4 small part. Could not relocate.

Evening couldn't locate floricans. R.1,2 - R.2 Northern face now completely ploughed up.

9/7/87

Slightly cloudy sunny windy

Morning: No floricans located R.5, R.4 upto nachu.

Evening: No floricans R.2, R.3.

10/7/87

Sunny slightly cloudy windy

No sign of floricans.

11/7/87

Sunny windy few clouds.

Morning: 1 ♀ in patch of Bheed just opposite Hanuman temple. Flew landed in B.P.C near Adwanya

Evening: 1 ♂ flushed from R.4 S.P. near Hanuman temple disappeared in direction of B.P.C Adwanya.

(3) (4)

12/7/87 Sunny windy no rain clouds.

Also sign of florican near Adwaya B.P.C etc.

13/7/87 Began sunny then clouded up - no rain, ^{very} light drizzle.

Morning Hazariga :- same condition Maulakha.

Nathan's son said he saw a ♂ display once when he came with cattle to graze.

Evening :- Maulakha R.4, R.5, Crop Area Nauchu
No florican seen

14/7/87 Sun Cloudy heavy rains after 3.00 p.m.

Morning R.4, R.5, R.6, Plantation, R.3

No luck for florican

while

Evening, heavy rain flushed 1♂ in B.P.C opposite Hanuman temple landed R.4 small part back. Sheltering from rain seemed more or less complete breeding plumage.

15/7/87 Morning Sunny/cloudy

1♂ flushed from B.P.C behind R.4 couldn't re locate.

(5)

16/7/87

Sunny / cloudy

Morning + evening R. 4, 5 crop area

no luck for floricans.

17/7/87

cloudy rained in the night

Morning 1 ♂ in B.P.C Adwanya - where other birds seen to land when flushed from main bleed.

displaying - displayed 8-10 times while foraging between 8:30 - 8:45. then foraging. c. 9:15 people passed on either side of bleed patch ♂ seen running to hide then couldn't relocate.

Almost complete breeding plumage. only 2 patches of buff visible on sides of head at base of plumes. Plumes also not very long and not so easily visible.

(♂ possibly the same one seen a few times earlier.

Possibly sits very tight in B.P.C hence not flushed on earlier attempts) Think I heard (more ♂ display.

Evening:- Sunny / clear.

5:15 ->

5:45 in crop field of sprouting soyabean and maize adjacent to Adwanya B.P.C saw 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ foraging all apart 20-60m away from each other.

(6)

- 1 ♂ then chased 1 ♀ in C.D. snapped head 1-2 times
♀ abruptly ran off. ♂ stopped and sat down for a few
moments.
- 6:00 same ♂ chased same ♀, again ♀ ran off, ♂ ran
in neck-raised posture in opp direction before resuming
foraging
- 6:05 other ♂ and ♀ foraging at the other end of crop
field 30-40 mts apart.
- 6:10 1 ♀ (courted one) lost track of. ♂ (counter) moving
towards B.P.C. where ♂ displayed in morning.
- 6:13 ♂ displayed corner of crop adjacent B.P.C.
- 6:15 2nd ♂ foraging slight butt one head. seems smaller
than 1st ♂: Both ♀s foraging
- 6:19 ♂ displayed.
- 6:21 displaying ♂ (counter) on edge of crop doing that odd
'tail flicking' (like 86 ♀). Tail cocked and jerkily
upwardly posterior repeatedly
- 6:30 Both ♀ foraging
♂ foraging still 'flicking' tail
2nd ♂ foraging
- 6:31 people coming flicher ♂ hid
- 6:36 flicher ♂ foraging not flicking tail anymore
STCA then displayed
other foraging
- 6:40 ♂ displayed same place
6:41 displayed

(7)

6.45 displayed same place
 6.47 " " "
 6.51 " "
 6.53 " "
 6.54 " "
 ↓ then started foraging
 ↓ display/foraging

7.10 second ♂ foraging both ♀ o.u.s.
 7.15 Both ♂ foraging coming closer
 7.18 Both ♂ standing looking at each other 20-30m apart.
 7.20 1st ♂ started running pursued by first.
 |
 7.25 still chasing partner to peck occasionally
 7.28 Both foraging
 7.30 foraging
 //Kaku saw lost in plantation//

18/7/87 Cloudy then cleared up.

Morning:-
 In area of yesterday activity R.4-R.5
 and plantation no luck.

Kheema's report

19/7/87 No rain

2 ♀, 2 ♂

20/7 ~~2~~ no rains

1 ♂

21/7 ~~2~~ no rain

1 ♂

22/7 No rain

No floricans sighted

23/7 No rains yet

ground green - s(+).cm grass in well protected areas grass ~~to~~ crops good condition still

24/7 Rained briefly in night (-/23/7) no rains

Kheema's report

(?)

25/7 ~~1~~ no rain

1 ♂ ~~same~~ same area B.P.C adwanya

26/7

No rains

— no floricans

27/7

No rains

1 ♂

28/7

No rains incessant wind

In B.P.C adwanya area of earlier activity
 No luck. Towards sailana bordering trees
 next to adwanya among tawish crops
 maize / soyabean / sowhar, (well fed?)
 1 ♀

29/7

No rains

1 ♂ in jowhar inbetween B.P.C

Adwanya couldn't relocate

1 ♀ in yesterdays area

30/7

No rains

No floricans seen.

31/7

No rains

1 ♀ in 28/29/7 area. (copied grasses
 and to a lesser extent crops beginning to dry)

(10)

1/8/1987 No rain
no floricans seen

2/8/87 No rain
1 ♀ in same area. flushed landed
beyond small patch of trees in crop. Couldn't
relocate flew ~~500~~ c. 75 mts.
Presumably ♀ hangs around this area.
looks like a drought year. A disaster
season.

Evening! - kbeema flushed 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ not very
far apart. near area of morning's action.

3/8/87 No rain.
1 ♀, 1 ♂ apart flushed ⁱⁿ near Adwanya crop area.
Evening no floricans sighted

4/8/87 No rain. the withering ~~has~~ is well advanced.
grassland only remnants of green. the rest grazed
and dried out.
Morning 1 ♀ in adwanya D.P.C. flew landed
c. 100 + mts away.

(11)

5/8/87 cloudy ~~no rain~~ most of day rained well in the night.

Morning flushed ♀ adwanya B.P.C. made wide circle and landed in crop not 100m from where flushed.

1 ♂ located in same crop patch. Gave chase in C.D. after a while snapped head few times. moved well away from ~~area of~~ observation point.

♂ definitely immature. Butt still on sides of head. when neck craned in C.D. the neck feathers were not much fluffed up. ♂ also appears to be a bit small.

Evening - very briefly in field - no luck

6/8/87 morning - cloudy - day rain - at night briefly.

1 ♀ flushed from crop flew short distance low over crops then landed in tallish maize.

Evening - cloudy -

R.G., 2 trees no florican

7/8/87 cloudy rained briefly at night.

Morning! - saw 1 ♂ in Adwanya B.P.C. displayed

3 times in bleed patch before displaying behind Butea. Appears like earlier ♂

Evening! - No luck. Keema flushed 1 ♂ from crop.

8/8/87 cloudy morning cleared up full moon.

Morning + Evening
In field no luck.

9/8/87 ~~sun~~ cloudy / sun / brief drizzle

Hazariga :- grass better than Naulakha. No luck

Evening :- cloudy

6:00 1st displaying ~~at~~ in crop at edge
of Adwanya B.P.C. S.S.D.

6:25 FD.

↓

9:00 F.D interspersed by banks of S.S.D.
moved into Adwanya B.P.C. lost to eye
still displaying.

10/8/87 Morning cloudy / cool.

6:10 ♂ displaying from crop field soya/maize

6:25 ♀ X - XXXX

6:30 X P X - XX -

6:35 - X - X -

sun comes through partly

6:39 hid momentarily (noise source of disturbance)

6:40 raised head from behind plants then STCA

6:41 - x - x - x -

6:45 xx - xx -

6:50 + x x x

7:00

6:55 P x x - x P -

7:00 - entered BPC pamed STCA

7:02 - o.u.s. in B.P.C.

sun again behind clouds.

● ~~relocated~~ (couldn't relocate)

10/8 Evening cloudy

In area of action no luck

11/8 cloudy | sun | cloudy

Morning & evening extensively scoured areas of

● activity - no luck.

12/8 cloudy | sun | cloudy

v. brief drizzle in the morning

No luck in area of activity.

Crops fairly advanced stages of withering
some fields almost entirely gone.

13/8 Sunny / cloudy No rain.

Morning and Evening

1 ♂ displaying in same crop Scitana Adwanya border.

14/8 Sunny / cloudy no rains

Morning and Evening

1 ♂ displaying in same crop field.

15/8 Sunny / cloudy no rain

Morning + Evening

1 ♂ in same crop field displaying

16/8 Clouding up.

1 ♂ displaying in crop field both times.

17/8 Rained after 5 p.m heavily

Crop ♂ displayed Morning and Evening

Another ♂ seen in crops in the morning

18/8 ~~re~~ Sunny / cloudy no rain.

Morning crop ♂ displaying

Evening not heard.

19/8 Sun | cloudy no rain
No floricans seen

20/8 Rained
No floricans seen

21/8 sun | cloudy no rains

Morning 1 ♂ displaying
Evening 1 ♂ displaying in same crops
another ♂ flushed in crop field

22/8 Rained
Morning & evening
1 ♂ displaying in crop

23/8 Rained
Morning
1 ♂ displaying in crop fields
Evening
1 ♂ displaying in crops
1 ♂ flushed from bleed near road.

24/8 Rained
Morning: 1 ♂ seen in bleed.

(18)

25/8 Rained through night and day

Morning - no floricans seen

Evening - no floricans seen

26/8 Rained through day

Morning & evening

no floricans seen

27/8 cloudy - no rains

Morning - Hazy

grass 5 + cm

No floricans seen.

theema saw 1 ♂ R.4 small part

Evening sun came out briefly

extensively searched R.4 R.5 R.6 crop areas

No floricans sighted.

(17)

28/8/87

cloudy day no rain

Morning:- combed crop fields and bleed extensively but couldn't locate floricans.
Kheema said he heard one male display twice near the Mohua tree adjacent to the Sailana - Adwanya - beyond tar road a just beyond the Sailana Adwanya crop or display site.

Evening:- Extensively searched entire area including Mancha. Spent 1/2 hr near Sailana Adwanya crop then at Adwanya crop. Floricans absent it would seem; neither heard nor saw them.

29/8/87

Cloudy drizzles lightly almost throughout day.

Morning:- florican not sighted.

Evening:- flushed 1♂ from grass bund between crops next to tallish jowhar/folder patch. Flew far 300+ mts landed towards Mancha adjacent to ~~Sailana~~ Adwanya - B.P.C.

On 2, 3, 4, 5, other crop areas no luck.

Saw curlew today.

(18)

30/8/87

cloudy rain/drizzly most of day

Morning R-4, R-5, part of crop areas

no luck

Evening. Extensively scoured R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5

crop areas. Finally saw 1 florican in

flight sex(?) (♂??). Couldn't relocate.

31/8/87

cloudy rain in the morning.

Morning: - No luck in Naulakha

Evening: - Hazariya extensively searched area but couldn't hear/see any floricans. Must be present as grass is at least 8cm. Pathan said he saw floricans the previous day.

1/9/87

morning cloudy - evening clear sun, cloudy

Morning: - Naulakha no luck

Evening: - In Adwaya B.P.C and crop area of earlier action 1 ♂ displaying while foraging. No florican seen in crop main bleed.

(19)

2/9/87 Morning cloudy; sunny/cloudy; sunny

Morning Naulakha

No floricans sighted.

Evening

Aamba plantation Sheopur beech.

No floricans sighted. Chowhidhaam sight 1 ♂ +

1 ♂ irregularly in sheopur crop areas.

3/9/87 Morning sunny clear

No luck in Naulakha

Evening

Kheema didn't see any florican.

4/9/87 Morning ~~cloudy~~ sunny

no luck.

Evening sunny

no florican seen

5/9/87 Morning sunny

1 ♂ flushed from Adhanya crop

No display heard

Evening Hazarviha

1 ♂ displaying frequently. Territory appears to be freshly established last 2-3 days as no jumping spot seen and where jumping

(20)

just faintly discernible.

6/9/87 Morning sun / cloudy / sunny

Maulakha crop areas:-

1 ♂ flew up from Adwanya crop and landed close to Adwanya / sailana crop fields.

Another ♂ located displaying on edge of Sait crop adjacent to Adwanya o.p mound.

Evening kheema saw 1 ♂ (displaying) and 1 ♀ in R-2 BPC. ♂ apparently been present for some time now.

Evening :- shiharwadi Badshah ke bheed.

Grass same condition as Maulakha. Couldn't locate any floricans.

(kheema saw 1 ♂ in Adwanya BPC crop displaying).

7/9/87 Morning sun / cloudy / sunny windy.

1 ♂ flew in from towards Adwanya B.P.C and landed in crop, c. 100 mts from where man was ~~was~~ deweeding. Spent time foraging and displaying. Another ♂ flew in from direction of Sailana / Adwanya crop (Mehboob heard display there likely same ♂) and landed in crop near Hanuman temple. 1st ♂ got flushed by farmer and landed in Adwanya B.P.C.

7/9/87 Evenly sunny

R-2, R-3, R-4, Plantation No floricans seen.

8/9/87 Morning sun/cloudy

Hazarliya no floricans located

Naulakha faintly heard rattles on R-2 back part
(possibly frogs)

Kheema saw 1 ♂ display on R-4 small part
near 2 trees.

Evening:- sunny

Naulakha no florican on R-4 s.p but 1 ♂
displayed from B.P.C Adwanya. Couldn't
see/hear ♂ at sailana / Adwanya crop fields.

9/9/87

Morning sun clear

Went to Dhamnod ka bheed - big atleast
Naulakha size. grass same as Naulakha
It is one hump on the ground in the shape
of ~~and~~ extended thumb and forefinger. Couldn't see
florican.

Kheema saw 1 ♂ foraging display in Bheed patch
in front of Hanuman temple.

Evening - sunny

No florican heard in Adwanya crop

No florican heard in Bheed area R-4 etc

No florican heard R-2 back part.

10/9/87 sunny hot.

Morning & Evening :- No floricans seen/heard.

11/9/87 In Dahod grassland.

12/9/87 sunny/hot.

Evening :- 1 ♂ displaying from R-4 S.P near
2 trees.

13/9/87 Sunny/hot.

Morning :- florican not seen.

Evening :- ♂ florican displaying from R-4 sp
same as yesterday.

14/9/87 Sunny/hot.

Morning :- ♂ florican displaying from R-4 sp

Evening :- ♂ florican displaying from R-4 sp.

15/9/87 sunny / hot.

Morning:- Hazarviya

located 2 ♂s, one displaying near where last seen. Another flew in and landed some 40-50m from it. 1st ♂ displayed few more times before rushing towards other ♂ presumably to engage in combat. Both lost to eye in tall grass.

1 ♀ florican seen by chowhidhars.

Maulakha.

1 ♂ displaying at 2 trees.

Another ♂ also displaying, ~~has~~ has made an appearance on R'y lower part near where the nest and ♂ were last year.

Mauchu.

1 ♂ displaying in a stand of tall grass.

Evening.

Maulakha:-

No males seen / heard.

16/9/87 Sun

Morning 1 Mauchu:- 1 ♂ displaying from short soya field next to stand of tall grass

Evening in Maulakha didn't hear / see florican.

17/9/87 Mon sunny -

Morning & Evening

1 ♂ displaying from R.H. side near 2 trees.

Naucha ♂ seen both times.

18/9/87 Sunny

Morning no florican seen.

Evening ♂ displayed from R.H. side.

Naucha 1 florican present.

19/9 sunny.

Morning:- 1 ♂ displaying R.H. side.

Evening florican not seen.

20/9 Morning and Evening - sunny

No floricans located.

21/9 Morning and Evening

No floricans located.

22/9 sunny

Morning:-

Naulakha no floricans seen.

Hazaviya 1 ♂ displaying

23/9/87 Sunny.

Morning:- Shikarwadi, Badsha ke bheed, Shikarwadi eastern corner.

No floricans seen.
grass flowering but short.

Evening:- cloudy / rained

2 display heard at R & S.P.

24/9/87 Sunny.

Morning & Evening
No floricans seen

25/9/87 sunny

Morning & Evening
No floricans seen

26/9/87 sunny

Morning & Evening
No floricans seen

27/9/87 Sunny

Morning & Evening
No floricans seen

28/9/87 Morning & Evening

Floricans not located

29/9/8

Sunny

Morning Hazarina.

No floricans seen. Chowhidkhar, ~~be~~ heard

1 or 2 displays earlier: - grass still green

Evening

Naulakha no florican seen.

And so ends the third season.