

A Preliminary Checklist of Birds in Azmat Abad Village Thanna Mandi District Rajouri of, Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract Birds play an important role in the ecosystem as long-distance pollinators, scavengers as well as biocontrol agents of various crop pests and thus to be considered as bio-indicators. Different birds have different habitats, some are aerial, some are terrestrial, some are aquatic, some lives near the bank of the reservoir. In this survey, the bird diversity has been recorded for the first time as a preliminary checklist purpose of Azmat Abad Village of Thelsil Thanna Mandi of District Rajouri of J&K The Field survey was done from Agust to October 2020. Total 9 species of terrestrial Birds have been recorded. The preliminary checklist is provided for the undertaking of future research and conservation as well as management on the bird's diversity of Azmat Abad village.

Key words: First record, checklist, Diversity, Azmat abad, Birds

INTRODUCTION

Birds are 'warm-blooded' vertebrates, with fore-limbs modified to wings, and skins covered with feathers. Vertebrates are characterised by having a spinal column and a skull. 'Warm blooded' or *homiothermic* (constant temperature) means that their body temperature is kept more or less constant and above that of their surroundings. Typically, the forelimbs as wings give birds the power of flight although there are some flightless birds. In some cases (e.g. penguins and puffins) the wings are used for swimming under water.

All birds reproduce by laying eggs which are fertilised internally before laying. The skull and lower jaw are extended forward into mandibles which make a beak. The bird's legs and toes are covered with overlapping scales. Birds possess a third, transparent eyelid, the *nictitating membrane*,

which can move across the eye. The birds rich Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (Rahmani et al., 2013) with 28 important bird areas (Islam and Rahmani, 2012) is home to 12 globally threatened bird species and six near-threatened species (Rahmani et al., 2013). Many researchers, young birders and enthusiasts have contributed to the avian baseline for the Union territory which includes the work of Ahmed and Sahi (2005); Aggarwal et al. (2008); Choudhary (2010); Bhat and Bhat (2012); Hussain and Kait (2013); Singh et al. (2014); Syed (2014); Fazili et al. (2017); Kichloo et al. (2018); Sharma et al. (2018); Sohil et al. (2019). The current study has been done for the exploration of bird diversity, and their conservation status in the Azmat Abad village area of district Rajouri of j&k. By knowing the bird diversity in this area, help the future researchers to know about bird conservation and their proper management policies in this region

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to study the bird diversity uniformly throughout the study area 2 transects were laid covering most of the study area. The length of transect varies from 3 km to 6 km and width depends upon the terrain of the transect, which usually varies from few meters to 400 m.

Transect 1 – Azmat to Dhanna : The habitat of the transect was that of a mixed forest type in which dominant tree species was churu, pyrius pashai and the whole area was covered with *Arisaema* sp., *Iris cashmeriana*. and *Digitalis purpurea*. Length of transect was 2 km.

Transect 2 -saghri 9 Dhoke to sukhsar: The habitat of the transect was that of mixed forest type in which dominant tree species were *Pinus wallichiana*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Quercus* sp. Length of transect was 6 km.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

The field observations were made with the naked eyes, binocular and the images were photographed with Nikon DSLR D54000 filed camera. The species identification and authentication were carried by consulting the field Guides (Ali, 2002; Grimmet et al., 2011). The online bird identification was done on Indian Birds, Ask id's of Indian Birds, iNaturalist app etc. proved quite handy in bird identification.

STUDY AREA

Azmat abad village of thaana mandi district Rajouri , Jammu and Kashmir, India is situated at a distance of 26 km from district headquarters and is stretched between 33°56,501 lat- and 74°56'12" longitudes. The altitude of the study area ranges from 1668 m . Azmat Abad village is also connect to Mughal road. The upper reaches of the study area receive heavy snowfall from Dec-April and winter is severe there, whereas the lower reaches have a pleasant season throughout the year. The basic floristic composition of the study area varies from that of a sub-tropical to sub-temperate forest with 4 distinct seasons a year, Spring (March May), Summer (June-August), Autumn (September November) and Winter (December-February). The study area is dominated by coniferous forests, although broad leaved, mixed forest and alpine pastures are also found in some higher reaches like D.KG , rattan peer ,sukh sar etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 9 species of birds was recorded first time in Azmat Abad village . The field observation and data collected in Azmat abad village in first phase area shows that the area is supporting good bird diversity



Eudynamys scolopaceus



Urocissa flavirostris



Lophura leucomelanos



Acridotheres tristis



Hypsipetes leucocephalus



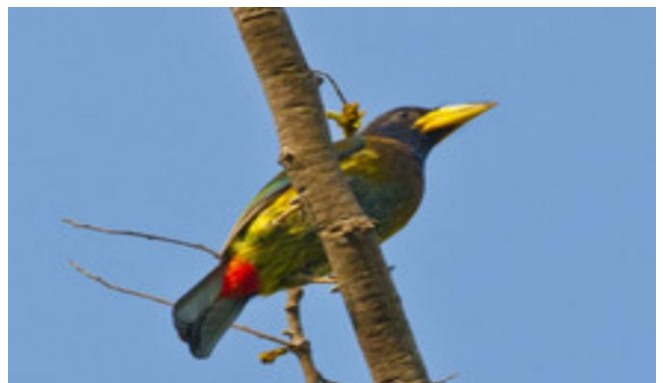
Picus canus



Streptopelia chinensis



Aquila nipalensis



Streptopelia chinensis

Family:Cuculidae Eudynamys scolopaceus	Status Very common
Family: Corvidae Urocissa flavirostris	<u>Very common</u>
Family :Phasiandae Lophura leucomelanos	very rare
Family :Sturnidae Acridotheres tristis	Very common
Family:Picidae Picus canus	common
Family:Accipitridae Aquila nipalensis	Very rare IUNC Status Endangered
Family:Pycnontidae Hypsipetes leucocephalus	<u>Common</u>
Family:Coloumbidae Streptopelia chinensis	<u>common</u>
Family: Megalamidae Megalaima virens	<u>common</u>

Short note on sighting of Birds

Family:Cuculidae Eudynamys scolopaceus
Asian koel

Discription

The Asian koel is a large, long-tailed, cuckoo measuring 39–46 cm (15–18 in) and weighing 190–327 g (6.7–11.5 oz). The male of the nominate race is glossy bluish-black, with a pale greenish grey bill, the iris is crimson, and it has grey legs and feet. The female of the nominate race is brownish on the crown and has rufous streaks on the head. The back, rump and wing coverts are dark brown with white

and buff spots. The underparts are whitish, but is heavily striped. The other subspecies differ in colouration and size. The upper plumage of young birds is more like that of the male and they have a black beak. They are very vocal during the breeding season (March to August in the Indian Subcontinent), with a range of different calls. The familiar song of the male is a repeated koo-Ooo. The female makes a shrill kik-kik-kik... call. Calls vary across populations.

Distribution

The Asian koel is a bird of light woodland and cultivation. It is a mainly resident breeder in tropical southern Asia from Iran, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to southern China and the Greater Sundas.

They have great potential in colonizing new areas, and were among the pioneer birds to colonize the volcanic island of Krakatau. They first arrived in Singapore in the 1980s and became very common birds.

Some populations may make long-distance movements being found in places like Australia.

Remarks The Bird First time recorded from Azmat abad village at the altitude of 1668 m above sea level.

Family: Corvidae Urocissa flavirostris
Yellow-billed blue magpie

Distribution

Length 66 cm (26 in), including tail of about 46 cm (18 in). Sexes alike. Head, neck, and breast black, with a white patch on the nape; remainder of lower plumage white, faintly tinged with lilac; whole upper plumage purplish-blue, brighter on the wings and tail; flight-feathers tipped with white, the outermost edged with the same; tail long and graduated, the feathers blue, broadly tipped with white, all except the very long central pair having a band of black in front of the white

Distribution

The yellow-billed blue magpie is found throughout the Himalayas from Hazara to the Brahmaputra. It is divided into two races. Of these, U. f. cucullata is the better known and is found from the Western boundary of the range to Western Nepal, being a common species about most of the hill stations of the Western Himalayas, breeding in a zone from 1,500 to 3,000 m (4,900 to 9,800 ft). The typical form is found from Eastern Nepal eastwards and differs in that the under parts have a darker lilac tinge; its zone is slightly higher than that of the Western form, as it seldom occurs as low as 1,830 m (6,000 ft). A resident species, but during the winter months it usually deserts the higher parts of its summer zone. From Simla eastwards, the closely allied red-billed blue magpie (*Urocissa erythroryncha*) is often found in the same areas as the yellow-billed species; it is particularly common about Mussoorie, Tehri-Garhwal, -Kumaon, and in Nepal, and may be easily distinguished by its red beak and the greater extent of the white nape-patch.

Remarks

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Family :Phasiandae Lophura leucomelanos
kalij pheasant

Discription

Males have a total length of 63 to 74 cm (25 to 29 in) and females 50 to 60 cm (20 to 24 in).[2] Height is... Very roughly, the subspecies can be divided into two main groups, with the first (subspecies L. l. hamiltoni, L. l. leucomelanos, L. l. melanota, L. l. moffitti, and V. lathami) being found in the western and central part of the species' range, while the second (L. l. williamsi, L. l. oatesi, L. l. lineata, and L. l. crawfurdi) is found in the eastern part. In the males of the first group, most of plumage is glossy blue-black, though with white to the rump or underparts in most subspecies, and in L. l. hamiltoni, the westernmost subspecies, the crest is white (all other have a blue-black crest). In the second group, the underparts and crest are glossy blue-black, but the tail and upperparts are white (or very pale grey) with most feathers densely vermiculated with black.

Females are brownish. In some subspecies, the underparts are distinctly marked in whitish and black, while in others, most feathers are pale-edged, resulting in a scaly appearance.

Distribution

The kalij pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) is a pheasant found in forests and thickets, especially in the Himalayan foothills, from Pakistan to western Thailand

Remark

The Bird First time recorded from Azmat abad village at the altitude of 1668 m above sea level. Manily found in thick forest During night time sit on the top of tree

Family :Sturnidae Acridotheres tristis
common myna

Description

The common myna is readily identified by the brown body, black hooded head and the bare yellow patch behind the eye. The bill and legs are bright

yellow. There is a white patch on the outer primaries and the wing lining on the underside is white. The sexes are similar and birds are usually seen in pairs.

Distribution and habitat

It is a species of bird native to Asia with its initial home range spanning from Iran, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; as well as Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Myanmar, to Malaysia, Singapore, peninsular Thailand, Indochina, Japan (both mainland Japan and the Ryukyu Islands) and China.

The common myna has been introduced in many other parts of the world such as Canada, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, New Caledonia, the United States, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, the Cayman Islands, islands in the Indian Ocean (the Seychelles, Mauritius, Réunion, Madagascar, the Maldives, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep archipelago) and also in islands of the Atlantic (such as Ascension and Saint Helena) and the Pacific Oceans

Remark

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Family: Picidae *Picus canus* Grey-headed woodpecker

Discription

The grey-headed woodpecker is 25–26 cm (9.8–10.2 in) in length, has a wingspan of 38–40 cm (15–16 in) and weighs around 125 g (4.4 oz). The male of the nominate subspecies has a grey head with a red forecrown. There is a black line across the lores and a narrow black moustache stripe. The back, scapulars and wing coverts are green. The breast and underbody are pale grey. The folded primaries are barred brown-black on grey-white. The female lacks the red forecrown but has fine black streaks on the crown. The widely distributed *Picus canus jessoensis* is very similar to the nominate subspecies but is slightly greyer and less green. The Chinese subspecies *Picus canus guerini* has a black nape patch and a greenish underbody. The subspecies *Picus canus hessei* is similar to *guerini* but is more golden green above and a deeper green below. The

race on the island of Sumatra, *Picus canus dedemi*, differs markedly from the other subspecies in having reddish rather than green above, and red, green and grey below. It has a black crown and nape. Specimens of the more widespread of the two Eastern subspecies, *P. c. jessoensis*, are usually a little larger and heavier than individuals from the type locality. On average, it is somewhat smaller and lighter than the European green woodpecker.] In the field, this distinction in size is difficult to make. Its size is approximately that of a Eurasian collared dove

Distribution

The grey-headed woodpecker is found in wide parts of Central, Northern and Eastern Europe, as well as a wide belt south of the boreal coniferous forests across Asia all the way to the Pacific coast, Sakhalin and Hokkaidō. Its northern limit is at the border between closed coniferous and mixed forest; the southern limit is where tree steppe transitions to treeless shrubby steppe. In East Asia, the species is most differentiated, and south of Manchuria covers the Korean Peninsula, as well as large parts of eastern China and Farther India, the mountain forests of the Malay Peninsula.

In Europe, the type subspecies breeds within a wide belt from western France to the Urals. It has settled medium latitudes of Scandinavia as well as Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. There is contradictory information regarding its occurrence in Turkey. Most likely, several hundred pairs breed in Mittelgebirge habitats of the Pontic Mountains. The species is absent from the North German Plain, British Isles, Iberian Peninsula, and Mediterranean islands. In Italy, it is confined to the northernmost parts

Remark

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Family: Accipitridae *Aquila nipalensis* steppe eagle.

Discription

The steppe eagle is a large, bulky and robust-looking eagle. It is mainly dark brown in colour with a longish but very thick neck and a relatively small

head that nonetheless features a strong bill and long gape-line. It appears long-winged and has a longish and rather rounded tail and markedly well-feathered (almost with disheveled looking feathers) legs. Steppe eagles tend to perch somewhat upright and usually do so in the open, often utilizing isolated trees, posts, rocks or other suitable low lookouts such as mounds or straw-piles. The species often is seen on the ground where may stand for long periods of the day and walk with horizontal posture and with wingtips just exceed the tail-tip. Steppe eagles, like tawny eagles, can fairly tame and approachable, unlike many of the other *Aquila* eagles. The adult is a somewhat variable brown with darker centers to the greater coverts. More pronouncedly in the eastern part of the range, adults have normally prominent pale rufous to dull orange-yellow to yellow-brown patches on the nape and hindcrown.

Distribution

The steppe eagle once bred in Europe. Here, they bred into the 20th century in southeasternmost Ukraine and still rarely occurs as a breeder in southwest Russia from Stavropol to Astrakhan. The steppe eagle is still mapped to breed down to Makhachkala and Maykop to as far west as Leningradskaya, up north as far as the lower Volga and down to the Caspian Sea nearly as far as Makhachkala and south of Fort-Shevchenko. The breeding range can extend through appropriate habitat in northeastern Kyrgyzstan and in much of Kazakhstan, from north of Nur-Sultan south to (albeit spottily) to Kyzylorda as well as around the Aral Sea

Remarks

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Family:Pycnontidae *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Black bulbul

Description

White-headed morph of the nominate race
Individual at Botanical Garden in the city of Taipei
Black bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*)
Himachal Pradesh, India

The black bulbul is 24–25 cm (9.4–9.8 in) in length, with a long tail. The body plumage ranges from slate grey to shimmering black, depending on the race. The beak, legs, and feet are all orange and the head has a black fluffy crest. Sexes are similar in plumage, but young birds lack the crest, have whitish underparts with a grey breast band, and have a brown tint to the upperparts. They have a black streak behind the eye and on the ear coverts.

Distribution

It is found in southern Asia from India east to southern China. It is the type species of the genus *Hypsipetes*, established by Nicholas Aylward Vigors in the early 1830s

Remarks

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Family:Colombidae *Streptopelia chinensis*
Spotted dove

Description

The ground colour of this long and slim dove is rosy buff below shading into grey on the head and belly. There is a half collar on the back and sides of the neck made of black feathers that bifurcate and have white spots at the two tips. The median coverts have brown feathers tipped with rufous spots in the Indian and Sri Lankan subspecies which are divided at the tip by a widening grey shaft streak

The wing feathers are dark brown with grey edges. The centre of the abdomen and vent are white. The outer tail feathers are tipped in white and become visible when the bird takes off. Sexes are similar, but juveniles are duller than adults and do not acquire the neck spots until they are mature. The length ranges from 28 to 32 centimetres (11.2 to 12.8 inches).

Distribution and habitat

The spotted dove in its native range in Asia is found across a range of habitats including woodland, scrub, farmland and habitation. In India it tends to be found in the moister regions, with the laughing dove (*S. senegalensis*) being commoner in the drier areas. These doves are mostly found on the ground where they forage for seeds and grain or on low vegetation.

The species has become established in many areas outside its native range. These areas include Hawaii, southern California, Mauritius, Australia and New Zealand.

In Australia, they were introduced in Melbourne in the 1860s and has since spread, often replacing native doves. They are now found in streets, parks, gardens, agricultural areas and tropical scrubs in diverse locations in southern and eastern Australia from Eyre Peninsula in South Australia to Cape York in Queensland.

Remarks

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Family: Megalamidae Megalaima virens
Great barbet

Description

The great barbet has a blue head, large yellow bill, brown and green-streaked body, belly and a red vent. The plumage is green. It is the largest barbet species with a body length of 32–35 cm (13–14 in) and a weight of 192–295 g (6.8–10.4 oz)

Distribution

The great barbet is a resident breeder in the lower-to-middle altitudes of the Himalayas, ranging across northern India, Nepal and Bhutan, Bangladesh and some parts of Southeast Asia, as far away as Laos

Remarks

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CONCLUSION

The study proves that the area is having healthy fauna and thus Government needs to take these serious steps for further conservation to conserve the habitat of avian fauna so as to protect the future loss of their habitats. Govt should be take necessary action

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