Crested Tree-Swifts Hemiprocne coronata were commonly seen in the Eucalyptus plantation where I had known them to roost and nest. Only once did I hear the calls of the Grey Junglefowl Gallus sonneratii and the Red Spurfowl Galloppteryx spadicea. Both the Jungle Turdoides striatus and White-headed Babblers T. affinis were seen, the latter in more open areas. The Spotted Babbler’s Pelligornum ruficeps melodious calls were heard once. Thick-billed Dicaeum agile, Tickell’s D. erythrophrynchos and perhaps the Plain Flowerpeckers D. concolor, Purple Nectarinia asiatica, Purple-rumped N. zeylonica and Loten’s Sunbirds N. lotenia were noticed often.

Grey-headed Starlings Sturnus malabaricus were seen in good numbers on the Bomtax trees. These birds were also noticed in flight one evening towards dusk in Thrissur, right in the busiest localities in the vicinity of the temple were in bloom. It was wonderful to be back at Peechi and it was interesting to notice the subtle but significant changes in the bird life following the changes in the vegetation. We need to monitor such changes over long time periods to see how the wildlife responds to changes in the vegetation. Peechi appears ideal given its easy access and rich and diverse bird life. Perhaps Nameer or someone else from nearby areas would take the initiative to re-survey the birds of this sanctuary.

Significant records
1. Western Tragopan Tragopan melanocephalus: This ‘Vulnerable’ pheasant was heard late in the evening of 15.iv.2003 at 17:50hrs while camping at Shilt (c.3100m). The wailing call was heard nine times. On 16.iv.2003, early in the morning, it started calling at 05:30hrs and continued up to 07:00hrs with an odd-call at 09:00hrs also. While walking on the slippery track from Shilt to Chhoa Dar, one was flushed near 07:55hrs. It did not call when it was flushed. However, its wings made a curious, rattling sound, very different from the other pheasants. Around 07:55hrs one male flew down the slope and landed on the track barey 5m from us! For five seconds we were treated to an eye-filling view of his spiky black crest, scarlet face and nape and flame-red breast. Seeing us so close the startled bird walked 2m or so up the slope before turning and wheeling down the steep mountainside, twisting between the trees. Another male flew behind that one, but kept

New and significant records from the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh, India
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The Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP; Himachal Pradesh, India), represents the best example of undisturbed west Himalayan temperate forest and falls within one of the globally Endemic Bird Areas (DO2: Western Himalayas) identified by the ICBP Biodiversity Project (Gaston et al. 1994). But the birds of GNHP have not been exhaustively surveyed. Both Babault (1920) and Whistler (1926) visited Parbati Valley, a day’s walk from the park boundary and Wynter-Blyth (1952) passed through Tirthan Valley, not far from the park. There is no published account reporting birds from the actual park area, except by Gaston et al. (1994). The purpose of this note is to update published information on the avifauna of the park with additional records from birdwatching trips to the Tirthan Valley during 16-20.vi.2002 and 13-24.iv.2003.

New records
1. Cinereous Vulture Aegypius monachus: Four birds were observed on 13.iv.2003 near Sairopa (c.1440m). Later five birds were seen outside the park in the afternoon on 24.iv.2003 at the Rohtang Pass (3978m). Both the groups were migrating northwards.
2. Shikra Accipiter badius: A male was observed calling in the afternoon on 23.iv.2003 and again in the morning on 24.iv.2003 at Sai Ropa. It is possible that the species moves to the higher areas during summer.
3. Plum-headed Parakeet Psittacula cyanocephala: A small flock of five birds was observed near Sai Ropa at c1600m on 18.vi.2002, considerably higher than the known altitudinal range of 600m for the species (Kazmierczak 2000).
4. House Swift Apus affinis: More than 200 were seen in the afternoon near Sai Ropa on 24.iv.2003. For fifteen minutes or so they hunted in the valley before flying away.

Reference
going down slope, giving good views in flight. We also flushed a female before returning to the camp.

On 17.iv.2003 a bird called at 05:15hrs for about four minutes. Another bird started calling soon after from a different direction. A third bird called around 06:15hrs.

We trekked up to Khorli Poi (c. 500m) on the opposing north face of the valley where we camped for two days. In the inclement weather, with heavy snowfall, we did not see tragopans, but two males were heard. A male roosting some distance from our tents, started calling at night (03:45hrs). Two more birds from different directions called from the first light of pre-dawn on 21.iv.2003. On 22.iv.2003 one bird called sporadically during the night (02:45 hrs).

2. Cheer Pheasant Catreus wallichi: The only time we heard this ‘Vulnerable’ species was from the top of the south-facing slope near Rolla. The birds called at 17:45hrs for a minute or two on 18.iv.2004.