



Lord Derby's Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana*, and Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua* in Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Rasmussen & Anderton (2005, 2012) treat the occurrence of both, the Lord Derby's Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana* (Near threatened; IUCN 2012), and the Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua* from Arunachal Pradesh, India, as hypothetical. Grimmett *et al.* (2011) too categorise both these species as 'doubtful,' from India.

Ali & Ripley (1987) presume the Lord Derby's Parakeet is a, "summer visitor to NEFA [North East Frontier Agency=Arunachal Pradesh] in the Siang and Subansiri Divisions, as in adjacent SE. Tibet (between c. 2700 and 3500 m.), where according to Ludlow it only arrives during the first half of May and departs about end September. Evidently does not occur west of about the 93rd meridian." They describe it as extralimital in, "SE. Tibet; SW. China in the provinces of Szechuan and Yunnan (Peters)," and further record that, "On arrival (in SE. Tibet), and before departure, seen in large flocks of 40 to 50 birds in cultivated valleys and conifer forest higher up. Noisy and very destructive to ripening crops." Grimmett *et al.* (1998) state that it was a common, local resident in Arunachal Pradesh, breeding between 2700 and 3500 m. This was probably based on Singh (1995), who observed many birds visiting a nesting hole in a tall dead tree at Hotspring (3399 m) during 25–29 September 1991, in a temperate mixed forest near Walong. Kazmierczak (2000) treats the parakeet as a resident.

Ali & Ripley (1987) describe Black-headed Greenfinch as "species extralimital" to India. Singh (1995) recorded it at Walong (1300 m). Grimmett *et al.* (1998) treat it as "possibly resident in NE Arunachal Pradesh; very locally fairly common; 1300 m, 2800–3110 m, subject to altitudinal movements. Kazmierczak (2000) treats it as a scarce or rare altitudinal migrant of uncertain status, in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh.

I recorded both these species in early May 2012 in Walong, Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh, along the Lohit River catchment.

Two Lord Derby's Parakeets (possibly a pair) were recorded at Tilam (1315 m; 28°09'N, 97°01'E) on the Walong–Kibithu route on the afternoons of 2–3 May 2012. Birds were feeding on female cones of *Pinus merkusii* [143] in a temperate mixed forest dominated by *P. merkusii*, *Rhus chinensis*, and other *Rhus* species, *Alnus nepalensis*, *Quercus* species, *Saurauia nepalensis*, and *Morus laevigata*. A 'creeo, creoo creoo' call was uttered at intervals, and while flying.

A large flock (26+) of Black-headed Greenfinches [144] was recorded at the Walong PWD rest house (1124 m; 28°07'N, 97°01'E), feeding in open scrub, and perched on electric wires on 2 and 3 May 2012, both in the morning and evening.

My sighting of the Lord Derby's Parakeet was close to the riverside at 1315 m, while Singh (1995) reported it from primary and secondary mixed temperate forest at 3399 m in the same district during autumn in September. So the occurrence of this parakeet from May to September, by Ludlow, for NEFA, is true.

The sighting of Black-headed Greenfinch in Walong is from the same location as reported by Singh (1995) but he did not give the date of his record. These photographic records thus remove all apprehensions and doubts about the occurrence of these two species in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

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