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Confirmation records of Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* from Bangladesh

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The Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* is reported to have a distribution in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and considered widespread in the lowlands and plains of the Indian Subcontinent (Ali & Ripley 1987). However, its presence in Bangladesh is dubious as sightings are compounded with records of Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *D. canicapillus* (Thompson & Johnson 2003). Here we present photographic records that confirm the presence of this species in Bangladesh.

Since 2005, we have been regularly birding in and around Rajshahi city (24.37°N, 88.65°E), situated in north-western Bangladesh. Two important birding areas include the Rajshahi University campus (24.37°N, 88.64°E; henceforth, RU), and the Padma River. The RU is situated on approximately three square kilometers of land, having diverse habitats including wetlands, open and scattered forests, hedges, fields, small patches of grasslands, croplands, plantations, orchards, and gardens. The RU is well covered by birders, with every site within the campus being visited at least twice a month; while some parts, like the Zoology Field Lab and surroundings, are birded for two hours almost every day.

On 06 March 2015, a single 'Pygmy Woodpecker' was photographed at the Zoology Field Laboratory at 1650 hrs, which was the first record of either of the above species from our campus. The photographs were not clear and hence the bird was tentatively left as a 'Pygmy Woodpecker.' In retrospect, this was indeed a Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker as all the black rectrices had white spots [17] and, in one of the photographs, its eyes appear to be pale. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers in the

hills south of Brahmaputra have white spots on their rectrices, but the central pair is solid black. After about two years, a bird was seen again and photographed in 05 May 2017 in the community forest site of RU at 0730hrs. This bird clearly showed white eyes, large white-speckled rectrices, and brown crown [18]—clearly separating it from the Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, a species we are yet to record in RU.

Sen (2014) reported the presence of Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker in the adjoining Indian state of West Bengal. Harvey (1990) listed this species for Bangladesh, giving it the status of a rare resident or a visitor, without mentioning any specific reports. Thompson *et al.* (1994) commented that the species may be present in Bangladesh, but its status there required clarification, and further critical



17. Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* showing black rectrices with white spots (March 2015).



18. Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker showing a pale white eye (May 2017).

surveys, due to its potential confusion with the Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. They mentioned a record from Tarap Hill Reserve where D. A. Scott observed two pairs at Katka, and another pair at Nilkamalin the

Sunderbans of Bangladesh in 1987 (Thompson *et al.* 1994). However, detailed notes were not taken in any of these instances. Subsequently, Thompson & Johnson (2003) commented that there were no well-documented records that confirmed the presence of the Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker in Bangladesh. Khan (2008, 2015) reported the presence of this species in Bangladesh but he did not mention any specific record or locality. Though Siddiqui (2008) did not include this species in the main body of his work, he did so in the annexure, which included species that were not confirmed from the country.

Hence, these photographic records are the first confirmed records for Bangladesh though it's too early to comment on its status.

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Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* at Corbett Tiger Reserve: A westward range extension into the western Himalaya and a first record for Uttarakhand and northern India

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Needletails are members of tribe *Chaeturini* (Apodidae: Apodinae) (del Hoyo 1999). 'The swifts of the genus *Hirundapus* form a closely knit group of four very similar species...' (Collins & Brooke 1976) that 'are characterised by the unusual structure of the tail feathers, with the rachides bare at the tips and stiffened along their whole length, both of which features combine to help the birds cling to vertical surfaces' (del Hoyo 1999). They '...are characterized by great size (wings over 170 mm long) and a doubtless well-deserved reputation for being among the fastest flying birds...' (Collins & Brooke 1976), '...with astonishing flight velocities running as high as 170 km per hour...' (Dementive *et al.* 1951), and are 'among the glossiest of all swifts' (del Hoyo 1999).

The Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* is a large swift (del Hoyo 1999) with highly glossy plumage (Chantler

& Driessens 2000). It has long wings and, a short tail with bare ends to the rectrix spines (del Hoyo 1999). The 'throat [is] pale brown or grey and can appear distinctly pale greyish-white, but never pure white and sharply divided from breast...' (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), and '...lacking contrast with sides of head and breast...' (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The underparts are dark olive-brown from breast and upper flank to vent; lower flanks and undertail-coverts clear white, forming a highly distinct horseshoe mark; saddle pale-brown, palest at centre of lower mantle and back, progressively darker towards nape; upperwing darker than saddle; underwing coverts appear slightly darker or uniform with underbody (Chantler & Driessens 2000). Silver-backed Needletail is very similar in appearance to White-throated Needletail *H. caudacutus*. The throat patch of the former is indistinct, merging with darker brown upper-breast whereas the