



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.

References

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1987. *Compact handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka*. 2nd ed. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. i–xlii, 1 l., 1–737, 52 ll.
- Das, T., & Ghosh, U., 2015. *Amader Pakhi* (in Bangla). Baligonj Place, Kolkata, India.
- del Hoyo, J., Collar, N., & Christie, D.A., 2017. Indian Pygmy Woodpecker (*Picoides nanus*). In: J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D.A. Christie, and E. de Juana (eds.) *Handbook of the birds of the world Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/467488> on 11 May 2017).
- Harvey, W. G., 1990. *Birds in Bangladesh*. Dhaka: University Press Limited. Pp. i–viii, 1–188.
- Khan, M.A.R., 2008. *Bangladesher Pakhi* (Birds of Bangladesh). Bangla Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Khan, M.A.R., 2015. *Wildlife of Bangladesh: Checklist-cum-Guide*. Chayabithi, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Sen, S., 2014. Checklist of birds: West Bengal. Website URL: <https://www.kolkatabirds.com/main/dist.html>. [Accessed on 26 November 2017.]
- Thompson, P. M., Harvey, W. G., Johnson, D. L., Millin, D. J., Rashid, S. M. A., Scott, D. A., Stanford, C., & Woolner, J. D., 1994. Recent notable bird records from Bangladesh. *Forktail* 9: 13–44.
- Thompson, P. M., & Johnson, D. L., 2003. Further notable bird records from Bangladesh. *Forktail* 19: 85–102. 📍

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

Manoj Sharma & Nayan V. Khanolkar

Sharma, M., & Khanolkar, N. V., 2018. Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* at Corbett Tiger Reserve: A westward range extension into the western Himalayas and a first record for Uttarakhand and northern India. *Indian BIRDS* 14 (2): 46–49.

Manoj Sharma, Village Shankarpur, Ramnagar, District Nainital, Uttarakhand 244715, India. E-mail: treesswift@gmail.com (Corresponding author). [MS]

Nayan V. Khanolkar, B-11, Om CHS, Devi Chowk, Dombivli – west, Thane, Maharashtra 421202, India. E-mail: nayankhanolkar@gmail.com [NVK]

Manuscript received on 26 August 2017.

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

latter has a highly contrasting white throat (Chantler & Driessens 2000). Silver-backed Needletail has a less contrasting mantle patch (del Hoyo 1999) and its tertials have a pale grey inner web which may be visible in the field as compared to strikingly white tertials of the similar looking White-throated Needletail *H. caudacutus* (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

The species occurs from the foothills of central and eastern Himalayas (westward to Nepal), extreme north-eastern India, Hainan, Taiwan, eastern continental South-east Asia, to mainland South-east Asia, Sumatra, and Java (Dickinson & Remsen 2013). It is found in China, in Hannan (Meyer de Schauensee 1984), and in Hong Kong (Chalmers 1986). In South-east Asia it occurs in Myanmar (Smythies 1986), Thailand (Lekagul & Round 2005), Vietnam (Robson *et al.* 1993), Cambodia (Robson 2008), Laos (Timmins & Duckworth 2012), Malaysia (Delacour 1947), Singapore (Wells 1999), and Indonesia (Strange 2012). It was not recorded in Borneo by Smythies (1968) and Myers (2010), but may occur in West Wallacea (Wells 1999). There are unconfirmed reports of it being a vagrant to Christmas Island, an 'Australian External Territory', though located not too far south of Indonesia (Christidis & Boles 2008).

In the Indian Subcontinent, the species is found in north-eastern India (Ali & Ripley 1970), where it occurs in Assam (Baker 1927; Barua & Sharma 1999, 2005; Choudhury 2003b, 2004; Grimmett *et al.* 2011), Arunachal Pradesh (Choudhury 2003c, 2006a; Srinivasan *et al.* 2010), Nagaland (Choudhury 2001, 2003a; Grewal *et al.* 2012), Manipur (Choudhury 2009), Tripura (Lepage 2017; Mathur *et al.* 1993), and Mizoram (Choudhury 2008). The species has not been recorded in Bhutan (Ali *et al.* 1996; Inskipp *et al.* 1999; Spierenburg 2005), and Sikkim (Ali 1989). Grimmett *et al.* (2000), and Inskipp & Inskipp (1985) recorded its presence in Nepal, where it was first recorded by Biswas (1951) in the central Nepal terai. It has been recorded in Bangladesh as a vagrant (Thompson & Johnson 2003; Siddiqui *et al.* 2008).

There are three known races of the Silver-backed Needletail (del Hoyo 1999). *C. c. formosanus* occurs in Taiwan and possibly migrates through Hong Kong to the Philippines (Chantler & Driessens 2000). *C. c. cochinchinensis* occurs in north-eastern India, northern Myanmar, south-central China (Hainan), and through scattered localities in Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, wintering in Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, and West Java (del Hoyo 1999). *C. c. rupchandi* has a disjunct distribution range in the Indian Subcontinent and occurs in the central Himalayas in Nepal (Biswas 1951) and winters in west Java, Sumatra, and peninsular Malaysia (del Hoyo 1999).

On 13 April 2004 at 0605 hrs, MS saw a flock of 12–15 large needletail swifts from Champion Road (29°32'N, 78°57'E; c. 415m asl.) near Sarpduli Forest Resthouse in Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, India. The birds were flying over a stretch of the Ramganga River, repeatedly coming down to drink from its surface by skimming up water with their beaks, and offered good views at eye level, and from above, from as close as 15m. Observation lasted for four to five minutes, and the birds were identified as Silver-backed Needletails on the basis of following features:

Size: The birds were large swifts c. 20 cm in size.

Structure: Large protruding head, broad triangular wings, square tail with the hint of small rectrix spines extending beyond the tail.

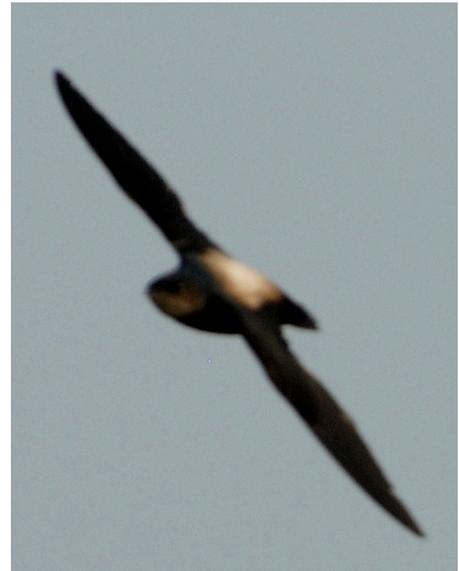
Upperparts: Dark glossy head, dark lores and forehead, dark ear-coverts and sides of the head, pale silvery 'saddle' on the back and absence of any visible white colouration in the tertial area. The Silver-backed Needletail has pale-grey colouration to its tertials whereas White-throated Needletail, a closely related species with similar plumage, has white inner webs to its tertial feathers. Though this feature is often obscured, it is worth noting that MS never noticed any hint of white colouration to the tertial feathers of the birds observed subsequently till the summer of 2012, often seen below eye-level when they stooped to drink from the river.

Underparts: Throat pale grey-brown, merging into darker breast and not showing a clear contrast with the breast and sides of the head, as in the case of White-throated Needletail. Breast and belly dark brown, white lower flanks and vent, forming a distinct 'horseshoe' mark.

MS searched further on 28 April 2004 and four birds were seen at the same place at 1700 hrs. The birds were observed for up to two minutes, and once more these were seen flying above the river and repeatedly drinking water from the river. Between 05 and 09 May 2004, MS observed a flock of upto 50 birds daily, between 0900–1030 hrs at Hathgadda grassland (29.58°N, 78.87°E, c. 363m asl.). The birds seemed to be aerial feeding above the river and there was no attempt to drink water from the river.



19. Silver-backed Needletail, Corbett Tiger Reserve; a view of its underparts.



20. Silver-backed Needletail; a head-on view.



21. Silver-backed Needletail; a view of the upperparts.

On 15 June 2004, between 1240 hrs and 1425 hrs, a flock of eight to ten birds was observed flying, and presumably feeding, in the air above the Ramganga River at Dhikala forest resthouse. The birds were seen flying in a mixed flock comprising Alpine Swift *Tachymarpis melba*, Little Swifts *Apus affinis*, and Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*. On 16 June 2004, at 1730 hrs, two Silver-backed Needletails were seen flying into a patch of sal trees *Shorea robusta*, called 'Sal Bhujji', some 100m from the Dhikala forest resthouse. The birds entered a tree hollow c. 20–25m from ground, in a sal.

A survey was conducted between 12–16 June 2009 by MS and NK to access the status of the species and to collect photographic evidence of its presence in Corbett Tiger Reserve. The pictures [19, 20, 21] clearly show the lack of a white throat, lack of white tertial spots, and slightly rounded tail when a bird has closed its tail feathers. A Silver-backed Needletail has retrix spines that are longest and strongest in the centre of its tail, reaching upto 6.5 mm beyond the web (del Hoyo 1999). The birds were often seen in mixed flocks of swifts and swallows, feeding in flight, above high forested ridges along the Ramganga River Valley between Dhikala and Khinnauli, during late mornings and afternoons. During evenings, on several occasions, flocks of 8–12 Silver-backed Needletails were seen coming down to drink from the Ramganga at Gethia Rao between 1700–1900 hrs, flying in at great speed. After slaking their thirst, these smaller flocks would join other flocks to form large hunting parties of upto 40–50 birds. Often these were joined by groups of Alpine Swift, Pacific Swift *A. pacificus*, Little Swift, and Grey-throated Martin to form a large mixed feeding party, flying 400–600 mt above ground. On 14 June 2009 at 1750hrs a Peregrine (Shaheen) Falcon *Falco peregrinus peregrinator* was observed attacking one such large flock at Gethia Rao. The falcon had a perch, apparently, in the high forested ridge of Kanda as it was seen launching its attacks, repeatedly, from that direction. Under attack, the mixed flock of swifts and swallows was observed to rise higher, gaining height in order to escape. The falcon pursued by circling and gaining height as well. After at least three such unsuccessful attempts, it managed to catch a large swift; possibly a Silver-backed Needletail.

The photographs were sent for identification, and expert comments, to Pamela Rasmussen, Harkirat Sangha, Tim Inskipp, and James Eaton. Pamela Rasmussen (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 09 June 2013), Harkirat Sangha (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 09 June 2013), Tim Inskipp (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 19 June 2013), and James Eaton (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 25 August 2013) all confirmed the identification.

On 16 June 2010, between 1750 hrs and 1810 hrs, MS saw a small flock of four to six birds at Champion Road and photographed one individual. Between 2004 and 2012, MS regularly observed the species during April, May, and June along the Ramganga River Valley between Champion Road and Dhikala. It is worth noting that MS failed to record the species on brief visits to the area during April–June 2013–2016. As MS could not actively and regularly monitor these areas after June 2012, it is possible that the species may have escaped his attention. Alternatively, it is also possible that the population that visits Corbett Tiger Reserve during summer, had moved to some nearby areas, due to some unknown reasons. It is suggested that a proper study of the Corbett Tiger Reserve and its surrounding areas in the Kumaon and Garhwal regions should be undertaken to assess the current status of the species in Uttarakhand.

Collins & Brooke (1976) state, 'the swifts of the avian family

Apodidae are extremely difficult to study under field conditions. Their great mobility and speed of flight preclude periods of prolonged observation and their nest sites, if known, are often in inaccessible holes in trees or rocky crevices. This has led to an accumulation of anecdotal [sic] information about species, some based on actual observation, some on hearsay. Often the accounts include data which are incorrect or which must, after critical study, be attributed to other species.' It is often difficult to distinguish Silver-backed Needletail from the similar-looking White-throated Needletail, especially in flight. Whereas the former species' altitudinal range in the Indian Subcontinent is between 150–2500m asl. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), the latter is known to occur in the Himalayas between 1250 m and 4000m asl. (del Hoyo 1999). However, Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) state that the White-throated Needletail 'reaches plains-edge even during summer.' There are summer sight records of the species from Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam (Das 2006; Choudhury 2006b), an area with an altitudinal range of 110–126m asl. (Choudhury 2006b). It is not recorded from Corbett Tiger Reserve by Grewal & Sehgal (1995) or Sharma *et al.* (2003). MS has never recorded it in the area despite extensive birding during 1996–2017. However, there is a summer sight record from Kothri Valley (600m asl), adjacent to the western limit of Corbett Tiger Reserve (c. 340–1210m asl) (Mohan & Kumar 2010). Mohan & Kumar (2010) do not give a description of the birds seen in the field, and it is likely that they confused it with a Silver-backed Needletail. Elsewhere in Uttarakhand, the White-throated Needletail has been recorded from the Kumaon (Sultana & Khan 2000; Ilyas 2005; Sultana *et al.* 2007), and Garhwal (Vyas 1970; Singh 2000; Santharam 2002) regions. We suggest that all summer sight records of the White-throated Needletail, from low-elevations in Uttarakhand, should be treated with caution to avoid any possible confusion with the Silver-backed Needletail.

The present records of the Silver-backed Needletail from Corbett Tiger Reserve are the first records of the species from the state of Uttarakhand, and from northern India, and represent the westward range-extension of the species into the western Himalayas. Though the nesting habits of this species are unknown (del Hoyo 1999), we wonder whether the birds that were seen entering a tree hollow on 16 June 2004 at Dhikala were nesting? The White-throated Needletail is known to nest in the bottom of large hollow trees in the Sakhalin Island region (Gizenko 1955; Lobko-Lobanovski 1956; Neufeldt & Ivanov 1960), and Japan (Austin & Kuroda 1953; Jahn 1942). More studies are recommended, to ascertain the breeding status of the Silver-backed Needletail in Corbett Tiger Reserve and surrounds, and also to ascertain whether this population is from the central Nepal race '*H. c. rupchandi*', or another form.

Acknowledgements

MS wants to thank Charles T. Collins who generously shared a copy of his publication on the genus *Hirundapus*. MS also want to thank Pamela Rasmussen, Harkirat Sangha, Tim Inskipp, and James Eaton for help with the photo identification. To retrieve relevant literature we searched the online Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology (Pittie 2017).

References

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1970. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon. Frogmouths to pittas*. 1st ed. Bombay: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society) Oxford University Press. Vol. 4 of 10 vols. Pp. i–xvi, 1–256, 1 l.

- Ali, S., Biswas, B., & Ripley, S. D., 1996. Birds of Bhutan. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India, Occasional Paper No. 136*: 1 I., i-v, 1-207+1.
- Ali, S., 1989. *The birds of Sikkim*. 2nd (impression) ed. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. i-xxxiii, 1-414.
- Austin, O. L. Jr., & Kuroda, N., 1953. The birds of Japan, their status and distribution. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* 109 (4): 277-637.
- Baker, E. C. S., 1927. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds*. 2nd ed. London: Taylor and Francis. Vol. IV of 8 vols. Pp. i-xxiv, 1-471.
- Barua, M., & Sharma, P., 1999. Birds of Kaziranga National Park, India. *Forktail* 15: 47-60.
- Barua, M., & Sharma, P., 2005. The birds of Nameri National Park, Assam, India. *Forktail* 21: 15-26.
- Biswas, B., 1951. On some Larger Spine-tailed Swifts, with the description of a new subspecies (*Chaetura cochinchensis rupchandi*) from Nepal. *Ardea* 39 (4): 318-321.
- Chalmers, M., L., 1986. *Annotated checklist of the birds of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Birdwatching Society. Pp. 1-279.
- Chantler, P., & Driessens, G., 2000. *Swifts: a guide to the swifts and treeswifts of the world*. 2nd ed. Sussex, UK: Pica Press. Pp. 1-272.
- Choudhury, A., 2001. Some bird records from Nagaland, north-east India. *Forktail* 17: 91-103.
- Choudhury, A., 2003a. *A pocketguide to the birds of Nagaland*. 1st ed. Guwahati: Gibbon Books & The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India. Pp. 1-48.
- Choudhury, A., 2003b. *Birds of Kaziranga National Park. A checklist*. 1st ed. Guwahati: Gibbon Books & The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India. Pp. 1-46.
- Choudhury, A., 2003c. Birds of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Forktail* 19: 1-13.
- Choudhury, A., 2004. *Kaziranga: Wildlife in Assam*. 1st ed. New Delhi: Rupa & Co. Pp. 4 pr. ll., pp. 1-94.
- Choudhury, A., 2006a. *A pocket guide to the birds of Arunachal Pradesh*. 1st ed. Guwahati: Gibbon Books & The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India. Pp. 1-109.
- Choudhury, A., 2006b. Birds of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Biosphere Reserve, Assam, India. *Indian Birds* 2 (4): 95-105.
- Choudhury, A., 2008. *A pocket guide to the birds of Mizoram*. 1st ed. Guwahati, India: Gibbon Books & The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India. Pp. 1-122.
- Choudhury, A., 2009. Significant recent ornithological records from Manipur, north-east India, with an annotated checklist. *Forktail* 25: 71-89.
- Christidis, L., & Boles, W. E., 2008. *Systematics and taxonomy of Australian birds*. Collingwood: CSIRO Publishing. Pp. i-x, 1-227.
- Collins, C. T., & Brooke, R. K., 1976. A review of the swifts of the genus *Hirundapus* (Aves: Apodidae). *Contributions in Science* 282: 1-22.
- Das, R. K., 2006. Birds of Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 46 (1): 6-14.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., & Sargatal, J., (eds.) 1999. *Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 5. Barn-owls to Hummingbirds*. 1st ed. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions. Vol. 5 of 17 vols. Pp. 1-759.
- Delacour, J., 1947. *The birds of Malaysia*. New York: Macmillan Co. Pp. i-xvi, 1-382.
- Dementiev, G. P., & Gladkov, N. A., (eds.) 1951. *Birds of the Soviet Union*. 1st ed. Moscow: State Publishers. [Translated from Russian by the Israel Program for Scientific Translations.] Vol. 1 of 6 vols. Pp. i-xix+1, 1-704 (1966).
- Dickinson, E. C., & Remsen, J. V. J., (eds.) 2013. *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world: 1. Non-passerines*. 4th ed. Eastbourne, UK: Aves Press. Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Pp. i-l, 1-461.
- Gizenko, A. I., 1955. *The birds of the Sakhalin region*. Moscow: USSR Academy of Sciences. Pp. 1-328.
- Grewal, B., & Sahgal, B., 1995. *Birds of Corbett Tiger Reserve & its Environs*. 1st ed. New Delhi: Published by the authors. Pp. 1-24.
- Grewal, B., Sen, S., & Sreenivasan, R., 2012. *Birds of Nagaland*. The Directorate of Tourism, Nagaland. Pp. 1-200.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2000. *Birds of Nepal*. New Delhi: Prakash Book Depot. Pp. 1-288.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1-528.
- Ilyas, O., 2005. Birds of middle altitude oak forest, Kumaon Himalayas. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 45 (5): 73-77.
- Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 1985. *A guide to the birds of Nepal*. 1st ed. London / New Delhi: Croom Helm / UBS Publishers' Distributors Ltd. Pp. 1-392.
- Inskipp, C., Inskipp, T., & Grimmett, R., 1999. *Birds of Bhutan*. 1st ed. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-192.
- Jahn, H., 1942. Zur Oekologie und Biologie der Vögel. *Journal für Ornithologie* 90: 207-209.
- Lekagul, B., & Round P. D., 2005. *A guide to the birds of Thailand*. Bangkok: Saha Karn Bhaet Group. Pp. i-vi, 1-457.
- Lepage, D., 2017. *Avibase - Bird checklist of the world: Tripura*. URL: <http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/checklist.jsp?region=INnet&list=howardmoore>. (Downloaded on 24 July 2017).
- Lobko-Lobanovski, M. I., 1956. K biologii iglohvostogo striyooa (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) na Sakhaline [The biology of *Hirundapus caudacutus* in Sakhalin]. *Zoologicheskij Zhurnal* 35: 1586-1587 (in Russian, English translation by Alex N. Hilkevitch).
- Mathur, H. N., Chakraborti, D., & Bhattacharya, T., 1993. *Birds of Tripura - a Checklist*. Agartala: Tripura State Council for Science and Technology, Govt., of Tripura. Pp. 1-24.
- Meyer de Schauensee, R., 1984. *The birds of China*. 1st ed. Oxford; Washington DC: Oxford University Press; Smithsonian Institution Press. Pp. 602.
- Mohan, D., & Kumar, R., 2010. Breeding birds of Kothri Valley, eastern Garhwal Himalayan foothills, India. *Forktail* 26 (August): 75-81.
- Myers, S., 2010. *A field guide to the birds of Borneo*. London; Cape Town; Sydney; Auckland: New Holland Publishers. Pp. 1-272.
- Neufeldt, I., & Ivanov, A. I., 1960. Some notes on the biology of the Needletailed Swifts in Siberia. *British Birds* 53: 433-453.
- Pittie, A., 2017. Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology. URL: <http://www.southasiaornith.in>. [Accessed on 26 August 2017]
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide: attributes and status*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. Vol. 2 of 2 vols. Pp. 1-683.
- Robson, C., 2008. *Birds of South-east Asia*. London; Cape Town; Sydney; Auckland: New Holland Publishers. Pp. 1-544.
- Robson, C.R., Eames, J.C., Wolstencroft, J.A., Nguyen, C., & Truong, V. L., 1993. Recent records of birds from Vietnam. *Forktail* 5: 71-97.
- Santharam, V., 2002. Birdwatching in the Garhwal Himalayas. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 42 (1): 4-7.
- Sharma, M., Harvey, B., Devasar, N. & Grewal, B., 2003. *A checklist of birds of Corbett Tiger Reserve*. Published by The Field Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve. Pp. 1-24.
- Siddiqui, K. U., Islam, M. A., Kabir, S. M. H., Ahmad, M., Ahmed, A. T. A., Rahman, A. K. A., Haque, E. U., Ahmed, Z. U., Begum, Z. N. T., Hassan, M. A., Khondker, M., & Rahman, M. M., (eds.) 2008. *Encyclopedia of flora and fauna of Bangladesh: birds*. 1st ed. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Vol. 26 of 28 vols. Pp. i-xl, 1-662.
- Singh, A. P., 2000. Birds of lower Garhwal Himalayas: Dehra Dun valley and neighbouring hills. *Forktail* 16: 101-123.
- Smythies, B. E., 1968. *The birds of Borneo*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh; London: Oliver & Boyd Ltd. Pp. i-xx, 1-593.
- Smythies, B. E., 1986. *The birds of Burma*. Revised 3rd ed. England / Canada: Nimrod Press Ltd / Silvio Mattacchione & Co. Pp. i-xxxii+64, 1-432.
- Spierenburg, P., 2005. *Birds in Bhutan. Status and distribution*. 1st ed. Bedford, U.K.: Oriental Bird Club. Pp. 1-383.
- Srinivasan, U., Dalvi, S., Naniwadekar, R., Anand, M. O., & Datta, A., 2010. The birds of Namdapha National Park and surrounding areas: recent significant records and a checklist of the species. *Forktail* 26 (August): 92-116.
- Strange, M., 2012. *A photographic guide to the birds of Indonesia*. 2nd ed. Singapore: Tuttle Publishing. Pp. 1-544.
- Sultana, A., Hussain, M. S., & Khan, J. A., 2007. Bird communities of the proposed Naina and Pindari Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Kumaon Himalaya, Uttarakhand, India. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 104 (1): 19-29.
- Sultana, A., & Khan, J. A., 2000. Birds of oak forests in the Kumaon Himalaya, Uttar Pradesh, India. *Forktail* 16: 131-146.
- Thompson, P. M., & Johnson, D. L., 2003. Further notable bird records from Bangladesh. *Forktail* 19: 85-102.
- Timmins, R. J., & Duckworth, J. W., 2012. *A survey of gibbons and other wildlife in the Bokeo section of Nam Kan National Protected Area, Lao PDR*. Cambridge: Fauna & Flora International. Pp. 1-64.
- Vyas, S., 1970. Birds of Mussoorie. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 10 (1): 4-6.
- Wells, D. R., 1999. *The birds of the Thai-Malaya peninsula, covering Burma and Thailand south of the eleventh parallel, peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Non-passerines*. 1st ed. London: Academic Press. Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Pp. i-liii, 1-648. 📄