

References

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– **Aishwarya Bhandari & Naman Goyal**

Aishwarya Bhandari [AB] & Naman Goyal [NG],
Wildlife Institute of India, PO Box 18, Chandrabani,
Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand, India

Aishwarya Bhandari: E-mail: aishwaryabhandari688@gmail.com

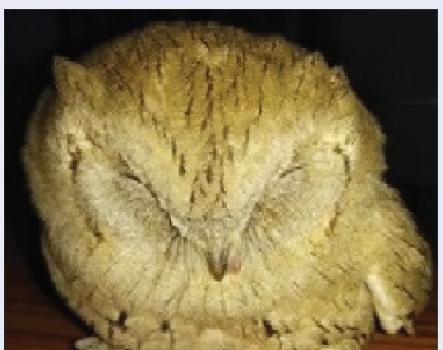
Notes on birds rescued at Lakshmangarh, Sikar, with a further record of Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* from Rajasthan

Though rescuing birds and other wildlife has been a practice in India for centuries, very little has been documented on the practices to rescue wild birds and their subsequent release. Babu *et al.* (2015) record the impact on, and rescue of birds affected by kite flying, but the way the birds were handled subsequently, and their recovery processes, were not discussed. Here we present our experiences with bird recovery at Lakshmangarh (27.60°N, 75.03°E), Sikar, Rajasthan, from 2015 to 2018.

Our team has been involved in rescue of birds and other wildlife in this area. KCS handled all rescue attempts and was assisted by MJ in many cases. None of us had training in veterinary sciences and hence we contacted qualified individuals (please see 'Acknowledgements' below) for our subsequent steps. Each rescue attempt was peculiar, and hence veterinary help was sought in each instance though the treatment may have been similar in some cases.

Table 1. Details of birds rescued and their treatment

S. No	English Name	Scientific Name	Rescue Date & Time	Condition at time of rescue	Treatment
1.	Asian Koel (male)	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	26.02.2015; 1120 hrs	Found on ground with wounds on legs	Wounds cleaned with spirit and Soframycin ointment applied for three days after which bird was normal and subsequently released.
2.	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	10.10.2015; 0945 hrs	Found on ground with legs paralyzed	Polybion syrup (1 to 2 drops twice a day) given for a week after which it was normal and was released.
3.	Common Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	30.10.2015; 0800 hrs	Found on floor frightened	Kept under care for two days after which it was normal and was released.
4.	Indian Peafowl (male)	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	18.12.2015; 1000 hrs	Saved from chasing street dog and wounds on back.	Similar treatment as given to Asian Koel, for two days.
5.	Common Barn Owl	<i>T. alba</i>	21.01.2016; 0930 hrs	Saved from a cat, inside building; frightened	Kept under care for eight hours and released.
6.	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	25.06.2016; 0830 hrs	Unconscious due to electric shock as it fell down from electric pole	Body immediately rubbed with sand and after few minutes it was conscious. Kept under care for two days and subsequently released.
7.	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	03.07.2016; 1530 hrs	Found on street with wounds on neck	Similar treatment as given to Asian Koel, for three days.
8.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	24.07.2016; 0915 hrs	Juvenile fell from tree and broke its right leg.	Right leg cut, similar treatment as described for Asian Koel for ten days.
9.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	25.02.2017; 0845 hrs	Found on street with wounds on its back	Similar treatment as given to Asian Koel, for two days.
10.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	25.02.2017; 1600 hrs	Juvenile fell from tree; frightened	Kept under care for 15 days and released.
11.	Yellow-legged Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	21.08.2017; 1100 hrs	Found on ground with wounds on its back and legs	Similar treatment as given to Asian Koel, for two days.
12.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	01.09.2017; 1045 hrs	Found on ground with its legs paralyzed	Vimeral syrup (1 to 2 drops twice a day) given for four days after which it was normal and released.
13.	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondic-erianus</i>	12.10.2017; 1615hrs	Found on ground with wounds on its legs	Similar treatment as given to Asian Koel, for three days.
14.	Indian House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	08.11.2017; 0813 hrs	Unconscious juvenile found on floor	Kept under care for eight hours and released.
15.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	25.12.2017; 2130 hrs	Found unconscious on street	Kept under care for eight hours and released.
16.	Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	22.01.2018; 1930 hrs	Saved from a cat, inside building; frightened, with one eye wounded and closed	Boric powder applied to wounded eye, kept under care for 2 days after which both eyes normal and released



All: Kailash Chand Saini

187-189. Pallid Scops Owl, Top to bottom: Side back with conspicuous streaks; Back of head uniform without any concentric dark/pale areas; Under parts with narrow and weak cross bars.

We rescued 16 birds during the period mentioned above, and their treatment and recovery details are documented in Table 1. Of these, 15 birds were rescued from the Modi Institute of Technology & Science (MITS) campus, and one bird, from Laxmangarh village, Ward No. 23. We have not had any casualties till date. While most birds were species that may be expected in the landscape, a Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* [187-189] was rescued from MITS campus; it was injured and frightened. Three birds were saved from other animals (street dog or domestic cat), and two birds were rescued with their legs paralysed.

The Pallid Scops Owl is a rare winter visitor to the state and was first reported from Rajasthan in 2013 from Churu and Jodhpur (Sangha & Poonia 2013). We hope that the bird rescue/treatment data presented here will help other bird rescuers elsewhere in the country.

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– Kailash Chand Saini, Manish Joshi & Sanjay Keshari Das

Kailash Chand Saini, Modi Institute of Technology & Science,
Laksmangarh 332311, Sikar, Rajasthan, India [KCS]
E-mail: sainikailashchand78@gmail.com

Manish Joshi [MJ] & Sanjay Keshari Das
University School of Environment Management,
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Sector-16C,
Dwarka, New Delhi 110078, India
E-mail: manishjoshi3484@gmail.com,
E-mail: skdasipu@gmail.com

