

northern and central Europe up to the very western part of Asia. It is not likely to be seen in Gujarat even as a vagrant.

Discussion

The occurrence of the Water Pipit in Gujarat is not entirely unexpected. The species is known as a regular winter visitor to the Indus Valley in neighbouring Pakistan (Alström & Mild 2003). Its habitat during winter is, 'wet freshwater areas, such as riverbanks, lakeshores, edges of marshes, wet and flooded meadows, sewage farms, reservoirs, dried fish-ponds and watercress beds and is only very rarely found along seashores' (Alström & Mild 2003). Following a good monsoon the Banni grassland turns into a mosaic of temporary wetlands in an otherwise dry landscape. This situation creates a wealth of habitat for a bird like the Water Pipit. During daytime a wintering Water Pipit is likely to be found in the transition zone between wet and dry areas. It can be a very discrete bird and even if it occurs in numbers, these will be spread over a vast area and difficult to find. Bumping into a pre-roosting concentration is the safest bet. It is always difficult to get good counts of dispersed species and to this end counts at

roosting sites often reveal larger numbers than estimates from regular counts.

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— Short notes —

A substitute name for *Parus nipalensis* Hodgson, 1837

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In a footnote to my recent article in *Indian Birds* entitled 'Hodgson's ornithological articles published in the *India Review* (1836–1837)' (Dickinson 2009), the primary homonymy in *Parus* between *Parus nipalensis* Hodgson, 1837, and *Parus (Suthora) nipalensis* Hodgson, 1837, was noted and it was suggested that an application to the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature would follow. However, that is not needed.

Both names were proposed as names for species. The use of *Suthora* in brackets may not mean that Hodgson believed the small parrotbills formed a subgenus of *Parus* but that is the way that Article 6.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (I.C.Z.N. 1999; hereinafter 'the Code') leads one to interpret Hodgson's name. That Article continues by explaining that a name, "interpolated in parentheses" ... "is not counted as one of the words in the binomen or trinomen." This is the basis for seeing these two names as homonyms.

I therefore act here as First Reviser, under Art. 24.2.2 of the Code, in selecting the parrotbill name *Parus (Suthora) nipalensis* as the prior name thus assigning it priority over the name Hodgson used for a taxon now usually treated as a subspecies of *Parus major*. Thus we preserve the use of the name that is a recognised specific name (*Paradoxornis nipalensis*) and we need to replace the prior name.

To do this, no fresh name need be coined. The name *Parus major planorum* Hartert, 1905, is available from synonymy (see Dickinson *et al.* 2006) and should be adopted.

References

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¹ This paper, and all others in this series, can be downloaded from www.repository.naturalis.nl. It includes an Appendix specifically relating to Hodgson names and type material. The volume alluded to also includes several other papers on Hodgson and Blyth. Note Nos. 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 should all be of interest to Indian ornithologists.

Editor's note:

First Reviser: "The first author to subsequently cite names (including different original spellings of the same name) or nomenclatural acts published on the same date and to select one of them to have precedence over the other(s)."

Homonym: "In the species group: each of two or more available specific or subspecific names having the same spelling, or spellings deemed under Article 58 to be the same, and established for different nominal taxa, and either originally (primary homonymy) or subsequently (secondary homonymy) combined with the same generic name [Art. 53.3]."