



164. Aberrant plumaged Brown Crane.



165. Leucistic Brown Crane.

Both: Hemanth Byatroy

## References

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## Alloparental care by Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* in central India

Alloparental care, also known as foster parental care, cross species feeding, or interspecific feeding is the least documented phenomenon of animal behaviour in South Asian ornithology. We could locate just two instances of this behaviour in published literature: that of an Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* feeding Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* nestlings (Tehsin & Tehsin 1998), and a Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* feeding Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* chicks (Gruisen 2004).

On 06 May 2018, during our stay at Bhedaghat, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, we observed an active nest of an Indian Robin *Copsychus fulicatus* with two altricial nestlings. The nest was constructed in KA's grandma's garage (23.13°N, 79.79°E). It was built in a gap between two bricks, was 2.43m above ground, [166], and was lined with grass, twigs, jute rope, and pieces of synthetic fiber.



166. Nest of Indian Robin.

We observed that both parents were engaged in feeding nestlings from the early hours of the day [167]. However, a Red-vented Bulbul was also been spotted feeding chicks repeatedly [168]. The bulbul fed the chicks more frequently than the biological parents, who seemed unconcerned with this interspecific feeding. The alloparent not only fed the chicks, but also cleaned fecal matter from the nest. Some of the morsels the bulbul fed the chicks were identified as Lynx spider *Oxypes* sp., and various other arthropoda *Coptotermes kishori*, *Peromyia indica*, and *Polypedilum (Pentapedilum) robusticeps*. The present observation is noteworthy because alloparenting is much confused with brood parasitism, but is more likely the rarer phenomena wherein young ones are parented by heterospecific species in the presence, or absence, of biological parents.



167. Female Indian Robin feeding chicks.



168. Red-vented Bulbul feeding Indian Robin chicks.

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## Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*, Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*, and Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*: Additions to the Birds of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The following birds were reported as additions to the birds of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2018–2019.

### Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*

On 04 November 2018, between 1334 h and 1343 h, GK spotted and photographed a Black Kite *Milvus migrans* [169] at the forest's edge at Shastri Nagar (06.78°N, 93.88°E), in Great Nicobar Island. On 07 November 2018, he again photographed the raptor, as it struggled with prey, at Laxmi Nagar (06°50'N, 93°53'E). The photograph with a dorsal view of the bird was taken at Magar Nallah (06°59'N, 93°54'E), on 29 November 2018 [170]. Once again, it was seen foraging on the side of the road at Gandhi Nagar (07°00'N, 93°54'E), on 02 December 2018. The bird had a conspicuous dark facial mask, white patches on the bases of under primaries, and a noticeably lighter (cream-coloured) vent than the darker breast/upper chest—all features of a Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*.



169. Black Kite at Shastri Nagar, Great Nicobar Island.



170. Black Kite at Magar Nallah, Great Nicobar Island.

Both: Gokulkrishnan G

However, one could confuse it with a juvenile Black Kite *M. m. govinda*—but the following features were unique to our bird.

- The vent was comparatively lighter than the breast.
- The whitish patch at the beginning of the retrices was larger than that on a Black Kite.
- The ventral streaky pattern had thicker streaks than those on a juvenile Black Kite.

The Black-eared Kite is, reportedly, a migratory race of the Black Kite, visiting South Asia during winter. It has been recurrently sighted migrating each October, flying southward of Thailand and also westward to Nepal, visiting Central- and East Asia, and southwards to the Himalayas and northern Indochina (Decandido et al. 2013). Ali & Ripley (1983), Grimmett et al. (2011), Rasmussen & Anderton (2012), and Sivaperuman et al. (2018) have not mentioned any sightings of this species from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

On 18 January 2019, a Common Rosefinch was first seen feeding on a *Ficus* sp., tree at Hut Bay (10.58°N, 92.53°E) in Little Andaman. It had brownish upperparts with a whitish throat and underparts, visibly darker streaking on crown, mantle, lower throat, breast, upper belly, and flanks, and two narrow whitish wing-bars [171]. It is a regular winter migrant across much of