

- Gadow, H., 1883. *Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the collection of the British Museum. Cichlomorphæ: Part V. Containing the Families Paridæ and Laniidæ (Titmice and Shrikes), and Certhiomorphæ (Creepers and Nuthatches)*. London: British Museum of Natural History. Vol. VIII of 27 vols. Pp. i-xiii, 1–385.
- Gaston, A. J., Garson, P. J., & Pandey, S., 1993. Birds recorded in the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh, India. *Forktail* 9: 45–57.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
- Halberg, K., & Peterson, I., 1984. *Observations of birds, mammals and some reptiles: Himalaya 1978–83*. Unpublished report.
- Harrap, S., 2020a. White-throated Tit (*Aegithalos niveogularis*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Website URL: <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whittit1.01>. [Accessed on 01 June 2020.]
- Harrap, S., 2020b. White-cheeked Tit (*Aegithalos leucogenys*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Website URL: <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whctit1.01>. [Accessed on 01 June 2020.]
- Kazmierczak, K., & Muzika, Y., 2012. A preliminary report on the apparent rediscovery of Sillem's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte sillemi*. *BirdingASIA* 18: 17–20.
- Ludlow, F., & Kinnear, N. B., 1933. A contribution to the ornithology of Chinese Turkestan.—Part II. *Ibis* 75 (3): 440–473.
- McMahon, A. H., 1899. Notes on the fauna of the Gilgit district. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 68 (Part II No 2): 105–109.
- Meinertzhagen, R., 1927. Systematic results of birds collected at high altitudes in Ladak and Sikkim. (Part I). *Ibis* 69 (3): 363–422.
- Ministry of Home Affairs. 2019. Maps of newly formed Union Territories of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, with the map of India Website URL: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1590112>. [Accessed on 07 April 2020.]
- Mohan, D., & Sondhi, S., 2017. *An updated checklist and bibliography of the birds of Uttarakhand*. Dehradun, India: Uttarakhand Forest Department. Pp. i–vi, 1–98.
- Perreau, G. A., 1910. Notes on the birds of Chitral (October 1902 to October 1903). *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 19 (4): 901–922.
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., & Pittie, A., 2014. Notes on Indian rarities—2: Waterfowl, diving waterbirds, and gulls and terns. *Indian BIRDS* 9 (5&6): 113–136.
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., & Pittie, A., 2016. A checklist of the birds of India. *Indian BIRDS* 11 (5&6): 113–172A.
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., & Pittie, A., 2020. Checklist of the birds of India (v4.0). Website: <http://www.indianbirds.in/india/> [Date of publication: 07 July, 2020].
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., Inskipp, T., Warakagoda, D., Thompson, P. M., Anderson, R. C., & Pittie, A., 2017. Birds of the Indian Subcontinent: Species not recorded from India. *Indian BIRDS* 13 (4): 93–101.
- Prys-Jones, R., Skerrett, A., Jackson, H. A., Smith, L. M., & Praveen J., 2017. Confirmation of the first record of Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* for the Indian Subcontinent. *Indian BIRDS* 13 (3): 57–60.
- 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.
- Roberts, T. J., 1992. *The birds of Pakistan. Passeriformes: Pittas to Buntings*. 1st ed. Karachi: Oxford University Press. Vol. 2 of 2 vols. Pp. i–xxvii, 1–617.
- Roselaar, C. S., 1992. A new species of mountain finch *Leucosticte* from western Tibet. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 112 (4): 225–231.
- Scully, J., 1881. A contribution to the ornithology of Gilgit. *Ibis* 23 (4): 567–594.
- Shah, I., 2016a. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65184625>. [Accessed on 06 April 2020.]
- Shah, I., 2016b. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65184627>. [Accessed on 06 April 2020.]
- Shah, I., 2018. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65184874>. [Accessed on 06 April 2020.]
- Shah, I., 2019. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65184877>. [Accessed on 06 April 2020.]
- Trevenen, W. B., 1923. Appearance of the Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* near Poona. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 29 (1): 287.

– Praveen J & Muzaffar A Kichloo

Praveen J., B303, Shriram Spurthi, ITPL Main Road, Brookefields, Bengaluru 560037, Karnataka, India. Email: [paintedstork@gmail.com](mailto:paintedstork@gmail.com).  
Muzaffar A Kichloo, Department of Environmental Sciences, Govt. Degree College, Thathri 182203, Doda, J&K, India. E-mail: [omar.mzfr@gmail.com](mailto:omar.mzfr@gmail.com)

## First confirmed record of Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* for South Asia from a tragically hunted individual in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

The Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* is a small crane recognised by its overall dark grey body and white head and upper neck, marked by a black face and small red crown-patch. It breeds in south-central- and south-eastern Siberia in Russia, and northern China, and mainly winters in Japan with some birds moving down to South Korea, and central- and eastern China (Archibald et al. 2020). The Hooded Crane is assessed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (BirdLife International 2016), with an estimated global population of c.12,000 birds extant today largely attributed to habitat loss in winter quarters. The status of the Hooded Crane in South Asia remains disputed as regional field-guides (Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) have preferred to treat it as hypothetical, though, Ali & Ripley (1987) included the species based on an uncorroborated historical specimen from north-eastern India. It is also not listed in the recent checklist of South Asian birds (Praveen et al. 2020b).

On 12 April 2020, a hunter named Mashar Khan shot an adult bird on the River Swat at Thanna (34.66°N, 72.06°E), near the University Bridge, Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. As per the hunter's account, the solitary bird was foraging along a riverside meadow, a typical habitat for cranes in this region (Mashar Khan, *verbally*, 19 June 2020). This valley is irrigated by Swat River and is known to be a potential stopover for migratory birds on passage, specifically the Common Crane *G. grus* and Demoiselle Crane *G. virgo*, which are known to pass through the Kurram Agency under which Malakand District falls (Ahmad & Khurshid 1991). Apparently, the local hunters are familiar with these two migratory species as they hunt them regularly, and immediately recognized that it was different. AK came to know about this episode when the hunter went live, streaming [36] on a Facebook group called 'Swat River Hunting Group'. The hunter ostensibly attempted to skin and stuff the specimen, but failed in doing so as the carcass started rotting. However, it is believed that the specimen is still with him [37] though in a slightly dilapidated condition (Mashar Khan, *verbally*, 19 June 2020). This illegal hunt was reported to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department and the hunter was apparently fined. Images reproduced here are with explicit permission from the respective photographers.

Identification of this crane is straightforward. The bird showed the characteristic white on its neck and head, with the lower part of the neck being grey. Though no measurements were taken, the apparent size of the bird is also clear from the image [36]. The red on its forehead, and black in the loreal region are also visible. No other crane in adult or juvenile plumage is known to show these characters.

The first reference to a Hooded Crane from South Asia was by Hume (1888), who saw a flock of cranes flying northwards between Booree Bazar and Bishenpur [=Bishnoopoor] (24.62°N, 93.75°E) in Manipur, India, on 13 March 1881 (?), 'with uniform dark hue (darker than Common Crane) showing whole head and upper parts of the neck pure white'. He did not attribute these birds with certainty to this species but conjectured that these were *monacha* type and probably an un-described species. Colonel Cassels shot six birds on 31 December 1897 and one

on 01 January 1898 at unspecified localities in Manipur (Higgins 1934), but they reportedly could not be retrieved, and the one shot by J. C. Higgins himself, during his tenure in the state, was also not bagged. Based on sporting records from nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the species was considered a regular winter visitor, in small numbers, to Manipur, with earliest report on 30 September 1930, and departure records from before the end of February (Higgins 1934).



36. Hooded Crane that was tragically hunted down at Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.



37. Skin of the Hooded Crane that is still in possession of the hunter.

Ali & Ripley (1987) included the Hooded Crane in their work, but Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) considered it hypothetical, as the lone specimen, from Cachar, has not been located, nor examined by others. However, this juvenile, shot by Stuart Baker in December 1899, was not preserved because his 'messenger', who was supposed to bring it for skinning, threw it away as it had begun to smell (Baker 1899). Baker shot the bird from a group of seven at Mahur [=Mahar] River and had anterior crown black (no red is mentioned) with striking white head and neck and brown toned upper parts (Baker 1899). Later, Baker apparently saw two flocks of seven, and eight birds, respectively, in the lower reaches of Subansiri in north Lakhimpur (Baker 1928).

More recently, Frank Oatman, and the group that he was leading, reported an adult-plumaged Hooded Crane not far from the town of Wangdue Phodrang (27.49°N, 89.89°E), Bhutan, on 14 December 1989, feeding on the sandbanks of

Punak Tsang Chhu (Oatman 2015). Though they were aware of the significance of this sighting, and made some notes on its identification, the photograph taken then was of bad quality and was not preserved (Frank Oatman, *in litt.*, e-mail to Praveen J., dated 04 July 2016).

For as distinctive a species as this, with no other confusing regional congeners, it is likely that the reports by Hume, and Higgins, from Manipur are correct. However, Hume himself did not confirm the species and hence that record cannot be treated as the first for South Asia. Higgins did not provide any description of the species and hence sporting records from him and his associates are not independently verifiable. The record from Bhutan lacked enough details to be assessed as the first from the region, and is not discussed further here. Though Baker's observations from north Lakhimpur have flimsy details and lack evidence, his juvenile specimen, which was unfortunately not preserved, stands out. Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) took a stand to ignore all of Baker's records that were not supported by a verifiable specimens, and evidently ignored Baker's (1899) description of the juvenile bird that matched a first winter Hooded Crane. However, the species is not listed for India (Praveen et al. 2020a), or for South Asia (Praveen et al. 2020b).

Hence, this appears to be the first confirmed record of the Hooded Crane for South Asia, and an addition to the avifauna of Pakistan (Roberts 1991; Grimmett et al. 2008). The bird seemed to have flown a long way (> 4,000 km) from its nearest regular wintering region, crossing vast areas of a highly arid landscape. We, therefore, explored the possibility of it being an escapee from captivity. Cranes are kept in Crane Conservation Centre and Wildlife Park, Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and we confirmed that only Black-crowned Cranes *Balearica pavonina*, and Grey-crowned Cranes *B. regulorum*, apart from Demoiselle and Common Cranes are kept in captivity at the Centre (Rahmat Ullah, Divisional Forest Officer, Crane Conservation Centre, *verbally*, 21 June 2020). We also contacted a former employee of the Crane Conservation Centre who responded that he was not aware of Hooded Cranes in any other breeding facility in Pakistan (Adnan Khan, *verbally*, 21 June 2020). Cranes are trapped locally and kept as pets in this region (Perveen & Khan 2010), but we are not aware of the import of exotic cranes into this region by local people. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, with its high riverine valleys, is an important landscape for wintering flocks of Common- and Demoiselle Cranes and a systematic monitoring of the crane populations and conservation efforts are the need of the hour (Nawaz et al. 2006; Tariq 2015). It is unfortunate that large-scale hunting is still rampant in this migratory species corridor, lying in the north-western corner of Pakistan (Khan 2012). It is truly unfortunate that the first corroborated record of a Hooded Crane, from South Asia was on the basis of a hapless individual killed mercilessly by professional hunters. Through this note, we hope to bring national and international attention towards conservation threats faced by migratory bird populations wintering at these wetlands.

We would like to thank Adnan Khan and Ramhat Ullah for their kind help with information to prepare this note. The authors would like to acknowledge support provided by Praveen J., in helping out with the historic records and status in the subcontinent. We retrieved relevant literature from the online 'Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology' (Pittie 2020).

## References

- Ahmad, A., & Khurshid, N. 1991. Observation of migration and migratory routes of cranes through Balochistan. *Natura*. 13 (4): 8–11.
- 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 I., 1–737, 52 II.
- Archibald, G. W., Meine, C. D., Kirwan, G. M., & Garcia, E. F. J., 2020. Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Website URL: <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.hooora1.01>. [Accessed on 19 June 2020.]
- Baker, E. C. S., 1899. The birds of North Cachar. Part X. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 12 (3): 486–510.
- Baker, E. C. S., 1928. The game birds of the Indian Empire. Vol 5. the waders and other semi-sporting birds. Part 6. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 32 (4): 617–621.
- BirdLife International. 2016. *Grus monacha*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22692151A93337861. Website URL: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22692151A93337861.en>. [Accessed on 19 June 2020.]
- Grimmett, R., Roberts, T., Inskipp, T. 2008. *Birds of Pakistan*. Helm Field Guides. 1–256. Christopher Helm & Yale University Press. London & New Haven
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
- Higgins, J. C., 1934. The game birds and animals of the Manipur State with notes on their numbers, migration and habits. Part IV. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 37 (1): 81–95.
- Hume, A. O., 1888. The birds of Manipur, Assam, Sylhet and Cachar: Detailed list of species observed in Manipur, together with notices of all other species observed in Assam, Sylhet and Cachar. *Stray Feathers* 11 (1–4): i–v, 1–353.
- Khan, B., 2012. Population monitoring and conservation awareness for cranes in Pakistan. *BirdingASIA* 18: 7–8
- Nawaz, M., Nawaz, Y., Malik, M. F., & Shahabuddin. 2006. Hunting pressure and impact of Afghan [sic] refugees on migratory cranes in Pakistan. *Zoos' Print Journal* 21 (7): 2333–2334.
- Oatman, G. F., 2015. Sighting of Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* in Bhutan—December 1989. *BirdingASIA* 24: 10.
- Perveen, F., & Khan, H. U., 2010. Pressure from hunting on crane species in southern districts of northern Pakistan. *Chinese Birds* 1 (4): 244–250. D.O.I.: <http://10.5122/cbirds.2010.0021>.
- Pittie, A., 2020. Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology. Website URL: <http://www.southasiaornith.in>. [Accessed on 19 June 2020.]
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., & Pittie, A., 2020a. *Checklist of the birds of India (v4.0)*. Website URL: <http://www.indianbirds.in/india/> [Date of publication: 07 July 2020.]
- Praveen J., Jayapal, R., Inskipp, T., Warakagoda, D., Thompson, P.M., Anderson, R.C., Carr, P., Rasmussen, P.C. & Pittie, A., 2020b. *Checklist of the birds of South Asia (v6.0)*. Website URL: <http://www.indianbirds.in/south-asia> [Date of publication: 07 July 2020.]
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. 2 vols. Pp. 1–378; 1–683.
- Roberts, T. J., 1991. *The birds of Pakistan: Regional Studies and non-passeriformes*. 1st ed. Karachi: Oxford University Press. Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Pp. i–xli, 1–598.
- Tariq, M., & Aziz, R., 2015. Threats and hunting methods of crane species in District Karak of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Journal of Environment and Earth Science* 5 (22): 11–15.

– Azan Karam & Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh

Azan Karam, Government Post Graduate Jahanzeb College, Saidu Sharif, Swat, Department Of Zoology, Pakistan. E-mail: [iazankhan4@gmail.com](mailto:iazankhan4@gmail.com)  
[Corresponding author] [AK]

Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh, Institute: Bahria College Karachi, N.O.R.E 1, Cambridge section, Pakistan. E-mail: [zafershaikh4@gmail.com](mailto:zafershaikh4@gmail.com)

## The Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* in Jammu

On the evening of 24 August 2019 we were birding in the Environment Park, Raika, in Jammu city. The park is located on the Jammu–Srinagar bypass and is managed by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, and is a major birding destination since a few years. Its vegetation consists

of mixed broadleaved trees and scrub, which makes it a suitable habitat for a variety of birds, animals, and butterflies.

At 1745 h, while walking towards the exit gate of the park, a colourful dove suddenly flew in and perched on a branch near a water source. We were a bit surprised, however, we managed to capture four to five pictures [38] before it flew away towards a nearby tree. We observed the dove for two to three minutes after which it disappeared inside the dense vegetation. The dove was identified by its emerald green upperparts, and a shoulder patch, as a male Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*. It has not been reported from erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir in the recent past. In fact, its distribution in the region is dubious; we analyse the historical reports and establish ours to be the first definitive record.



38. Asian Emerald Dove.

Parvez Shagoo

Adams (1859) mentioned a probable *Columba* species sporting bronze wings, in the lesser ranges of Kashmir. Ticehurst (1930) accepted that record, showing its distribution throughout the lower Himalayas, however, keeping it in the probable list for Kashmir. Ward (1907) included it in the Kashmir checklist based on Adams' report, wherein he mentioned it to have been collected in Poonch and the outer ranges of the Punjab mountains. Ali & Ripley (1987) also accepted that record and gave its distribution from the lower Himalaya (Jammu) to the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) (=Arunachal Pradesh). Grimmett et al. (2011) showed its range reaching the southern end of Himachal Pradesh, with an independent record from Jammu & Kashmir, probably also based on the Adams (1859) record. Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) described its range starting from Uttarakhand. HBW Alive (Baptista et al. 2020) shows its range starting from Nepal, whereas eBird (2020) has multiple sightings from Himachal and it occurs throughout the lower regions of the state, including Chamba (Sondhi 2001) and Kangra districts (den Besten 2004; Dhadwal & Kanwar 2018); Chamba being adjacent to Jammu & Kashmir. There is also a specimen in the Field Museum of Natural History, United States, from Punjab (Vertnet 2020), which also borders southern Jammu & Kashmir. Hence, our observation establishes that the bird at least occurs sparingly in Jammu & Kashmir, need not be considered unexpected, based on its distribution in adjoining states of Himachal and Punjab.

We thank Muzaffar A. Kichloo, Assistant Professor GDC Thathri, Doda for his help in preparing the manuscript. The help and guidance provided by Tahir Shawl, Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu at various stages, as well as his mentorship is deeply acknowledged & appreciated.