

Bangladesh. As Table 1 indicates, the bird might be a regular, but scarce, winter migrant along the rocky banks of streams and rivers with records between November and the first week of May.

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Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* feeding on Mustard seeds *Brassica sp*

The Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* is an inhabitant of the Himalaya and north-eastern India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). These birds are common around the hill stations of Chakrata, and Nainital (Uttarakhand), and Darjeeling (West Bengal) from April till October where they breed at 2,000–

2,500 m asl, and probably at similar elevations throughout the outer Himalayan ranges (Osmaston 1911). In November they begin to move down the hills and in January and February they may be seen in flocks of 10–20, or more, birds in the plains at the Himalayan foothills, and eastwards through Bijnor and Pilibhit (Osmaston 1911).

The species is known to feed on a variety of seeds, including Pine *Pinus* and Alder *Alnus*, also downy seed heads of Asteraceae, especially thistles *Cirsium*, *Carduus*, dandelions *Taraxacum*, daisies *Coreopsis*, and *Senecio chrysanthemoides* and other herbs. It is particularly fond of Wild Hemp *Cannabis sativa* L. (Cannabaceae), Sunflower *Helianthus annuus* L. (Asteraceae), Buckwheat *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench (Polygonaceae), Rice *Oryza sativa* L. (Poaceae), etc., besides berries, and insects (Ali & Ripley 2001; Osmaston 1918; Clement 2020). They also feed on berries of *Daphne mucronata* Royle (Thymelaeaceae), and the flowers, and flower buds, of *C. sativa* (Dilawar & Sharma 2014).

During our field visit on the morning of 03 February 2018 to a cultivation area in Seyal Sallan village, Udhampur District, Jammu and Kashmir (32.91°N, 75.14°E; 756 m asl), we observed this greenfinch on Mustard (Brassicaceae). A small flock of eight to ten birds was seen feeding on the seeds of mustard *B. rapa* and *B. juncea*. 114a, b].



114a, b. Male Yellow-breasted Greenfinch feeding on Mustard seeds.

The birds perched on the fruit branches of the plant, while feeding, and all the birds of this flock fed on its seeds. We were told that flocks of greenfinches regularly visited the field in the mornings during February to feed on the mustard seeds.

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Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*, Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*, Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*, Common Crane *Grus grus* and Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* in Chhattisgarh, India

During the winter of 2020–2021, we recorded five species of birds that are significant for the ornithology of Chhattisgarh. Three of these are first records for the state (Bharos 2017; Naidu et al. 2021), while the remaining two were sighted after several years, but in sizeable congregation.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

At Gidhwa Dam (21.83°N, 81.77°E), Bemetara District, we saw a Spotted Crane [115] on 01 February 2021, close to a reed-bed, feeding at the water's edge alongside a Ruddy-breasted Crane *Zapornia fusca*. Subsequently, the Spotted Crane was seen on 02, 03, and 09 February at the same spot, and photographed. It was however not seen on 17 February, but relocated on 19 at the same place. We separated the bird from Baillon's Crane *Z. pusilla* by its larger size and spots on the flanks and underside. D'Abreu (1935) mentioned that it may be a straggler in winter to the Central Provinces [=Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh], and Ghosh et al. (2008) seem to quote him. As per eBird (2021), it has been recorded in peninsular India, near Nagpur (Maharashtra), the location nearest to Chhattisgarh. Ours is probably the first report from Chhattisgarh and eastern Madhya Pradesh.



115. Spotted Crane.

Dilip Verma

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*

AM and GKS photographed a Rosy Pipit on 20 December 2020 at Tendukna (20.68°N, 81.59°E), River Mahanadi, Dhamtari District [116]. On 07 January 2021 we spotted another bird at Akoli-Mohdi village (21.34°N, 81.68°E; c.300 m asl; Raipur District) at a medium-sized tank, surrounded by cultivation. Both sets of photographs showed heavily streaked underparts with a slight pink hue visible on the second bird. Both photographs showed bold, broad olive streaks on the upperparts and pale legs—a combination that eliminates all other pipits (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 2014)

The species has not been reported earlier from Chhattisgarh (Chandra & Singh 2004; Bharos 2017; eBird 2021) and these two constitute the first reports from the state.



116. Rosy Pipit.

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Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*

On 17 February 2021, while attempting to photograph alighting Northern Shovelers *Spatula clypeata* at Gidhwa Dam, Bemetara District, a male Falcated Duck was captured in the frame. The photograph showed the greenish head with black throat band; Asad Rahmani and Eric D'Cunha confirmed the species [117]. It has not been reported previously from the state (Chandra &