



Chandan Bhardwaj

109. Shaheen flying with broken tree branch.



Ranjit Singh Saini

110. Shaheen trying to "eat" the broken branch.

Looking for a plausible explanation for this behaviour of the Shaheen, we scoured relevant literature. However, we could not find any recorded instance or anecdotal documentation of a similar nature. However, the available literature suggests that there could be three possible theoretical interpretations of the Shaheen's behaviour. First is play, the second is displacement behaviour and the third is redirected response (Ortega & Bekoff 1987; Fagen 1981; Tinbergen 1965; Immelmann 1980).

The Shaheen seen with an inanimate object was clearly not playing with it as it did not engage in any activity that can be termed as play. It cannot be said to be engaged in any conflict since it was a solitary bird and no other species or individuals were in sight. Therefore, the observed behaviour cannot be classified as displacement behaviour.

It appears as though the Shaheen had redirected its feelings to a substitute object, a dry broken branch, after it lost the quarry. In redirected behaviour or redirected response, as Tinbergen (1965) called it, an animal aims its feelings at a substitute object. The behaviour pattern is discharged but is reoriented at a substitute object (Immelmann 1980). In contrast, displacement behaviour involves an animal changing its kind of behaviour instead (Barrows 2011).

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A Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis* in southern West Bengal, India

On 5 November 2020, during birding in the coastal forest of Shankarpur (21.63°N, 87.56°E), Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India, a single white morph male Paradise-flycatcher was observed and photographed [111]. Initially, the bird was identified as Indian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*, and the identity was maintained for about two years. However, on 18 December 2022, the observation was posted on Inaturalist.org (Parya 2022). Afsar Nayakkan and Ashwin Viswanathan pointed out the bird as Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher *T. affinis*. Later, I showed the photographs to Praveen J, who also confirmed the bird as Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher.

Until 2014, the bird was treated as a subspecies of Asian Paradise-flycatcher *T. paradisi* sensu lato. But in 2015, through a molecular phylogenetic study, Andersen et al. (2015) split the Asian Paradise-flycatcher into three sister species: Amur Paradise-flycatcher *T. incei*, Indian Paradise-flycatcher *T. paradisi* sensu stricto, and Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher. Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher is widely distributed in Southeastern Asia, from Eastern Nepal to Northeastern India, eastern Bangladesh, Myanmar, Southern China, Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Borneo, and Western Sumatra (BirdLife International 2017; Rasmussen et al. 2022). The white morph male of Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher can be distinguished from the white morph of Amur Paradise-flycatcher and Indian Paradise-flycatcher by having a short crest and prominent black streaks on the upperparts (Salomonsen 1933; Rasmussen et al. 2022). In India, Blyth's

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111. Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher, Shankarpur coastal forest, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India, 05 November 2020.

Paradise-flycatcher was mainly confined to northeastern states, but recently the bird has been reported several times between December 2020 and May 2021, from the southwestern states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (eBird 2023). The bird is also listed in the vertebrate fauna of Jalpaiguri district, northern West Bengal (Inglis et al. 1919). Later, Charles M. Inglis collected two males and two females from the Jalpaiguri district between 1928 to 1937, which are now in the collection of the Yale Peabody Museum (Gall 2023). Since then, the bird has never been reported from West Bengal. Hence the present report constitutes the first photographic record of this bird from the state of West Bengal and the first record from southern West Bengal.

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A Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* in Ludhiana, Punjab, India

On 25 August 2022, a single Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* was photographed [112,113] by KB on the banks of Sutlej River near Ludhiana (30.99°N, 75.79°E). While watching other birds at the site, KB came across a small island in the river, where a Whimbrel was spotted along with some other birds. Though unexpected, it was easily identified from its similarity to Eurasian Curlew *N. arquata* but smaller size and shorter bill. It gave less than ten seconds to click a photograph as a House Crow *Corvus splendens* started mobbing it, after which it flew to another river island further away. However, this helped to get a photograph in flight as well.

There is one previous sight record of this species from Punjab. In the distribution map in Grimmett et al. (2011: 158), one passage record is indicated. As per the details received in an earlier communication with Tim Inskipp (in litt., e-mail dated 05 January 2022), this observation was from Harike, Punjab by Per Undeland (unpublished) as mentioned in his checklist of birds seen in Punjab from 22 August 1993 to 30 June 1996. However, no photograph or any other evidence is available as per previous communication with Per Undeland. One more record was brought to our notice by the reviewer of this note.



Kunal Bamny

112. Whimbrel at Sutlej River near Ludhiana, Punjab.