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A Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* preying on a mugger *Crocodylus palustris* hatchling

The Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* is a widely distributed waterbird that prefers marshland, reed beds, and open fringes of water bodies (Cramp & Simmons 1977; Ali & Ripley 1987; Martínez-Vilalta et al. 2020). This species is well-known for its versatile and diverse dietary habits that span from fish to amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans to small mammals, and even insects, depending on the habitat and availability of resources (Kushlan & Hancock 2005; Prasad & Bhadola 2008). Here, we present a noteworthy feeding observation of a Grey Heron preying on a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*.

On 23 June 2023, PT was on a visit to Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India. While on a wildlife safari, sudden movements by a Grey Heron caught PT's attention near a wetland in the Jogi Mahal area. PT observed as the heron caught a large prey item. Upon closer inspection, the prey appeared to be a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* [270] which it proceeded to consume. During our stay at Ranthambore, we noted two instances of mugger hatchlings being depredated by Grey Herons. These observations shed light on the diverse feeding habits of the Grey Heron in the complex ecosystem of Ranthambore National Park.

A literature review revealed that large waterbirds such as Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* are known predators of mugger hatchlings (Somaweera et al 2013; Vyas 2019). Large waders are known to consume the hatchlings of other crocodilians as well (Fitzsimons 2020). A study by Somaweera et al. (2013), shows that 23 species of waders are known to feed on 15 different species and subspecies of crocodilians.

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270. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* with a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* at Jogi Mahal, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India.

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The predation strategies used by House Crows *Corvus splendens* for hunting Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

The House Crow *Corvus splendens* is a common, widespread bird throughout the Indian subcontinent (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) and is known for its intelligence and adaptability (Nyari 2006). House Crows are known to use their intelligence for innovative foraging strategies (Ryall 1992). Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola* nest in colonies and build their nests attached under bridges, over canals and under gateway arches usually close to water (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). The nest is made of mud and lined with feathers with a short tubular entrance. Although Streak-throated Swallows live in large colonies, the nests are vulnerable to predators, including the House Crow. In this note we report the predation strategies used by House Crows to depredate on Streak-throated Swallows in their colonies.

The predation events by House Crows on Streak-throated Swallows we describe here were documented at Matiyari Dam Canal Kharpariya, Rapta Old Bridge Mandla town, and Narmada Bridge at Khaddevari in Madhya Pradesh, India. Most observations were made between 0630 h and 0900 h, and a few between 1600 h and 1800 h, between 15 February 2023 and 13 March 2023. We followed all guidelines in Barve et al. (2020a, b) while