

# A checklist of the birds of West Bengal, India

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We would like to dedicate this paper to Biswamoy Biswas (1924–1994) for his contribution to the field of ornithology in West Bengal.

**Abstract:** The first detailed checklist of the birds of West Bengal, India, is presented on the basis of a collation of supporting information from specimens, photographs, and sight records with sufficient field notes. In summary, the state has 929 species of birds. Of these, 757 species have support of a museum specimen, 868 have support of photographs, and seven others are included solely on the basis of well-documented field descriptions. The state's avifauna includes 11 Critically Endangered, 11 Endangered, 25 Vulnerable, and 53 Near Threatened species, including the Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* and the Manipur Bush Quail *Percicula manipurensis*, which have not been reported from anywhere for nearly a century. There are 123 species that have been classified as High Priority in the State of India's Birds. Fifty-four species have been included solely on the basis of historical specimens with no recent records, which may indicate local extinctions.

## Introduction

The state of West Bengal (hereinafter, WB) lies between 21.544–27.218°N and 85.822– 89.096°E and is the fourth most populous state in India with 23 districts (Fig. 1), with an area of 88,752 sq. km, and the estimated population is over 102 million. Situated in the eastern part of India, it shares international borders with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. In addition, five Indian states share boundaries with WB, namely, Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Kolkata, its capital, is one of the most populated cosmopolitan cities in the country.

WB has a diverse topography that extends from the Eastern Himalaya range in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. This range of geographical features and landscapes have resulted in rich biodiversity, and birds are no exception. The biogeography of the state broadly follows the numerous eco-regions it supports (Dinerstein et al. 2017). They broadly fall under four zones.

**The Himalayan Zone:** This zone lies at the extreme north of the state, mostly in the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, and is perhaps the most diverse. The peaks of Sandakphu (27.105°N, 88.002°E; 3,636 m asl) and Phalut (27.208°N, 88.015°E; c.3,600 m asl) in the Himalaya are snow-covered in the winter and support alpine habitats. Several typical Himalayan eco-regions, including East Himalayan broadleaf forests, Himalayan subtropical broadleaf forests, Eastern Himalayan subalpine conifer forests, and Himalayan subtropical pine forests, lie here. Although Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadows do not technically occur in WB as an ecoregion, those habitats in Sikkim are near the state border. Immediately south of the forest zone lies the eco-region of the Terai-Duar savanna and grasslands that is formed by the Himalayan rivers, mainly in the Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and

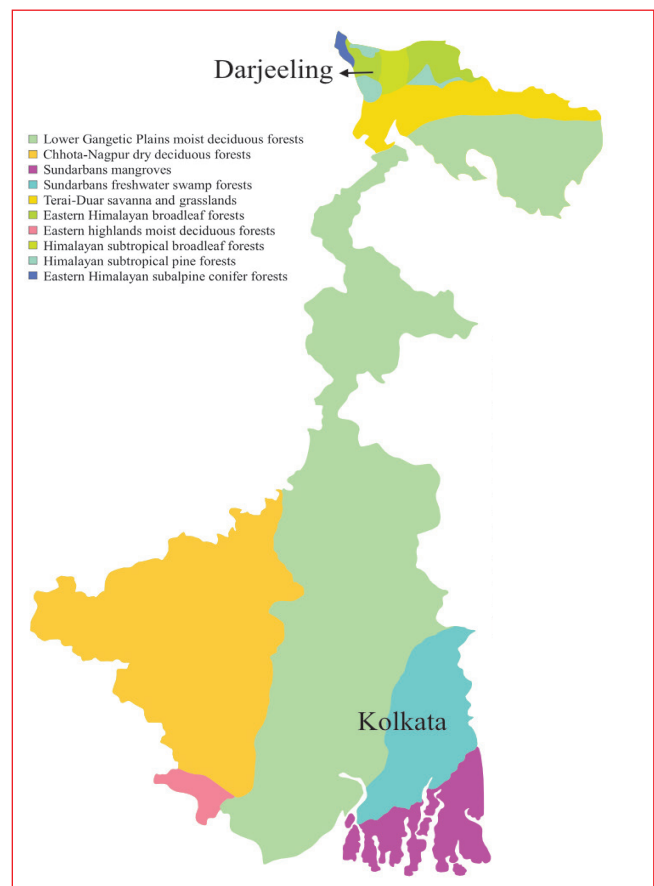


Fig. 1. Physical Map of West Bengal showing the eco-regions.

Alipurdaur Districts. Some of the important protected areas in WB lie in this Himalayan zone, such as Jaldapara National Park (NP) (217 sq. km), Neora Valley NP (160 sq. km), Singalila NP (79 sq. km), Gorumara NP (80 sq. km), and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) (158 sq. km).

**The Plains Zone:** The majority of the state falls within this ecoregion, which is formed by Ganga and the Himalayan rivers that feed into it. This agrarian zone is thickly populated but has several large and small wetlands, both natural and man-made, such as the Farakka Barrage (24.799°N, 87.946°E), an Important Bird Area (IBA) here.

**The Peninsular Indian Forests Zone:** Almost the entire western portion of the state falls under the ecoregion of the Chhota-Nagpur dry deciduous forests. These arid regions, falling mostly in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, and Birbhum, have contrasting habitats, attracting species that are resilient to dry conditions but are comparatively less diverse than those in the Himalayan zone. Another ecoregion, the East Deccan moist deciduous forests, almost reaches the south-western extremities of the state and hence shares some biodiversity.

**Sundarbans:** The largest deltaic formation in the world, the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta or Sundarbans, is shared between Bangladesh and WB and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Two important ecoregions are Sundarbans freshwater swamp forests and Sundarbans mangroves. Although low in diversity, the relatively undisturbed nature of the ecosystem forms a refuge for several wetland-dependent biodiversity including those of intertidal wetlands, mudflats, and islands.

### History of ornithology

The systematic study of avifauna in WB finds its roots in the British colonial period of the late 18th century. British naturalists and sportsmen, driven by a keen interest in the natural world, diligently recorded their observations in diaries and journals (Rahmani 1999). However, in terms of growth in ornithological knowledge, we can sub-classify the three centuries of ornithology into five distinct eras.

**The Blyth Era (1841–1862):** The year 1832 marked a significant milestone with the commencement of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* in Calcutta, providing a platform for scholarly discourse on the region's biodiversity. Notably, Edward Blyth (1810–1873) served as the curator of Zoology at the museum of the *Asiatic Society of Bengal* in Calcutta. He himself collected specimens around Kolkata and received specimens from across the country from other workers, some of whom were also from WB. We have used his catalogue (Blyth 1852) extensively for our research.

**The Hume Era (1870–1885):** Allan Octavian Hume (1829–1912) played a pivotal role in advancing ornithological knowledge through his editorship of the journal *Stray Feathers*. Although Hume was not stationed in WB for a long time, some of his work, such as the specimens he obtained from the Kolkata [=Calcutta] market (Hume 1879), served as an important resource, at times substantiating the previous literature from Blyth. This period also included early time collectors from northern Bengal (hereinafter, N. Bengal), such as Louis Mandelli, William Edwin Brooks, William

Ruxton Davison, and William Thomas Blanford, who contributed information to *Stray Feathers* through Hume. As Hume's collection is considered the single largest collection of South Asian birds; almost entirely housed in the Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK), it is a major source of historical information.

**The Inglis Era (1900–1948):** C.M. Inglis (1870–1954), over an extended period of contributing to the ornithology of eastern India, was also the curator of the Darjeeling Museum, operated by the Bengal Natural History Society. His specimens, mostly in NHMUK and Darjeeling Museum, still serve as the only evidence of several species found in the terai and lowland forests of N. Bengal (Inglis et al. 1920a; b; Inglis 1951a; b).

**The Biswas Era (1950–1970):** Biswamoy Biswas (1923–1994), probably the first Indian avian taxonomist, served as an ornithologist at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata. During the period spanning from 1964 to 1970, he spearheaded a comprehensive bird survey focusing on migratory species in the vicinity of Kolkata. He also collected numerous specimens from various regions of the state, and almost all of them are in the collections of ZSI. In later years, he was actively involved in advocacy and conservation.

**The modern Era (post-2000):** After a lull period in general ornithology, birdwatching and photography as a hobby emerged in the present century, with an active interest in filling the gaps in our knowledge. Some of the first attempts to compile a state checklist were also initiated by Sumit Sen in 2002, who documented a total of 865 species in his now defunct website. In 2004, Apurba Chakraborty and Kushal Mookherjee published a list of 803 species with both English and Bengali names (Chakraborty & Mookherjee 2004). Citizen science and social media platforms are abuzz with several fantastic discoveries of birds from the state. We feel that it is the right time to update the prior efforts of all past workers by publishing a complete state checklist.

While ornithological knowledge advanced, there were also serious efforts to communicate knowledge in Bengali. Satya Churn Law (1888–1984) authored three Bengali books on birds, namely, '*Pakhir Katha*' (1921), '*Kalidaser Pakhi*' (1934) and '*Jalachari*' (1935), contributing significantly to the local ornithological literature. Ajoy Home (1913–1992) added more to Bengali literature through his books, namely, '*Banglar Pakhi*' (1973) and '*Chena Achena Pakhi*' (1995), which encapsulated four decades of exploration in the wilderness of eastern India. Pradyot Kumar Sen Gupta (1898–1979) documented birds in and around Santiniketan and Kolkata. His personal observations and discoveries on birds were published by him in Bengali daily, *Visva Bharati*, and his writings were posthumously published in 2019 as '*Birds around Santiniketan*'.

### Methodology

For the evaluation and validation of species records from the state of WB, we adhered to the criteria proposed in the *India Checklist* (Praveen et al. 2016). Among the four stipulated criteria, the presence of a well-preserved specimen with a definitive provenance in a reputable scientific collection (Table 1) was the primary criterion. While most of the specimens could be located, there are some well-examined specimens from WB that have been lost, particularly from Blyth's collection. Since they figured in a scientific collection once upon a time, they are treated on par

with extant specimens. A clear, publicly hosted media evidence with sufficient metadata to cross-validate was the second criterion. Finally, sighting records were considered, with the reliability of observations contingent upon the quality and comprehensiveness of accompanying documentation. While these are objective, there is a broad grey zone where some of these criteria may need case by case evaluation of evidence, and we discuss this more in this paper with fuller details in the supplementary material uploaded to Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/13499361>). There is a small fourth category related to the species in which the specimens were handled but not preserved in any museum. They were treated on par with sight records in the absence of verifiable evidence. Although we used the *Handbook* (Ali & Ripley 1987) and the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a) as standard references for bird distribution, their statements themselves have not been used as mere evidence for species inclusion. We follow the taxonomy of the latest *India Checklist* (Praveen & Jayapal 2024) and limit our assessment to species rank. We used subspecies names only as justification for identification or distribution where necessary.

We also add our evaluation notes for all species that have been recorded from WB but for which we could not find necessary evidence for inclusion. We used the *India Checklist* categories of IUCN threatened species, SoIB High Priority species and Schedule I species to analyze their numbers in the checklist.

**Table 1.** List of museums/collections used for checklist

† Not available in GBIF

Museum/Collection	Acronym
Academy of Natural Sciences	ANSP
American Museum of Natural History	AMNH
Bombay Natural History Society <sup>†</sup>	BNHS
Bengal Natural History Museum <sup>†</sup>	BNHM
Derby (National) Museum, Liverpool	NML
Field Museum of Natural History	FMNH
Lucknow State Museum <sup>†</sup>	LSM
Lund University Biological Museum	MZLU
Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo	MNHAH
Museum national d'Histoire naturelle	MNHN
Museum of Comparative Zoology	MCZ
Natural History Museum, London	NHMK
National Museum of Natural History	USNM
Naturalis Biodiversity Center	RMNH
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	RBINS
Royal Ontario Museum	ROM
Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt	SMF
Thiruvananthapuram Natural History Museum	TNHM
University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge	UMZC
University of Michigan Museum of Zoology	UMMZ
Yale Peabody Museum	YPM
Zoological Survey of India <sup>†</sup>	ZSI

### Specimens

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, [www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)) is an excellent database for accessing specimen catalogues of ornithology collections. There are records of 4,455 preserved skins in this database, with the state/province being 'West Bengal'. However, some of the skins collected within the political

boundary of WB do not have the state/province entered into the database but have localities mentioned, typically 'Calcutta', 'Darjeeling', etc. These were included in a separate query (full details of the GBIF query in the supplementary information). Some of the catalogues have not been ingested into GBIF (see Table 1); in such cases, we resort to published catalogues (Blyth 1849, 1852; Horsfield & Moore 1854; Sharpe 1877, 1879, 1883, 1888; Seebohm 1881; Sclater 1888, 1892; Reid 1890; Sharpe & Ogilvie-Grant 1892, 1898; Ogilvie-Grant 1893; Salvadori 1893, 1895; Abdulali 1968, 1969a; b; c, 1976, 1983; Mukherjee & Dasgupta 1986; Saha et al. 1997; Zarrin 2023) and, at times, personal contacts with curators or researchers (see Acknowledgements). Very rarely, the reference to a specimen would be from a research publication, mostly a treatise on a specific species. If a particular specimen is unusual, we always contacted the respective curators to obtain photographs of the specimen and the label to help assess the record. We usually received excellent support from museum curators within India and abroad, except for rare instances (e.g., ZSI collection) where support has not been forthcoming. We have taken a cautious stand while evaluating important specimens that we were not able to verify to our satisfaction. All additional specimen details we collected during this verification exercise are included in the supplementary information. Despite the existence of several egg collection records and a few skeletons from WB, their inclusion was deemed uncertain and therefore not accepted as evidence due to potential inaccuracies.

While assessing historical specimen records, we were particularly challenged with records that had localities marked as the 'Calcutta market', 'Darjeeling' or 'Duars' (or variants such as 'Bhutan Duars'). While the identification of such specimens was beyond doubt, on the basis of photographs from the respective museums, the locality itself did not have sufficient provenance to consider the species for the WB checklist. The specimen tags of such specimens or associated literature often do not offer reasonable clarity to assess the locality unequivocally. Hence, we developed our own criteria to address these three instances.

**Calcutta market specimens:** The 'Calcutta market' was not a single site but rather a term encompassing various markets situated near wetlands, both north and south of the city. During winter, migratory birds were captured using nets and sold primarily in these markets for their flesh. Blyth and Hume frequented these markets, as they served as convenient locations for acquiring bird specimens. The specimens here were procured within a 25 mile [=40 km] radius, with the majority originating within a 10 mile [=16 km] radius of the stalls where they were sold (Hume 1879:480). However, he also stated that some ducks and geese were brought from other places (Hume 1879:498), and this is supported by other notes, e.g., Finn recounted purchasing three Lesser White-fronted Geese *A. erythropus* from 'a bird-dealer in the Provision Bazaar who constantly imports birds from up country...these came from somewhere in the direction of Rawal Pindi' (Finn 1898a:6), in Pakistan.

In all the cases, the specific identity of the specimens was beyond doubt. While authorities (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a) consider most of these records valid, their scope at the national or South Asia level does not necessitate them to validate whether the birds were actually collected within the borders of WB, which, however, is a matter of concern for us. We accepted specimens from the market in

cases where the rough geography from where the specimens were collected was also known, usually through the writings of Blyth or Hume. We presume that these workers would have interacted with the vendors to gather the provenance before documenting the localities. We have been extra careful with Anatids, and if they remain the lone evidence for its presence in WB, they are treated with greater caution. In each case, the evidence details and deliberation before a decision is made are documented in the results, while more details are available in the supplementary material.

In addition, Blyth also referenced some specimens as being from 'near Calcutta', 'vicinity of Calcutta', and 'neighbourhood of Calcutta'. From the perspective of the habitats and species involved, we believe that these locations are likely to include Salt-water Lake [=Salt Lake], Kolkata [=Calcutta] Botanical Garden, Hooghly, and Budge Budge areas. These sites are close to Kolkata and fall within a 47 km radius; the majority of the specimens with these annotations appear to have come from sites within an 11 km radius of the city. Hence, we feel safe in concluding that such sites can be treated as within WB. While there is no way to verify whether any of these specimens have originated in the market, our assumption is that, Blyth, a methodical worker, he was, must have been careful in assessing the provenance from his sources before ascribing these sites in the literature.

**Darjeeling specimens:** Darjeeling, a hill station in N. Bengal, was the seat of the British administration for a long period of time. Initially, an area of 350 sq. km, Darjeeling was gifted to the British East India Company by the Raja of Sikkim in 1835. In 1864, the Bhutan Duars, with passes leading into the hills of Kalimpong, were also ceded to the British, and the Darjeeling District assumed its present shape in 1866, with 3,196 sq. km. Although technically, this would make any specimen collected after 1866 from Darjeeling a part of the WB checklist, its historical ties with Sikkim would have created a more lasting memory among people who sometimes refer to these areas as Sikkim (<https://darjeeling.dcourts.gov.in/about-department/history/>); hence, some of the 19<sup>th</sup> C Sikkim specimens could have originated from present-day Darjeeling.

Conversely, some early time collectors, such as Mandelli (see Prys-Jones & Rasmussen 2018), are well known to have used the services of local collectors to obtain specimens across the hills of Bengal and Sikkim and yet labelled them 'Darjeeling'. This is particularly concerning, as a non-trivial number of trans-Himalayan species have been reported with 'Darjeeling' as the locality. The highest peaks around Darjeeling, Sandakphu and Phalut are at elevations of less than 3,700 m and are extensions of continuous ridges from the Kanchenjunga massif, beyond which lies the trans-Himalaya. While there are no alpine-meadows or high-altitude rivers such as those of Sikkim today, there are still sizeable areas in the Darjeeling hills that are snowclad in the winter months. However, we

also do not have evidence to justify the existence of such alpine habitats in these ranges 150–200 years ago.

We do not have a straightforward solution that can address all these cases; although we approached them case by case, we also formulated some general rules. All collections that have a more precise collection locality than just 'Darjeeling', either by virtue of specimen labels or supporting literature, were accepted. The Darjeeling District has a wide range of altitudes (c.300–3,700 m), and species that are likely to occur at low and middle elevations until approximately c.3,000 m were readily accepted. In contrast, birds that are otherwise strictly trans-Himalayan and have low dispersal capacities, such as Pheasants, were excluded. The presence of appropriate habitat, present or historical, was another criterion that was considered along with other evidence. The distribution of these species in Sikkim and the nearness of their present range to the higher ranges of Darjeeling were also factors. Several standard works (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a) have accessed the collections from Darjeeling and the assessments followed by them, specifically if they mention 'Darjeeling', were also given weight. Certain species are well known to move to lower altitudes during inclement weather in the Himalaya and such species were favourably considered; this is particularly true if a sister species has occurred as a climate-driven vagrant in Sandakphu or adjacent ranges. Multiple lines of evidence, where available, were carefully considered, specifically to avoid multiple references pointing to the same record.

**Specimens from Duars:** The Duars or Doars, a variant of "Doors", implying a gateway, is a low-altitude Terai region situated just south of the Eastern Himalayas in WB and Assam. The historical references to Sikkim Duars, Bhutan Duars, Buxa Duars, and Eastern & Western Duars in species habitat descriptions have caused significant confusion (see Fig. 2). The 'Bengal Duars' was established after the Bhutan War of 1865 and merged with the Jalpaiguri District in 1869, making it entirely within WB. The 'Western Duars' extends from the Teesta River in WB to the Goalpara District in Assam, whereas the 'Eastern Duars' lies entirely within Assam. The 'Buxa Duars', stretching from the Torsa River to the Sankos River, and the 'Sikkim Duars', west of the Jaldhaka River, are both fully within WB. There are no Duars areas in Sikkim; they are all now part of WB.

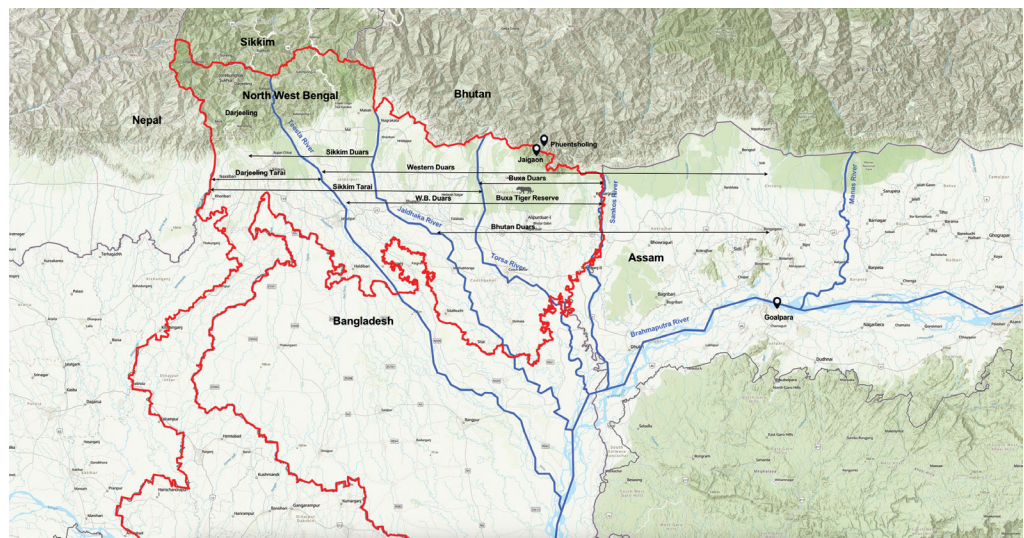


Fig. 2: Map of northern Bengal showing different Duars and Terai and their treatments

The 'Bhutan Duars' [= 'Bhutan Duars'] lies east of the Jaldhaka River, encompassing the Jalpaiguri District and parts of Assam.

All specimens that were tagged as 'Bengal Duars', 'Sikkim Duars', and 'Buxa Duars' were accepted as from WB. However, specimens from 'Western Duars' and 'Bhutan Duars' were accepted only if they were tagged as 'Bhutan Duars, Bengal' or 'Western Duars Bengal'. On a related note, 'Sikkim Terai' lies to the western side of the Jaldhaka River, and 'Darjeeling Terai' comprises the western part of the Teesta River, both of which are fully in WB; Sikkim does not have a terai zone.

## Media

All photographs and audio recordings in the Macaulay Library of eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) were compiled to create a list of species supported with media evidence. We also actively searched social media and other citizen science platforms, such as iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) and XenoCanto (<https://xeno-canto.org/>), and encouraged observers to upload them into a single database, which is eBird. We also used a group account of our society in eBird to upload the scans of photographs published in newspapers or journals. While most of the identifications are straightforward with data quality measures of eBird, there are still some cases where a commentary is required for their inclusion. We provide annotations in select cases where identification or

provenance is involved.

## Observations or sight records

As in other state checklists, these form the last stream of evidence and are the most difficult to evaluate. Our evaluation process involved meticulous scrutiny of the level of detail and supporting notes provided by original observers. All of these records were also uploaded in eBird, either through observers or through our group account. We have provided annotations for each of them and provided our assessment.

## Results

The state of West Bengal has 929 species of birds; of these, 757 have support of museum specimens that were examined by a competent authority, 868 have support of photographs, and seven others are included solely on the basis of well-documented field descriptions (Table 2, Fig. 3). Among the specimen records, 603 were directly accessed from the GBIF, while 154 were collated from other sources. Among the 154, 38 have now been lost and most relate to Blyth's specimens at the Indian museum (see Sclater 1892). There are 55 species that are included solely on the basis of specimen evidence. Seventy species are listed as unconfirmed records, where the evidence available was equivocal for inclusion.

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
1	Fulvous Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> S	G	M
2	Lesser Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	G	M
3	Bar-headed Goose <i>Anser indicus</i>	Z	M
4	Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	G	M
5	Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>		M
6	Tundra Bean-Goose <i>Anser serrirostris</i>		M
7	Knob-billed Duck <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	G	M
8	Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> H	G	M
9	Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna Tadorna</i>	U	M
10	Cotton Pygmy-Goose <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> S	G	M
11	Baikal Teal <i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>	U	M
12	Garganey <i>Spatula querquedula</i> H	G	M
13	Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i> H	G	M
14	Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>	G	M
15	Falcated Duck <i>Mareca falcata</i> NT	G	M
16	Eurasian Wigeon <i>Mareca penelope</i>	G	M
17	Indian Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Z	M
18	Eastern Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>		M
19	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	N	M
20	Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> H	G	M
21	Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> H	G	M
22	Marbled Duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> NT, S, H	N	
23	Pink-headed Duck <i>Rhodonessa caryophyllacea</i> CR, S	G	
24	Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	Z	M
25	Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> VU, S, H	G	M
26	Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i> NT	G	M
27	Baer's Pochard <i>Aythya baeri</i> CR, S, H	G	

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
28	Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> H	G	M
29	Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>		M
30	Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> VU		M
31	Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>		M
32	Smew <i>Mergellus albellus</i>		M
33	Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i> H	Z	M
34	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	U	M
35	White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> EN, S	Z	M
36	Hill Partridge <i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	G	M
37	Chestnut-breasted Partridge <i>Arborophila mandellii</i> NT, S		M
38	Rufous-throated Partridge <i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>	G	M
39	Snow Partridge <i>Lerwa lerwa</i>	G	
40	Blood Pheasant <i>Ithaginis cruentus</i> S, H	G	M
41	Satyr Tragopan <i>Tragopan satyra</i> NT, S	G	M
42	Himalayan Monal <i>Lophophorus impejanus</i> S	G	M
43	Kalij Pheasant <i>Lophura leucomelanos</i> S	G	M
44	Indian Peafowl <i>Pavo cristatus</i> S	G	M
45	Painted Spurrow <i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>		M
46	Grey Peacock-Pheasant <i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i> S	G	M
47	Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	G	M
48	Grey Francolin <i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>	G	M
49	Swamp Francolin <i>Ortygornis gularis</i> VU, S, H	G	M
50	Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	G	M
51	Blue-breasted Quail <i>Synoicus chinensis</i>	G	M
52	Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	G	M
53	Rain Quail <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	G	M
54	Jungle Bush-Quail <i>Perdica asiatica</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
55	Manipur Bush-Quail <i>Perdica manipurensis</i> EN, S, H	N	
56	Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> H	U	M
57	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	G	M
58	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> H	U	M
59	Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Z	M
60	Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	G	M
61	Snow Pigeon <i>Columba leuconota</i>	G	
62	Speckled Wood-Pigeon <i>Columba hodgsonii</i>	G	M
63	Ashy Wood-Pigeon <i>Columba pulchricollis</i>	G	M
64	Pale-capped Pigeon <i>Columba punicea</i> VU, S, H	N	M
65	Oriental Turtle-Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	G	M
66	Eurasian Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	G	M
67	Red Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	G	M
68	Spotted Dove <i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	G	M
69	Laughing Dove <i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	G	M
70	Barred Cuckoo-Dove <i>Macropygia unchall</i>	G	M
71	Asian Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	G	M
72	Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon <i>Treron bicinctus</i>	G	M
73	Ashy-headed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron phayrei</i> NT	G	M
74	Thick-billed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron curvirostra</i>	G	M
75	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	G	M
76	Pin-tailed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron apicauda</i>	G	M
77	Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron sphenurus</i>	G	M
78	Green Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula aenea</i> NT	G	M
79	Mountain Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula badia</i>	G	M
80	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles exustus</i>		
81	Bengal Florican <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i> CR, S, H	N	
82	Lesser Florican <i>Syphoetides indicus</i> CR, S, H		
83	Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	G	M
84	Lesser Coucal <i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	G	M
85	Sirkeer Malkoha <i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i> H	G	M
86	Green-billed Malkoha <i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	G	M
87	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo <i>Clamator coromandus</i>	G	M
88	Pied Cuckoo <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	G	M
89	Asian Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	G	M
90	Asian Emerald Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx maculatus</i>	G	M
91	Violet Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>		M
92	Banded Bay Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	N	M
93	Plaintive Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	G	M
94	Grey-bellied Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	G	M
95	Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo <i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>		M
96	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo <i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	G	M
97	Large Hawk-Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>	G	M
98	Common Hawk-Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	G	M
99	Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx niscalor</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
100	Lesser Cuckoo <i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	G	M
101	Indian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	G	M
102	Himalayan Cuckoo <i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	G	M
103	Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	G	M
104	Hodgson's Frogmouth <i>Batrachostomus hodgsoni</i> S	G	M
105	Jungle Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	G	M
106	Grey Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	G	M
107	Sykes's Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus maharattensis</i>		M
108	Large-tailed Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	G	M
109	Jerdon's Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>		M
110	Indian Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	G	M
111	Savanna Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	G	M
112	White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	N	M
113	Silver-backed Needletail <i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i>		M
114	Himalayan Swiftlet <i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	N	M
115	Alpine Swift <i>Tachymartus melba</i>		M
116	Blyth's Swift <i>Apus leuconyx</i>	Z	M
117	Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>	G	M
118	House Swift <i>Apus nipalensis</i>	Z	M
119	Asian Palm Swift <i>Cypsiurus balaisiensis</i>	G	M
120	Crested Treeswift <i>Hemiprocne coronata</i> S	G	M
121	Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		M
122	Brown-cheeked Rail <i>Rallus indicus</i>	N	M
123	Slaty-breasted Rail <i>Lewinia striata</i>	G	M
124	Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	G	M
125	Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	G	M
126	Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	G	M
127	Grey-headed Swampphen <i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	G	M
128	Watercock <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	G	M
129	White-breasted Waterhen <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	G	M
130	Slaty-legged Crake <i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	U	M
131	Ruddy-breasted Crake <i>Zapornia fusca</i>	G	M
132	Brown Crake <i>Zapornia akool</i>	G	M
133	Baillon's Crake <i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	G	M
134	Black-tailed Crake <i>Zapornia bicolor</i>	N	M
135	Demoiselle Crane <i>Grus virgo</i> S, H		M
136	Sarus Crane <i>Antigone antigone</i> VU, S, H	G	M
137	Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> S, H		M
138	Black-necked Crane <i>Grus nigricollis</i> NT, S		M
139	Great Thick-knee <i>Esacus recurvirostris</i> NT, H	G	M
140	Indian Thick-knee <i>Burhinus indicus</i>		M
141	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Z	M
142	Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> H		M
143	Ibisbill <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i> S	G	M
144	Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> NT, H		M
145	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> H	N	M
146	Pacific Golden-Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> S	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
147	Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i> H	G	M
148	Long-billed Plover <i>Charadrius placidus</i>	B	M
149	Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> NT		M
150	River Lapwing <i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i> NT	G	M
151	Yellow-wattled Lapwing <i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	G	M
152	Grey-headed Lapwing <i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	G	M
153	Red-wattled Lapwing <i>Vanellus indicus</i>	G	M
154	Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> CR, S, H		
155	White-tailed Lapwing <i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	G	
156	Oriental Plover <i>Anarhynchus veredus</i>		M
157	Tibetan Sand-Plover <i>Anarhynchus atrifrons</i> H	G	M
158	Greater Sand-Plover <i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>	G	M
159	Kentish Plover <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i> H	G	M
160	Greater Painted-Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	G	M
161	Pheasant-tailed Jacana <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	G	M
162	Bronze-winged Jacana <i>Metopidius indicus</i>	G	M
163	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Z	M
164	Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> NT, H	G	M
165	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> NT	Z	M
166	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> NT, H	G	M
167	Asian Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> NT	N	
168	Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	G	M
169	Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	G	M
170	Solitary Snipe <i>Gallinago solitaria</i>	G	M
171	Wood Snipe <i>Gallinago nemoricola</i> VU, S	N	M
172	Swinhoe's Snipe <i>Gallinago megala</i>	Z	
173	Pin-tailed Snipe <i>Gallinago stenura</i> H	G	M
174	Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	G	M
175	Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	U	M
176	Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		M
177	Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i> H	Z	M
178	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	G	M
179	Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	G	M
180	Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> H	G	M
181	Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	G	M
182	Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> H	G	M
183	Nordmann's Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i> EN	U	M
184	Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i> H	G	M
185	Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> S, H	G	M
186	Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	G	M
187	Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> EN, S, H		M
188	Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> NT	U	M
189	Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i> H	G	M
190	Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
191	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> NT, H	G	M
192	Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	G	M
193	Long-toed Stint <i>Calidris subminuta</i>	G	M
194	Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i> NT	G	M
195	Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris pygmaea</i> CR, S	L	M
196	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> H		M
197	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> H	B	M
198	Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i> H	G	M
199	Yellow-legged Buttonquail <i>Turnix tanki</i>	G	M
200	Barred Buttonquail <i>Turnix suscitator</i>	G	M
201	Small Buttonquail <i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>	G	
202	Indian Courser <i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i> S, H		M
203	Small Pratincole <i>Glaucopis lactea</i>	G	M
204	Oriental Pratincole <i>Glaucopis maldivarum</i>	G	M
205	Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		M
206	Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> VU		M
207	Slender-billed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> H		M
208	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> H	Z	M
209	Brown-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i> H	G	M
210	Pallas's Gull <i>Ichthyophaga ichthyophaga</i>	Z	M
211	Mongolian Gull <i>Larus smithsonianus mongolicus</i>		M
212	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Z	M
213	Indian Skimmer <i>Rynchops albigollis</i> EN, S, H	Z	M
214	Brown Noddy <i>Anous stolidus</i>	G	M
215	Lesser Noddy <i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	U	M
216	Black Noddy <i>Anous minutus</i>	Z	
217	Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>		M
218	Bridled Tern <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	G	M
219	Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> H	Z	M
220	Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> S, H	Z	M
221	Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> H		M
222	Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> H	G	M
223	White-winged Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Z	M
224	River Tern <i>Sterna aurantia</i> VU, S	G	M
225	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> H	Z	M
226	Black-bellied Tern <i>Sterna acuticauda</i> EN, S, H		M
227	Sandwich Tern <i>Thalasseus sandwicensis</i> H		M
228	Lesser Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>		M
229	Great Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Z	M
230	White-tailed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>		M
231	Red-tailed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>		M
232	Wilson's Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		M
233	Jouanin's Petrel <i>Bulweria fallax</i> NT		M
234	Streaked Shearwater <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i> NT		M

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SN	Species	S	M
235	Wedge-tailed Shearwater <i>Ardenna pacifica</i>		M
236	Short-tailed Shearwater <i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>		M
237	Asian Openbill <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	G	M
238	Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>		M
239	Woolly-necked Stork <i>Ciconia episcopus</i> NT		M
240	White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> S	U	
241	Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> NT	U	M
242	Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> NT, S	N	M
243	Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> NT, S, H	N	M
244	Painted Stork <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	G	M
245	Lesser Frigatebird <i>Fregata ariel</i>		M
246	Great Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i>	Z	M
247	Christmas Island Frigatebird <i>Fregata andrewsi</i> VU, S		M
248	Red-footed Booby <i>Sula sula</i>		M
249	Oriental Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> NT	G	M
250	Little Cormorant <i>Microcarbo niger</i>	G	M
251	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	G	M
252	Indian Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		M
253	Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> H	N	M
254	Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i> NT	U	M
255	Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	D	M
256	Black Bittern <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	G	M
257	Cinnamon Bittern <i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> S	G	M
258	Yellow Bittern <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Z	M
259	Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	G	M
260	Malayan Night Heron <i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>		M
261	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	G	M
262	Western Reef-Egret <i>Egretta gularis</i> H		M
263	Striated Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>	G	M
264	Indian Pond-Heron <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	G	M
265	Chinese Pond-Heron <i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	G	M
266	Eastern Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	G	M
267	Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	N	M
268	Intermediate Egret <i>Ardea intermedia</i>	G	M
269	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	G	M
270	Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Z	M
271	White-bellied Heron <i>Ardea insignis</i> CR, S, H	G	
272	Goliath Heron <i>Ardea goliath</i>	N	M
273	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	N	M
274	Black-headed Ibis <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> NT	G	M
275	Red-naped Ibis <i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	N	M
276	Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> S, H	G	M
277	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> S, H	G	M
278	Black-winged Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
279	Bearded Vulture <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> NT, S, H	S	
280	Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> EN, S, H	G	M
281	Oriental Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	G	M
282	Jerdon's Baza <i>Aviceda jerdoni</i> S	Z	M
283	Black Baza <i>Aviceda leuphotes</i> S	Z	M
284	Red-headed Vulture <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> CR, S, H	U	
285	Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i> NT, S		M
286	White-rumped Vulture <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> CR, S, H	G	M
287	Slender-billed Vulture <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i> CR, S, H	U	
288	Himalayan Vulture <i>Gyps himalayensis</i> NT, S		M
289	Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i> S, H		M
290	Crested Serpent-Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i> S	G	M
291	Short-toed Snake-Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> S, H	U	M
292	Mountain Hawk-Eagle <i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i> NT, S	G	M
293	Changeable Hawk-Eagle <i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i> S	G	M
294	Rufous-bellied Eagle <i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i> NT, S	D	M
295	Black Eagle <i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i> S	G	M
296	Indian Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga hastata</i> VU, S	G	M
297	Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga clanga</i> VU, S	G	M
298	Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> S	G	M
299	Tawny Eagle <i>Aquila rapax</i> VU, S, H	N	M
300	Steppe Eagle <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> EN, S		M
301	Eastern Imperial-Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i> VU, S	B	M
302	Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> S		M
303	Bonelli's Eagle <i>Aquila fasciata</i> S	G	M
304	White-eyed Buzzard <i>Butastur teesa</i> S	G	M
305	Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> S, H	G	M
306	Eastern Marsh Harrier <i>Circus spilonotus</i> S	Z	M
307	Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> S		M
308	Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i> NT, S, H	B	M
309	Pied Harrier <i>Circus melanoleucos</i> S	G	M
310	Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i> S, H	U	
311	Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i> S	G	M
312	Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i> S	G	M
313	Besra <i>Accipiter virgatus</i> S	Z	M
314	Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i> S	G	M
315	Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> S		M
316	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	G	M
317	Brahminy Kite <i>Haliastur indus</i> S	G	M
318	Pallas's Fish-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i> EN, S, H	G	M
319	White-tailed Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> S		M
320	White-bellied Sea-Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i> S		M
321	Lesser Fish-Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i> NT, S	B	
322	Grey-headed Fish-Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i> NT, S	D	M



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SN	Species	S	M
323	Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> S		M
324	Himalayan Buzzard <i>Buteo refectus</i> S		M
325	Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i> S	G	M
326	Eastern Grass-Owl <i>Tyto longimembris</i>		
327	Common Barn-Owl <i>Tyto alba</i> S	G	M
328	Oriental Bay-Owl <i>Phodilus badius</i>	G	M
329	Mountain Scops-Owl <i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	G	M
330	Indian Scops-Owl <i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	U	M
331	Collared Scops-Owl <i>Otus lettia</i>	G	M
332	Eurasian Scops-Owl <i>Otus scops</i>		M
333	Oriental Scops-Owl <i>Otus sunia</i>	Z	M
334	Indian Eagle-Owl <i>Bubo bengalensis</i> S		M
335	Buffy Fish-Owl <i>Ketupa ketupu</i> S		M
336	Brown Fish-Owl <i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i> S	G	M
337	Tawny Fish-Owl <i>Ketupa flavipes</i> S	G	
338	Dusky Eagle-Owl <i>Ketupa coromanda</i>	G	
339	Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl <i>Ketupa nipalensis</i> S	G	M
340	Asian Barred Owlet <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	G	M
341	Jungle Owlet <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	G	M
342	Collared Owlet <i>Taenioptynx brodiei</i>	G	M
343	Spotted Owlet <i>Athene brama</i>	G	M
344	Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>		M
345	Mottled Wood-Owl <i>Strix ocellata</i> S		M
346	Brown Wood-Owl <i>Strix leptogrammica</i> S	G	M
347	Himalayan Owl <i>Strix nivicolum</i>	G	M
348	Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i> S	G	M
349	Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> S	G	M
350	Brown Boobook <i>Ninox scutulata</i>	G	M
351	Red-headed Trogon <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	G	M
352	Ward's Trogon <i>Harpactes wardi</i> S		M
353	Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	G	M
354	Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i> VU, S	G	M
355	Indian Grey Hornbill <i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>	Z	M
356	Malabar Pied-Hornbill <i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i> NT, S	N	M
357	Oriental Pied-Hornbill <i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i> S	G	M
358	Rufous-necked Hornbill <i>Aceros nipalensis</i> VU, S, H	G	M
359	Wreathed Hornbill <i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i> VU, S, H	U	M
360	Blyth's Kingfisher <i>Alcedo hercules</i> NT, S	N	
361	Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	G	M
362	Blue-eared Kingfisher <i>Alcedo meninting</i>	N	M
363	Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher <i>Ceyx erithaca</i> NT	G	M
364	Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher <i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>	B	
365	Brown-winged Kingfisher <i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i> NT, H	G	M
366	Stork-billed Kingfisher <i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
367	Ruddy Kingfisher <i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	G	M
368	White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	G	M
369	Black-capped Kingfisher <i>Halcyon pileata</i> VU, H	Z	M
370	Collared Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	G	M
371	Crested Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	G	M
372	Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	G	M
373	Blue-bearded Bee-eater <i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	G	M
374	Green Bee-eater <i>Merops orientalis</i>	G	M
375	Blue-tailed Bee-eater <i>Merops philippinus</i>	G	M
376	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater <i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	G	M
377	European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	G	M
378	Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	G	M
379	Indochinese Roller <i>Coracias affinis</i>	N	M
380	Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	G	M
381	Coppersmith Barbet <i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	G	M
382	Blue-eared Barbet <i>Psilopogon cyanotis</i>	G	M
383	Great Barbet <i>Psilopogon virens</i>	G	M
384	Lineated Barbet <i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>	G	M
385	Brown-headed Barbet <i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>	G	M
386	Golden-throated Barbet <i>Psilopogon franklinii</i>	G	M
387	Blue-throated Barbet <i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>	G	M
388	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide <i>Indicator xanthonotus</i> NT	Z	M
389	Eurasian Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	G	M
390	Speckled Piculet <i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	G	M
391	White-browed Piculet <i>Sasia ochracea</i>	G	M
392	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker <i>Yungipicus nanus</i>		M
393	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker <i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>	G	M
394	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker <i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i> S, H	N	M
395	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>	G	M
396	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	G	M
397	Darjeeling Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	G	M
398	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates cathpharius</i>	G	M
399	Bay Woodpecker <i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	G	M
400	Greater Flameback <i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>	G	M
401	White-naped Woodpecker <i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	U	M
402	Rufous Woodpecker <i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	G	M
403	Pale-headed Woodpecker <i>Gecinulus grantia</i>	G	M
404	Himalayan Flameback <i>Dinopium shorii</i>	G	
405	Black-rumped Flameback <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	G	M
406	Lesser Yellownape <i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	G	M
407	Streak-throated Woodpecker <i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>		M
408	Grey-headed Woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i>	G	M
409	Greater Yellownape <i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>	G	M
410	Collared Falconet <i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
411	Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	U	M
412	Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> H	G	M
413	Red-necked Falcon <i>Falco chicquera</i> NT, S	G	M
414	Amur Falcon <i>Falco amurensis</i> S		M
415	Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>		M
416	Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	G	M
417	Oriental Hobby <i>Falco severus</i>	G	M
418	Laggar Falcon <i>Falco jugger</i> NT, S	G	
419	Saker Falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i> EN, S, H		M
420	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> S	G	M
421	Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i> NT	G	M
422	Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	G	M
423	Slaty-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula himalayana</i>	G	M
424	Plum-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	G	M
425	Blossom-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula roseata</i> NT	B	M
426	Red-breasted Parakeet <i>Psittacula alexandri</i> NT, S	G	M
427	Vernal Hanging-Parrot <i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	D	M
428	Long-tailed Broadbill <i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	G	M
429	Grey-lored Broadbill <i>Serilophus rubropygius</i>	G	M
430	Blue-naped Pitta <i>Hydroornis nipalensis</i>	G	M
431	Indian Pitta <i>Pitta brachyura</i>	U	M
432	Western Hooded Pitta <i>Pitta sordida</i>	G	M
433	Mangrove Pitta <i>Pitta megarhyncha</i> NT, H		M
434	Small Minivet <i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> S	G	M
435	Grey-chinned Minivet <i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	G	M
436	Short-billed Minivet <i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	G	M
437	Long-tailed Minivet <i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	G	M
438	Scarlet Minivet <i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	G	M
439	Swinhoe's Minivet <i>Pericrocotus cantonensis</i>		M
440	Rosy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	G	M
441	Large Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina macei</i>	G	M
442	Black-winged Cuckooshrike <i>Lalage melaschistos</i>	G	M
443	Black-headed Cuckooshrike <i>Lalage melanoptera</i>	G	M
444	Black-headed Shrike-Babbler <i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>	G	M
445	White-browed Shrike-Babbler <i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>	G	M
446	Green Shrike-Babbler <i>Pteruthius xanathochlorus</i>	U	M
447	Black-eared Shrike-Babbler <i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	G	M
448	White-bellied Erpornis <i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	G	M
449	Mangrove Whistler <i>Pachycephala cinerea</i>	Z	M
450	Indian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	G	M
451	Black-naped Oriole <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	G	M
452	Slender-billed Oriole <i>Oriolus tenuirostris</i> H	G	M
453	Black-hooded Oriole <i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	G	M
454	Maroon Oriole <i>Oriolus traillii</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
455	Ashy Woodswallow <i>Artamus fuscus</i>	G	M
456	Large Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>	G	M
457	Common Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	G	M
458	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike <i>Hemipus picatus</i>	G	M
459	Common Iora <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	G	M
460	White-throated Fantail <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	G	M
461	White-browed Fantail <i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	G	M
462	Black Drongo <i>Dicurus macrocerus</i>	G	M
463	Ashy Drongo <i>Dicurus leucophaeus</i>	G	M
464	White-bellied Drongo <i>Dicurus caerulescens</i>	Z	M
465	Crow-billed Drongo <i>Dicurus annectens</i>	Z	M
466	Bronzed Drongo <i>Dicurus aeneus</i>	G	M
467	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicurus remifer</i>	G	M
468	Hair-crested Drongo <i>Dicurus hottentottus</i>	G	M
469	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicurus paradiseus</i>	G	M
470	Black-naped Monarch <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	G	M
471	Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>	G	M
472	Indian Paradise-Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	G	M
473	Tiger Shrike <i>Lanius tigrinus</i>		M
474	Isabelline Shrike <i>Lanius isabellinus</i> H		M
475	Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>	G	M
476	Bay-backed Shrike <i>Lanius vittatus</i>	U	M
477	Long-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	G	M
478	Grey-backed Shrike <i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	G	M
479	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i> H		M
480	Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	G	M
481	Black-headed Jay <i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>		M
482	Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie <i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	G	M
483	Red-billed Blue-Magpie <i>Urocissa erythronycha</i>		M
484	Common Green-Magpie <i>Cissa chinensis</i>	G	M
485	Rufous Treepie <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	G	M
486	Grey Treepie <i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	G	M
487	Collared Treepie <i>Dendrocitta frontalis</i>	G	M
488	Black-rumped Magpie <i>Pica bottanensis</i>		M
489	Spotted Nutcracker <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	G	M
490	Red-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	G	
491	Yellow-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	G	
492	House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i>	G	M
493	Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	G	M
494	Yellow-bellied Fantail <i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>	G	M
495	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	G	M
496	Fire-capped Tit <i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>		M
497	Yellow-browed Tit <i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	G	M
498	Sultan Tit <i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
499	Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	G	M
500	Rufous-vented Tit <i>Periparus rubidiventris</i> H	G	M
501	Grey-crested Tit <i>Lophophanes dichrous</i> H	G	M
502	Green-backed Tit <i>Parus monticolus</i>	G	M
503	Cinereous Tit <i>Parus cinereus</i>	G	M
504	Himalayan Black-lored Tit <i>Machlolophus xanthogenys</i>		M
505	Indian Black-lored Tit <i>Machlolophus aplonotus</i>		M
506	Yellow-cheeked Tit <i>Machlolophus spilonotus</i>	G	M
507	Rufous-tailed Lark <i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i> H	Z	M
508	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark <i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	G	M
509	Singing Bushlark <i>Mirafra javanica</i>	Z	
510	Bengal Bushlark <i>Mirafra assamica</i>	G	M
511	Jerdon's Bushlark <i>Mirafra affinis</i>	U	M
512	Indian Bushlark <i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	Z	M
513	Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	G	
514	Mongolian Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella dukhunensis</i>	N	M
515	Hume's Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>		M
516	Turkestan Short-toed Lark <i>Alaudala heinei</i>		M
517	Sand Lark <i>Alaudala raytal</i>	G	M
518	Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	G	M
519	Oriental Skylark <i>Alauda gulgula</i> H	G	M
520	Common Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	G	M
521	Himalayan Prinia <i>Prinia crinigera</i>	G	M
522	Black-throated Prinia <i>Prinia atrogularis</i>	G	M
523	Grey-crowned Prinia <i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i> VU, S, H	G	
524	Rufescent Prinia <i>Prinia rufescens</i>	G	M
525	Grey-breasted Prinia <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	G	M
526	Delicate Prinia <i>Prinia lepida</i>	G	M
527	Jungle Prinia <i>Prinia sylvatica</i>		M
528	Yellow-bellied Prinia <i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	G	M
529	Ashy Prinia <i>Prinia socialis</i>	G	M
530	Plain Prinia <i>Prinia inornata</i>	G	M
531	Zitting Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	G	M
532	Golden-headed Cisticola <i>Cisticola exilis</i>	G	M
533	Thick-billed Warbler <i>Arundinax aedon</i>	G	M
534	Booted Warbler <i>Iduna caligata</i>		M
535	Sykes's Warbler <i>Iduna rama</i>		M
536	Black-browed Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	Z	M
537	Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	G	M
538	Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	G	M
539	Large-billed Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus orinus</i>		M
540	Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		
541	Oriental Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	Z	M
542	Clamorous Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
543	Rusty-rumped Warbler <i>Helopsaltes certhiola</i>	G	M
544	Lanceolated Warbler <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>		M
545	Brown Bush Warbler <i>Locustella luteoventris</i>	G	
546	Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>		M
547	Chinese Bush Warbler <i>Locustella tacsanowskia</i>	G	
548	Baikal Bush Warbler <i>Locustella davidi</i>		M
549	West Himalayan Bush Warbler <i>Locustella kashmirensis</i> S		M
550	Spotted Bush Warbler <i>Locustella thoracica</i>	G	M
551	Russet Bush Warbler <i>Locustella mandelli</i>	N	M
552	Bristled Grassbird <i>Schoenicola striatus</i> VU, S, H	N	M
553	Striated Grassbird <i>Megalurus palustris</i>	G	M
554	Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler <i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	G	M
555	Pygmy Wren-Babbler <i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	G	M
556	Grey-throated Martin <i>Riparia chinensis</i>	Z	M
557	Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>		M
558	Pale Martin <i>Riparia diluta</i>	Z	M
559	Eurasian Crag-Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> H		M
560	Dusky Crag-Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	N	M
561	Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	G	M
562	Wire-tailed Swallow <i>Hirundo smithii</i>		M
563	Northern House-Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>		M
564	Asian House-Martin <i>Delichon dasypus</i>		M
565	Nepal House-Martin <i>Delichon nipalense</i>	G	M
566	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	G	M
567	Streak-throated Swallow <i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>		M
568	White-throated Bulbul <i>Alophoxus flaveolus</i>	G	M
569	Striated Bulbul <i>Alcurus striatus</i>	G	M
570	Ashy Bulbul <i>Hemixos flavala</i>	G	M
571	Mountain Bulbul <i>Ixos mcclllandii</i>	G	M
572	Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	G	M
573	Black-crested Bulbul <i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>	G	M
574	White-browed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	U	M
575	Red-whiskered Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	G	M
576	Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	G	M
577	Himalayan Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	G	M
578	Ashy-throated Warbler <i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	G	M
579	Buff-barred Warbler <i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	G	M
580	Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	G	M
581	Hume's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	G	M
582	Lemon-rumped Warbler <i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	G	M
583	Tytler's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>		M
584	Sulphur-bellied Warbler <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i> H	Z	M
585	Tickell's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	G	M
586	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
587	Smoky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fulgiventor</i>	G	M
588	Buff-throated Warbler <i>Phylloscopus subaffinis</i>		M
589	Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	G	M
590	White-spectacled Warbler <i>Phylloscopus intermedius</i>	G	M
591	Grey-cheeked Warbler <i>Phylloscopus poliogenys</i>	G	M
592	Green-crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus burkii</i>	G	M
593	Whistler's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i>		M
594	Green Warbler <i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	G	M
595	Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	G	M
596	Large-billed Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	G	M
597	Chestnut-crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus castaniceps</i>	G	M
598	Yellow-vented Warbler <i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	G	M
599	Western Crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>		M
600	Blyth's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	G	M
601	Grey-hooded Warbler <i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>	G	M
602	Pale-footed Bush Warbler <i>Hemitesia pallidipes</i> H	U	
603	Asian Stubtail <i>Urosphena squameiceps</i>		M
604	Grey-bellied Tesia <i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	G	M
605	Slaty-bellied Tesia <i>Tesia olivea</i>	G	M
606	Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler <i>Cettia major</i>	U	M
607	Grey-sided Bush Warbler <i>Cettia brunniifrons</i>	G	M
608	Chestnut-headed Tesia <i>Cettia castaneocoronata</i>	G	M
609	Yellow-bellied Warbler <i>Abroscopus superciliiaris</i>	G	M
610	Rufous-faced Warbler <i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	G	
611	Black-faced Warbler <i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>	G	M
612	Mountain Tailorbird <i>Phyllergates cucullatus</i>	G	M
613	Broad-billed Warbler <i>Tickellia hodgsoni</i>	G	M
614	Manchurian Bush Warbler <i>Horornis canturians</i>	N	
615	Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler <i>Horornis fortipes</i>	G	M
616	Hume's Bush Warbler <i>Horornis brunnescens</i>	U	M
617	Aberrant Bush Warbler <i>Horornis flavolivaceus</i>	G	M
618	Black-throated Tit <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	G	M
619	Black-browed Tit <i>Aegithalos iouschistos</i>	N	M
620	Lesser Whitethroat <i>Curruca curruca</i>	U	M
621	Eastern Orphean Warbler <i>Curruca crassirostris</i>		M
622	Asian Desert Warbler <i>Curruca nana</i>		M
623	Fire-tailed Myzornis <i>Myzornis pyrrhura</i>	G	M
624	Golden-breasted Fulvetta <i>Lioparus chrysothis</i>	G	M
625	Yellow-eyed Babbler <i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	G	M
626	Jerdon's Babbler <i>Chrysomma altirostre</i> VU, S, H	N	
627	White-browed Fulvetta <i>Fulvetta vinipectus</i>	G	M
628	Black-breasted Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i> VU, S, H	N	
629	Great Parrotbill <i>Conostoma aemodium</i> H	G	M
630	Brown Parrotbill <i>Cholornis unicolor</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
631	Grey-headed Parrotbill <i>Psittiparus gularis</i>	G	M
632	White-breasted Parrotbill <i>Psittiparus ruficeps</i>	G	M
633	Fulvous Parrotbill <i>Suthora fulvifrons</i> H	G	M
634	Black-throated Parrotbill <i>Suthora nipalensis</i>	G	M
635	Pale-billed Parrotbill <i>Suthora atrosuperciliaris</i>	U	
636	Striated Yuhina <i>Staphida castaniceps</i>	G	M
637	Black-chinned Yuhina <i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	G	M
638	Whiskered Yuhina <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	G	M
639	White-naped Yuhina <i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	G	M
640	Stripe-throated Yuhina <i>Yuhina gularis</i>	G	M
641	Rufous-vented Yuhina <i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	G	M
642	Indian White-eye <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	G	M
643	Chestnut-capped Babbler <i>Timalia pileata</i>	G	M
644	Tawny-bellied Babbler <i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	U	M
645	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler <i>Mixornis gularis</i>	G	M
646	Golden Babbler <i>Cyanoderma chrysaeum</i>	G	M
647	Rufous-capped Babbler <i>Cyanoderma ruficeps</i>	G	M
648	Buff-chested Babbler <i>Cyanoderma ambiguum</i>	G	
649	Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler <i>Spelaornis caudatus</i> NT	G	M
650	Black-crowned Scimitar-Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus ferruginosus</i>	G	M
651	Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus superciliiaris</i>	G	M
652	Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	G	M
653	White-browed Scimitar-Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	G	M
654	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler <i>Erythrognis erythrognis</i>	G	M
655	Grey-throated Babbler <i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	G	M
656	Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler <i>Stachyris humei</i> NT, S, H		M
657	Indian Grassbird <i>Graminicola bengalensis</i> NT	G	
658	White-hooded Babbler <i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i>	G	
659	Yellow-throated Fulvetta <i>Schoeniparus cinereus</i>	G	M
660	Rufous-winged Fulvetta <i>Schoeniparus castaneiceps</i>	G	M
661	Rufous-throated Fulvetta <i>Schoeniparus rufogularis</i>	N	
662	Puff-throated Babbler <i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	G	M
663	Abbott's Babbler <i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>	G	M
664	Long-billed Wren-Babbler <i>Napothera malacoptila</i>	N	M
665	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta <i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>		M
666	Nepal Fulvetta <i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	G	M
667	Striated Laughingthrush <i>Grammatoptila striata</i>	G	M
668	Himalayan Cutia <i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	G	M
669	Scaly Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron subunicolor</i>	G	M
670	Blue-winged Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron squamatum</i>	G	M
671	Streaked Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i>	G	M
672	Black-faced Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron affine</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
673	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>	G	M
674	Long-tailed Sibia <i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	G	M
675	Rufous Sibia <i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	G	M
676	Grey Sibia <i>Heterophasia gracilis</i>		M
677	Hoary-throated Barwing <i>Actinodura nipalensis</i> H	G	M
678	Blue-winged Minla <i>Actinodura cyanouroptera</i>	G	M
679	Chestnut-tailed Minla <i>Actinodura strigula</i>	G	M
680	Rusty-fronted Barwing <i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	G	M
681	Red-billed Leiothrix <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	G	M
682	Silver-eared Mesia <i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	G	M
683	Red-tailed Minla <i>Minla ignotincta</i>	G	M
684	Rufous-backed Sibia <i>Leioptila annectens</i>	G	M
685	Red-faced Liocichla <i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>	G	M
686	Slender-billed Babbler <i>Argya longirostris</i> VU, S, H	G	
687	Jungle Babbler <i>Argya striata</i>	G	M
688	Common Babbler <i>Argya caudata</i>	Z	M
689	Striated Babbler <i>Argya earlei</i>	G	M
690	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax monileger</i>	G	M
691	White-crested Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	G	M
692	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush <i>Ianthocincla rufogularis</i>	G	M
693	Spotted Laughingthrush <i>Ianthocincla ocellata</i>	G	M
694	Rufous-necked Laughingthrush <i>Pterorhinus ruficollis</i>	G	M
695	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Pterorhinus pectoralis</i>	G	M
696	White-throated Laughingthrush <i>Pterorhinus albogularis</i>	G	M
697	Grey-sided Laughingthrush <i>Pterorhinus caerulatus</i> S	G	M
698	Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>		M
699	Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i> H		M
700	Beautiful Nuthatch <i>Sitta formosa</i> VU, S, H	G	M
701	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch <i>Sitta frontalis</i>	G	M
702	White-tailed Nuthatch <i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	G	M
703	Indian Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i>	Z	
704	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch <i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	G	M
705	Hodgson's Treecreeper <i>Certhia hodgsoni</i>	G	M
706	Bar-tailed Treecreeper <i>Certhia himalayana</i>		M
707	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper <i>Certhia nipalensis</i>	G	M
708	Sikkim Treecreeper <i>Certhia discolor</i>	G	M
709	Indian Spotted Creeper <i>Salpornis spilota</i>		M
710	Eurasian Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	G	M
711	Spotted Elachura <i>Elachura formosa</i>	G	M
712	Brown Dipper <i>Cinclus pallasi</i> H	G	M
713	Golden-crested Myna <i>Ampeliceps coronatus</i>		M
714	Common Hill Myna <i>Gracula religiosa</i> S	G	M
715	Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	G	M

Table 2. Checklist of Birds of West Bengal

SN	Species	S	M
716	Rosy Starling <i>Pastor roseus</i>	G	M
717	Daurian Starling <i>Agropsar sturninus</i>		M
718	Asian Pied Starling <i>Gracupica contra</i>	G	M
719	Brahminy Starling <i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>	G	M
720	Chestnut-tailed Starling <i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	G	M
721	Red-billed Starling <i>Spodiopsar sericeus</i>		M
722	Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	G	M
723	Bank Myna <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i> H	G	M
724	Jungle Myna <i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	G	M
725	Great Myna <i>Acridotheres grandis</i>		M
726	Spot-winged Starling <i>Saroglossa spilopterus</i> H	G	M
727	Grandala <i>Grandala coelicolor</i>	G	
728	Long-tailed Thrush <i>Zoothera dixonii</i>	G	M
729	Alpine Thrush <i>Zoothera mollissima</i>	G	M
730	Himalayan Thrush <i>Zoothera salimalii</i>	G	M
731	Dark-sided Thrush <i>Zoothera marginata</i>		M
732	Long-billed Thrush <i>Zoothera monticola</i>	G	M
733	Scaly Thrush <i>Zoothera dauma</i>	G	M
734	Purple Cochoa <i>Cochoa purpurea</i>	G	M
735	Green Cochoa <i>Cochoa viridis</i>	U	M
736	Siberian Thrush <i>Geokichla sibirica</i>		M
737	Pied Thrush <i>Geokichla wardii</i> H	A	M
738	Orange-headed Thrush <i>Geokichla citrina</i>	G	M
739	Grey-winged Blackbird <i>Turdus boulboul</i>	G	M
740	Indian Blackbird <i>Turdus simillimus</i>		M
741	Japanese Thrush <i>Turdus cardis</i>		M
742	Tickell's Thrush <i>Turdus unicolor</i>	G	M
743	Black-breasted Thrush <i>Turdus dissimilis</i>	U	M
744	Grey-sided Thrush <i>Turdus feae</i> VU		M
745	Eyebrowed Thrush <i>Turdus obscurus</i>		M
746	Kessler's Thrush <i>Turdus kessleri</i>		M
747	Tibetan Blackbird <i>Turdus maximus</i> H		M
748	Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>		M
749	White-collared Blackbird <i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	G	M
750	Chestnut Thrush <i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>	N	M
751	Black-throated Thrush <i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	G	M
752	Red-throated Thrush <i>Turdus ruficollis</i>		M
753	Dusky Thrush <i>Turdus eunomus</i>	Z	M
754	Dark-sided Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	G	M
755	Ferruginous Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	G	M
756	Asian Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	G	M
757	Brown-breasted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa muttui</i>		M
758	Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>		M
759	Indian Robin <i>Copsychus fulcatus</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
760	Oriental Magpie-Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	G	M
761	White-rumped Shama <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	G	M
762	Large Niltava <i>Niltava grandis</i>	G	M
763	Small Niltava <i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	G	M
764	Rufous-bellied Niltava <i>Niltava sundara</i>	G	M
765	Blue-and-white Flycatcher <i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana</i>		M
766	Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	G	M
767	White-gorgeted Flycatcher <i>Anthipes monileger</i>	G	M
768	Pale-chinned Flycatcher <i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>		M
769	Pale Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	S	M
770	Blue-throated Flycatcher <i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>	G	M
771	Large Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis magnirostris</i> NT, S, H	Z	
772	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		M
773	Rusty-bellied Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx hyperythra</i> NT		M
774	Lesser Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx leucophris</i>	G	M
775	Himalayan Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx cruralis</i>	G	M
776	Gould's Shortwing <i>Heteroxenicus stellatus</i>	G	M
777	Indian Blue Robin <i>Larivora brunnea</i>	G	M
778	Siberian Blue Robin <i>Larivora cyane</i>		M
779	White-bellied Redstart <i>Luscinia phaenicuroides</i>	G	M
780	Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	G	M
781	Blue Whistling-Thrush <i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	G	M
782	Little Forktail <i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	G	M
783	White-crowned Forktail <i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	G	
784	Spotted Forktail <i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	G	M
785	Black-backed Forktail <i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	G	M
786	Slaty-backed Forktail <i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	G	M
787	Firethroat <i>Calliope pectardens</i> NT		M
788	Siberian Rubythroat <i>Calliope calliope</i>	G	M
789	Himalayan Rubythroat <i>Calliope pectoralis</i>	G	M
790	Chinese Rubythroat <i>Calliope tschebaiewi</i> S	G	M
791	White-tailed Robin <i>Myiomela leucura</i>	G	M
792	Blue-fronted Robin <i>Cinclidium frontale</i>	G	M
793	Himalayan Bush-Robin <i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	G	M
794	Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin <i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	G	M
795	White-browed Bush-Robin <i>Tarsiger indicus</i>	G	M
796	Golden Bush-Robin <i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	G	M
797	Slaty-backed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula erithacus</i>	G	M
798	Slaty-blue Flycatcher <i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	S	M
799	Snowy-browed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	G	M
800	Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hodgsoni</i>	G	M
801	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula strophiate</i> H	G	M
802	Sapphire Flycatcher <i>Ficedula sapphira</i>	G	M
803	Little Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
804	Ultramarine Flycatcher <i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>	G	M
805	Rusty-tailed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula rufigauda</i>		M
806	Taiga Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	G	M
807	Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	G	M
808	Blue-fronted Redstart <i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	G	M
809	Plumbeous Water-Redstart <i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i> H	G	M
810	White-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>	G	M
811	Blue-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>		M
812	Hodgson's Redstart <i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	G	M
813	White-throated Redstart <i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>	G	M
814	White-winged Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>		
815	Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	G	M
816	Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	G	M
817	Blue-capped Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i> H	G	M
818	Blue Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i> H	G	M
819	Hodgson's Bushchat <i>Saxicola insignis</i> VU, S, H	N	M
820	Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola maurus</i>	G	M
821	Amur Stonechat <i>Saxicola stejnegeri</i>	G	
822	White-tailed Stonechat <i>Saxicola leucurus</i>	B	M
823	Pied Bushchat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>		M
824	Jerdon's Bushchat <i>Saxicola jerdoni</i> H		
825	Grey Bushchat <i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	G	M
826	Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> H		M
827	Desert Wheatear <i>Oenanthe deserti</i> H		M
828	Pied Wheatear <i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>		M
829	Brown Rock Chat <i>Oenanthe fusca</i>		M
830	Red-tailed Wheatear <i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>		M
831	Thick-billed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum agile</i> H	N	M
832	Yellow-vented Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</i>	G	M
833	Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum melanozanthum</i>	S	M
834	Pale-billed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	G	M
835	Plain Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum minullum</i>		M
836	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	G	M
837	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	G	M
838	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird <i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>	G	M
839	Purple-rumped Sunbird <i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	G	M
840	Purple Sunbird <i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	G	M
841	Loten's Sunbird <i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>		M
842	Fire-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	G	M
843	Black-throated Sunbird <i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	G	M
844	Mrs. Gould's Sunbird <i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>	G	M
845	Green-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	G	M
846	Crimson Sunbird <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	G	M
847	Little Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	G	M

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SN	Species	S	M
848	Streaked Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera magna</i>	G	M
849	Asian Fairy-bluebird <i>Irena puella</i>	G	M
850	Jerdon's Leafbird <i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>	G	M
851	Golden-fronted Leafbird <i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	G	M
852	Orange-bellied Leafbird <i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	G	M
853	Streaked Weaver <i>Ploceus manyar</i>	G	M
854	Baya Weaver <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	G	M
855	Finn's Weaver <i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i> EN, S, H	G	M
856	Black-breasted Weaver <i>Ploceus benghalensis</i>	G	M
857	Indian Silverbill <i>Euodice malabarica</i>	G	M
858	Scaly-breasted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	G	M
859	White-rumped Munia <i>Lonchura striata</i>	G	M
860	Tricoloured Munia <i>Lonchura malacca</i>	G	M
861	Chestnut Munia <i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	U	M
862	Red Munia <i>Amandava amandava</i>	G	M
863	Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris</i>	G	M
864	Altai Accentor <i>Prunella himalayana</i>	G	M
865	Robin Accentor <i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>	G	
866	Rufous-breasted Accentor <i>Prunella strophiata</i>	G	M
867	Maroon-backed Accentor <i>Prunella immaculata</i>	G	M
868	House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	G	M
869	Russet Sparrow <i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>	G	M
870	Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	G	M
871	Yellow-throated Sparrow <i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>	Z	M
872	Rufous-necked Snowfinch <i>Pyrgilauda ruficollis</i>		M
873	Blanford's Snowfinch <i>Pyrgilauda blanfordi</i>	N	
874	Forest Wagtail <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i> S, H	Z	M
875	Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	G	M
876	Western Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	G	M
877	Eastern Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>		M
878	Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	G	M
879	White-browed Wagtail <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	G	M
880	White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	G	M
881	Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus richardi</i>	G	M
882	Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufulus</i>	G	M
883	Long-billed Pipit <i>Anthus similis</i>		M
884	Blyth's Pipit <i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	N	M
885	Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i> H	U	
886	Upland Pipit <i>Anthus sylvanus</i>	U	M
887	Rosy Pipit <i>Anthus roseatus</i>	G	M
888	Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	G	M
889	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> H	G	M
890	Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>		M
891	Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		M

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SN	Species	S	M
892	Buff-bellied Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	U	
893	Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		M
894	Collared Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas affinis</i>	Z	M
895	Spot-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>	G	M
896	White-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>		M
897	Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	G	M
898	Scarlet Finch <i>Carpodacus sipahi</i>	G	M
899	Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>		M
900	Pink-rumped Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus waltoni</i>		M
901	Dark-rumped Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	G	M
902	Pink-browed Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>	Z	M
903	Red-fronted Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus puniceus</i>	G	
904	Crimson-browed Finch <i>Carpodacus subhimachalus</i>	G	M
905	Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus thura</i>	G	M
906	Brown Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>	G	M
907	Red-headed Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>	G	M
908	Grey-headed Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	N	
909	Blanford's Rosefinch <i>Agrophospiza rubescens</i>		M
910	Gold-naped Finch <i>Pyrrhoptectes epauletta</i>	G	M
911	Spectacled Finch <i>Callacanthus burtoni</i>	Z	M
912	Dark-breasted Rosefinch <i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>	G	M
913	Plain Mountain Finch <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	G	M
914	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch <i>Chloris spinoides</i>	G	M
915	Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	G	M
916	Tibetan Siskin <i>Spinus thibetanus</i>		M
917	Crested Bunting <i>Emberiza lathami</i>	G	M
918	Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	G	M
919	Red-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	G	M
920	Chestnut-eared Bunting <i>Emberiza fucata</i>	N	M
921	White-capped Bunting <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>		M
922	Grey-necked Bunting <i>Emberiza buchanani</i>		M
923	Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		M
924	Striolated Bunting <i>Emberiza striolata</i>		M
925	Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i> CR, S, H		M
926	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	G	M
927	Black-faced Bunting <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	N	M
928	Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>		M
929	Yellow-browed Bunting <i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>		M

**Table headers:** S: Specimen, M: Media

**Status:** CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened as per IUCN, S: Schedule-I under Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 (WLPA), H: 'High' Conservation Priority as per State of India's Birds (SoIB).

**Sources (see Table 2):** A: AMNH, B: BNHS, D: BNHM, G: GBIF, L: NML, M: eBird Media, N: NHMUK, S: LSM, U: Untraced (but specimen once mentioned), Z: ZSI. Species with blank columns are those accepted based solely on documentation.

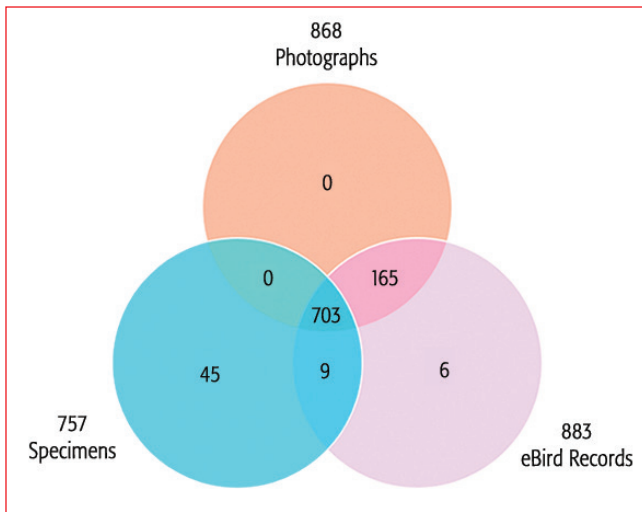


Fig. 3: Overview of species documentation in West Bengal

The first records of several interesting birds have been well published with photo documentation in recent years. We list them (see Table 2 in the Supplementary material) and expect readers to refer to these references for more details of their assessment. As a part of our concerted attempts to add media into eBird for rarities, many species that have not been formally published have been reported for the first time from the state, with photographs, were added to eBird (see Table 3 in the Supplementary material). Additionally, commentaries have been well published on historical specimens, sometimes alongside recent information for a few more important species (see Table 4 in the Supplementary material).

### Notes on species included solely on the basis of specimens

**Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*:** Vagrant. Two freshly killed specimens were obtained in the 'Calcutta Market' by Hume, one male (NHMUK#94.6.1.572) on 19 December 1878 and the other in February 1879, which was captured about '22 miles south-west' [=35 km] and 'some 18 miles' [=29 km] west of Kolkata [=Calcutta], respectively (Hume 1879:493; BirdLife International 2001a:482). These records with clear locality details are generally accepted for WB (Stuart Baker 1929:446; Ali & Ripley 1987:37; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:78) and hence accepted here as well.

**Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*:** Historically resident but now extinct. Multiple specimens obtained in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the 'Calcutta Market' exist in various museums or were once examined in hand. They include two females obtained by Blyth between 1843 and 1847 (Blyth 1852:304), a specimen taken in 1876 (MNHN#MO-1881-1312), a pre-1881 female specimen (MNHN#MO-1880-579), a male taken in February 1888 (UMZC#12/Ana/54/a/3), another undated specimen (SMF#17296), a female (NHMUK#1889.4.3.11) collected in January 1865 by J. Anderson (Salvadori 1895:63), another (NHMUK#1894.6.1.129) procured on 07 March 1879 by Hume (Salvadori 1895:63), one (BNHS#15265) obtained on 12 December 1899 by H. J. Walton (Abdulali 1968:426), and another female specimen (NHMUK#1949.WHI.1.6166) collected in August 1894. The last, apparently, is not present in

NHMUK and was registered in error with a note that the same is with Indian Museum; interestingly, ZSI#21494 matches the month, year and locality of collection. As per the ZSI catalogue, there are nine specimens collected between 1866 and 1899 from the market, with an additional six with just 'Calcutta' recorded, probably also from the market. At least six of the 15 specimens still exist in the collection. While some of these specimens may have been brought from outside WB, it is rather unlikely that all of them originated from Bihar, Assam, or Bangladesh. H. Reilly apparently shot four or five in the Maldah District, and his brother had shot one previously as well (Hume & Marshall 1879:174). There is also an egg from Maldah in NHMUK with year catalogued as 1898. In addition, there is a set of six eggs (ZSI#14081) from Bardhaman [=Burdwan] collected by Reilly on 05 October 1882. Pink-headed Duck has also been sight recorded from Chhora jheel near Galsi (23.343°N, 87.685°E), Purba Bardhaman District, in 1939–40 (Jameson 1969:10), although this record is considered unconfirmed (Hume 2018). The wetlands north of Ganga in the Bihar-Bengal region are generally considered breeding strongholds for this species; hence, we included the species in our checklist.

**Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*:** Historically, a sporadic winter visitor. Several specimens, dead or alive, were procured by Finn from the Kolkata [=Calcutta] market during 1896–98. He additionally found a misidentified Ferruginous Duck *A. nyroca* specimen at the Indian Museum obtained in 1842 or 1843, which was also this species (Finn 1896, 1897, 1898b). Several Finn's specimens are still in the ZSI collection; their catalogue mentions 27 specimens from Kolkata (mostly market), and at least 13 of them still exist, with the latest specimen being in 1901. Other specimens from the market also exist in other museums (UMZC#12/Ana/46/d/1, UMZC#12/Ana/46/d/3, BNHS#15536, BNHS#15537). Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:47; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:79) accepted these records; hence, we added it to the checklist.

**Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa*:** Straggler from Sikkim. Known from three 19<sup>th</sup> century specimens. W. B. Farr collected one from Darjeeling (UMZC#14/Pha/30/a/6), and an immature female (NHMUK#1889.5.10.1176) was procured from the hills north-west of Darjeeling in 1872, in addition to a male from Darjeeling; the last two in the Hume's collection (Ogilvie-Grant 1893:100). Apparently rare, a pair occasionally remains to breed above the bare slopes at Tongloo [=Tonglu; 27.034°N, 88.080°E; c.3,010 m] and Sandakphu (Mackintosh 1915:187). While it is a resident in the adjacent Sikkim around the southern slopes of Kangchenjunga at 3,000 m, it is known to have descended at times to 2,000–2,500 m in other parts of its range (Ali & Ripley 1987:96; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:118). The mountains around Sandakphu are connected to its main distribution range in Sikkim, and the intervening altitudes are favourable for this species. Hence, we accepted these specimens as evidence for WB checklist, although standard references do not include its distribution around Darjeeling.

**Manipur Bush-Quail *Perdicula manipurensis*:** Data deficient. The only record from WB is a specimen collected at Alipurduar during the cold weather of 1885–1886 by H. B. Thornhill; the specimen is apparently in NHMUK (BirdLife International 2001b:827). We accepted this record; the same has also been done by all others.



**Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*:** Straggler from Sikkim. Multiple specimens from Darjeeling, though all of them undated. They include two procured by W. B. Farr (UMZC#17/Col/8/x/1, UMZC#17/Col/8/x/3), three from Hume's collection and four from Seebohm's collection (Salvadori 1893:250). Resident in Sikkim, they descend in winter to as low as 1,500 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:210; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:204), including parts adjacent to the WB border, making these specimens likely in Darjeeling; hence, we accepted the species to the checklist.

**Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*:** Historically, a widespread resident in the terai but probably extirpated locally. A number of records from WB are listed (BirdLife International 2001c:1346), and the following four specimens are known: Chilapata (26.628°N, 89.367°E) in the Alipurduar District (ZSI#22190 in 1892), two from Haldibari in the Cooch Behar District (BNHM/B #107) on 16 November 1928 by Inglis (Saha et al. 1997:118), and Hasimara in the Alipurduar District (NHMUK, in 1926). We use this historical information to list the species for WB.

**White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*:** Historically, a rare winter visitor. Five specimens known but difficult to establish in terms of provenance. (Blyth 1844:387) apparently procured a specimen from 'Calcutta Market', the current whereabouts of that specimen are not known. Another 'market' specimen (BNHS#14486) was obtained on 30 December 1899 by H. J. Walton (Abdulali 1969a:552), and a third specimen (ZSI#24013) from 1901 was not examined. It is highly likely that some of these 'market' specimens, in fact, originated within WB. Two more specimens (RMNH#224309–10) bearing the tag 'Darjeeling' exist, but no further details are available. These specimens were likely collected from the Terai region. Recently, it has occurred regularly in Chorai Beel in Rajshahi Bibhag (24.870°N, 88.302°E), Bangladesh (Mishu 2020), just c.30 km from Farakka, making it a likely species to occur in WB. On the basis of Blyth's account and some of these specimens, subsequent works (Stuart Baker 1929:183; Ali & Ripley 1987:146) listed this species as a winter visitor to WB, whereas the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:160) specifically list only 'market'. We added the species to our checklist on the basis of the number of specimens from the state.

**Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*:** Historically, a rare winter visitor. On 12 December 1847, Blyth collected the type specimen from 'Calcutta Market' (Blyth 1852:271). Later, on 13 December 1878, Hume procured three additional specimens (NHMUK#91.10.1.2083–2085) from the same market, and they were captured using an ordinary snipe net from a site c.21 km south-east of Kolkata [=Calcutta] (Hume 1879:484). We included the species on the basis of the specimens obtained by Hume from a locality that is definitely within WB.

**Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*:** Possibly a regular winter migrant. A very difficult species to distinguish from Pintail Snipe *G. stenura* (see Leader & Carey 2003), explains the over-reliance on specimens for its status. The *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:161) mentioned three specimens from the 'Calcutta market'; perhaps at ZSI, as NHMUK does not have any from WB. One was shot on 06 September 1939 near Sankargachi (22.752°N, 88.503°E), Barasat sub-division (c.25 km from Kolkata) by G. H. Johans and its specimen (ZSI#26481) were examined and compared with Pintail Snipes at ZSI (Roonwal 1940). There is

another skin (ZSI#26482) in the ZSI catalogue that also matches the details provided by Roonwal, while ZSI#26481 has just 'Bengal' entered, but that skin (#26481) definitely exists even today. Roonwal's identification keys were different from those used now (Leader & Carey 2003); hence, it is prudent to re-examine this specimen using new keys. Another specimen (ZSI#25778) was collected from Kolkata [=Calcutta] by S. C. Law in 1928 as per the catalogue, but it has not been examined by anyone recently. Additionally, a specimen collected from Naihati (22.893°N, 88.430°E) in the North 24 Parganas District in 1926–1927 was sent to the BNHS (Clough 1941). However, such an entry of a snipe does not exist now in the BNHS collection catalogue. Although we ourselves have not located any specimens, we followed the *Ripley Guide*, who apparently accepted the specimens from the market, and the high likelihood of such snipes being obtained locally rather than from outside the state.

**Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*:** Data deficient. Blyth 1852:256 obtained two males from the vicinity of Kolkata [=Calcutta] in 1843, but those specimens have not been located. There are only two other known specimens: an undated specimen from Kolkata procured by an unknown collector (TNHM#1022), whose identity as to this species was verified by us, and another collected by Finn in 1897 from Kolkata (ZSI #22343), which we have not examined. The status of this species in eastern India is insufficiently known. Although Stuart Baker (1928):452 and consequently Ali & Ripley (1987):127, included most parts of eastern India, including Bangladesh and Assam, including mention of a specimen from East Bardhaman [=Burdwan] in the NHMUK, the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:137) did not find any South Asian specimens or acceptable records east of Bihar. Admittedly, the species occurs in Myanmar and Southeast Asia, but eBird records also show this gap in eastern India. Nevertheless, we tentatively accepted the species for the WB checklist on the basis of the two specimens, as it is only a slight eastwards extension of its definitive range in India.

**Black Noddy *Anous minutus*:** Vagrant. One of the three known Indian specimens are a 19<sup>th</sup> century skin (Indian Museum#1,716) obtained from the mouth of Ganga [=Ganges], which Praveen J et al. (2014) considered a record shared between India and Bangladesh due to the lack of finer locality details. However, among the seven mouths of Ganga, the Bhagirathi (Hooghly) River in West Bengal and the Meghna River of Bangladesh are the main outlets of water to the Bay of Bengal. In 19<sup>th</sup> century, British colonialism developed and expanded from Kolkata at the southern mouth of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River (Chapman & Rudra 2015:6) and not from anywhere in present-day Bangladesh. Moreover, the Brown Noddy *A. stolidus* specimen that was procured at the 'mouth of Ganges' was brought alive to Kolkata [=Calcutta] in 1848 by Mr. Cleghorn (Blyth 1852:293). Hence, this locality 'mouth of Ganges' must have been fairly close to Kolkata and probably must have been at Sagar Island. Hence, there is enough historical anecdotal evidence that the locality where Black Noddy was collected was indeed within WB, at the mouth of Bhagirathi-Hooghly. Hence, the record should be treated as valid for WB but not for Bangladesh, as proposed in Praveen J et al. (2014):123.

**White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*:** Historically, a rare winter migrant. No specimens were located. Between 1842 and 1846, two

specimens—a male and a female—were obtained from ‘Calcutta Bazar’ and noted to be ‘very common’ in parts of Bengal during the cold season (Blyth 1852:276); the last comment is rather suspicious in the absence of more collections. Additionally, one of a pair was reportedly shot in a Jheel near Howrah on 20 January 1889. However, its skin apparently was not preserved (Munn 1894:71). However, there is a female specimen (ZSI#17922) from Kolkata recorded in the catalogue as ‘Purchased Res. 3’ with a collection date of 26 March 1889, closely matching the date of Munn’s record. In any case, the population of White Storks that used to winter in WB must have ceased to do so by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and presently, the species is non-existent in the entire eastern subcontinent (eBird 2024a). However, Ali & Ripley (1987):25 as well as the range maps of Rasmussen & Anderton (2012b):34 included WB in its range; hence, we accepted the species on the basis of the specimens procured by Blyth.

**White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis*:** Historically, a resident species in N. Bengal, with several well-documented specimens from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They include a pair collected on 15 and 20 December 1912 from ‘Bhutan Duars’ by O’ Donnell (BNHS#15098–99), which may have been in WB, a male specimen (YPM#041974) collected from the Dudhua River in Jalpaiguri District on 10 August 1890 by C. M. Inglis, a specimen (AMNH#748462) collected from Darjeeling in 1870, in addition to two specimens (NHMUK#1893.10.2.156) from Darjeeling in the Hume collection in 1871 (Sharpe & Ogilvie-Grant 1898:70). There are a number of historical sightings mentioned in (BirdLife International 2001d:137), but we have not evaluated all of them. The specimen mentioned therein from the Bulhung River in 1890, purportedly in the BNHS, cannot be located in their catalogue. We included this species in the checklist on the basis of these historical specimens.

**Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*:** Straggler from Sikkim. A diagnostic bird with multiple claims from Darjeeling. Just one museum specimen (LSM#3363) and apparently that still is in the collection (Reid 1890:2; Zarrin 2023). Additionally, a male was collected from Kalo Pokhari (27.077°N, 88.016°E; c. 3,186 m asl) on 24 May 1912, and a female was procured from Kurseong (26.876°N, 88.277°E) on 11 January 1920 (see Stevens 1925a:875 for more observations). Others, including Mackintosh (1915):6, Matthews & Edwards (1944):20, and Lister (1954):67, have also independently reported this species around Darjeeling. Although not specifically listed for Darjeeling in standard references, the single specimen supported by numerous field observations is sufficient to include this species in the checklist.

**Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*:** Historically, a rare resident. No extant specimens were traced. Described as ‘by no means common in Calcutta’ (Blyth 1843a:93; Stevens 1925a:873), specimens of both adult and young individuals were collected near Kolkata [=Calcutta] in 1847 (Blyth 1852:32), but they remain untraced. Records without any actual specimens being collected include Kolkata (Finn 1904:110; Home 1995:279), Rungbong valley in Darjeeling (Stevens 1925a:873), Mython in Paschim Bardhaman [=Burdwan] (Gauntlett 1986:511), and Bankura Districts (Gauntlett 1986:512). The subcontinental range at one point in time included all of India until Assam, as well as Bangladesh (Ali & Ripley 1987:75; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:92). We included this species on the basis of

the specimens reported by Blyth, while the sight records are likely to be correct for such a diagnostic species.

**Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*:** A specimen from Kolkata [=Calcutta] and several sighting records are listed in (BirdLife International 2001e:622). Ali & Ripley (1987):77 considered it a resident of Bengal, whereas (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:90) mentioned its presence at Mogra Lake (23.010°N, 88.555°E), Hooghly, possibly another specimen. There are four sightings in eBird from N. Bengal between 1970 and 2002 (eBird 2024b). We included this species on the basis of the specimen from Kolkata, while the sight records from N. Bengal are likely to be correct on the basis of range.

**Montagu’s Harrier *Circus pygargus*:** An uncommon winter migrant historically. No extant specimens were traced. Between 1843 and 1848, specimens of one adult male, one young male, and four females of various ages were collected from the vicinity of Kolkata (Blyth 1852:20). Another female specimen was reported from Turzum (26.946°N, 88.176°E; c.1,585 m) in Darjeeling District by O. Lindgren on 12 January 1921 (Stevens 1925a:877). Also reported occasionally from Rungbong Valley (26.918°N, 88.190°E) and Darjeeling District (Stevens 1925a:877) during cold winters, whereas (Matthews & Edwards 1944:21) described it as a passage migrant or an uncommon winter visitor below 1,520 m in Darjeeling. While ring-tailed harriers are difficult to identify, adult males should be unmistakable; hence, we included this species on the basis of adult male collected from the vicinity of Kolkata [=Calcutta] in Blyth’s collection.

**Lesser Fish-Eagle *Icthyophaga humilis*:** Resident in N. Bengal, but rare or local. Two males (BNHM/B #63) collected from Mainaguri (26.593°N, 88.791°E), Jalpaiguri District, on 13 January 1931 (Inglis et al. 1920b:151; Saha et al. 1997:71) and a male (BNHS#21800) from Balasun (26.861°N, 88.236°E) in Darjeeling District on 04 April 1961 by N. A. Fuller (Abdulali 1969b:712) are the only specimens from the state. Sight records also exist but are difficult to evaluate considering feature overlap with the more regular Grey-headed Fish Eagle *I. ichhyaetus*, but the records are from Buxa (Rahmani et al. 2016:1936), Mahananda (Sanyal et al. 2012:911), Jaldapara (Sanyal et al. 2012:911), and along the Teesta River in Darjeeling District (Matthews & Edwards 1944:21). We included the species based on the specimens from N. Bengal.

**Tawny Fish-Owl *Ketupa flavipes*:** Resident in N. Bengal but little known. Several specimens from the Darjeeling area including two with just ‘Darjeeling’ as the locality (AMNH#631422, ZSI#27158), two (BNHM/B #164) from Singla (27.118°N, 88.301°E; c.600 m) on 23 January 1931 and Darjeeling Sadar (27.044°N, 88.262°E; c.2,050 m) on 19 May 1938 (Saha et al. 1997:177). Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a):241 included ‘duars’ in its distribution. We included this species on the basis of these four specimens.

**Dusky Eagle-Owl *Ketupa coromanda*:** Resident in southern WB, rare or local. Three historical specimens exist. Two specimens were collected from the vicinity of Kolkata [=Calcutta] from 1844–1845 (Blyth 1852:35), one of which later donated to the East India Company Museum (Horsfield & Moore 1854:75) but is no longer present in the NHMUK. Another specimen (SMF#25680) from Kolkata in 1852, donated by Eduard Rüppell, also exists. Neither Ali & Ripley (1987):249 nor Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a):240

explicitly list WB in its distribution, but the distribution map in the latter reference also covered WB. We included this species in the checklist on the basis of the three specimens.

**Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules*:** Resident historically in lowland forests of N. Bengal. Multiple 19<sup>th</sup> century specimens from Darjeeling, including one collected by Webb in 1844 from Darjeeling (Blyth 1852:49), a female (ZSI#577) by J. Anderson in 1873 (Mukherjee & Dasgupta 1986:21), and another (NHMUK#1887.8.20.166) from Hume's collection (Sharpe & Ogilvie-Grant 1892:156), exists. Although Ali & Ripley (1987):278 and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a):262 do not list Darjeeling or WB explicitly, the map of the latter also sketched regions in N. Bengal. We included this species in the checklist on the basis of these specimens.

**Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*:** Vagrant. The only record of this species from South Asia is a specimen (BNHS#11319) collected by C.M. Inglis from 'Sikkim Terai' on 22 July 1909; the locality was deduced as somewhere in Singla or Rungneet [=Rangeet] regions of Darjeeling on the basis of (Inglis 1937:88). We included the species on the basis of this specimen.

**Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*:** Resident historically in N. Bengal, probably very local. The only specimen (YPM#042737) we could locate was collected from Duars, Moraghat Forest (26.775°N, 89.022°E), in Jalpaiguri District on 21 March 1928 by H. V. O'Donel. While standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:310; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:288) included the Duars region of N. Bengal in its range, there is a paucity of specimen evidence. We still included it, as the lone specimen has a definitive provenance and has been collected in the right habitat.

**Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger*:** Resident historically. Two specimens known. A young female specimen was obtained in 1848 from 'lower Bengal', apparently purchased for the museum (Blyth 1852:13), and another specimen (TNHM#983) with the tag Kolkata [=Calcutta] exists, and we verified the identification as well as the current tag. In addition, Munn (1894):66 carried details of the nesting of Laggar Falcon near Kolkata on 23 January 1891. Another nesting was described on 18 January 1874 in Magistrate's compound in Dum Dum (22.631°N, 88.420°E) by J. C. Parker (Hume 1890:191). Further sightings include a nesting pair near the church in Wellesley Square, Calcutta, in 1905, and frequent observations of a pair in Maidan (22.549°N, 88.347°E) were also reported (Phillott 1907:40). Although standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:87; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:115) do not explicitly include WB in its distribution, the map of the latter is self-explanatory in its inclusion of the state. Hence, we also included it in the state checklist on the basis of the two specimens, while the observation details are likely to be correct.

**Red-billed Chough *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*:** Likely straggler from Sikkim, where it occurs regularly on the southern slopes of Kangchenjunga. Multiple specimens from the Darjeeling area, possibly all from Singalila NP. They include specimens from May 1867 (NHMUK#1886.3.1.999), May 1869 (NHMUK#1886.3.1.1000), and 1873 (NHMUK#1941.5.30.2724), as well as a few undated specimens (NHMUK#1848.6.4.289, NHMUK#1897.6.1.392, NHMUK#1897.6.1.393, UMCZ#27/Cor/23/b/6). Most likely,

on the basis of these specimens, Ali & Ripley (1987):385 included Darjeeling in its range, whereas Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a):597 was not as specific in their range description, and their maps did not include Darjeeling (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:366). A well-known species that moves down the in winter, and this subspecies has wintered as low as 1,600 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:385), and we included the species in the checklist on the basis of this evidence.

**Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrhacorax graculus*:** Like the previous species, a straggler from Sikkim, where it is known from the southern slopes of Kangchenjunga, although slightly less common. A single specimen (NHMUK#1886.3.1.1017) from Darjeeling by Hodgson in May 1867 (Sharpe 1877:147) was collected, and the collection month was the same as that of one of the Red-billed Chough specimens; 1867 might have been an exceptional year. Furthermore, two sight records from elevated locations within Singalila NP, specifically from Sandakphu on 06 March 1912 and from Kala Pokhari (27.077°N, 88.016°E; c.3,185 m asl) on 14 April 1912, exist (Stevens 1923:517); both observations, apparently well seen, though no notes were shared on how Red-billed was eliminated. However, standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:384; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:598) did not list Darjeeling in their distribution; most likely, they were not aware of the geography of the localities noted by Stevens, although they mention a wintering altitude similar to that of the Red-billed. Admittedly, the specimen evidence is not as convincing as in Red-billed, but we still included it, as there is a fair chance that the specimen was indeed taken from Darjeeling, considering the additional observations by Stevens.

**Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*:** Perhaps a resident, only historical. The type specimens of the subspecies *M. j. cantillans* Blyth 1845, one of which was housed in ZSI (ZSI#18956, <https://zsicollections.in/search/ZSI0000002893>), were apparently collected from around Kolkata [=Calcutta] between 1844–1846; these specimens are listed as taken from the 'vicinity of Calcutta' (Blyth 1852:134) or 'Near Calcutta' (Sclater 1892:83). Although it was a popular cage bird then (see Blyth 1845:960), the fact that Blyth ascertained the collection locality from whatever would have been his source and his distribution remark in Blyth (1852):134 as 'rare in Lower Bengal' is sufficient reason to consider this specimen to have originated within WB. Majumdar *et al.* (1992):301 lists another male specimen collected at 'Susunia Hills' (23.395°N, 86.987°E) in Bankura District on 01 February 1979 by J. M. Dasgupta; however, the current catalogue only has three specimens (ZSI#34196–98) of Bengal Bushlark *M. assamica* matching that date, locality, and collector. Sight records also exist, although they are of no use considering difficulties in identifying *Mirafra* larks, but they are from the districts of Bankura (Law 1923:130), Bardhaman [=Burdwan] (Home 1973:97; from Durgapur in Gauntlett 1986:523), Birbhum (Home 1973:97), and Midnapur (Law 1923:130). Although the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:296) do not list WB in its distribution range and stop at Chhattisgarh, we admit the species into the checklist purely on the basis of Blyth's type specimens, whose provenance we are convinced of.

**Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*:** Straggler from Sikkim to Darjeeling. Only two specimens known, both from Darjeeling. A male (USNM#101986) collected in 1874 by H. Seebohm and another (AMNH#554872) procured from 'near Darjeeling' in 1869–1870

by H. J. Elwes. While we know that Elwes collected from the higher elevations of Sikkim as well (see Blanford 1872a:63) and one specifically in October 1870 (AMNH#554871), the former specimen from the previous winter still specifically mentioned Darjeeling. Hence, it should be clear that the location is different from the Sikkim locations and that the labelled locality Darjeeling can be considered at face-value. We cannot say anything more about Seebohm's collections, but there are a few other specimens in [www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org) from Seebohm with locality Darjeeling; this is in addition to specimens with locality Sikkim. This species is trans-Himalayan and otherwise mostly restricted to North Sikkim, with no recent records from the southern slopes of Kangchenjunga to which Sandakphu and other ranges are connected (eBird 2024c). However, this species is known to regularly descend to lower altitudes (c.3,000 m) in winter (Ali & Ripley 1987:333) and further lower to c.2,600 m in the eastern parts of its Himalayan range (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:308), once as low as 1,500 m in Sikkim (by S. Ali & B. Biswas in Ali & Ripley 1987:333), with an exceptional recent low elevation record from Nameri (c.100 m) in the Assam plains (Ghate 2009). Given this behaviour, the presence of specimens from the higher reaches of Darjeeling District is highly plausible; hence, we included it in our checklist.

**Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla*:** Historically, a resident species in N. Bengal, now rare or local. Known from only three specimens from N. Bengal. An undated specimen (AMNH#600324) was collected from 'Darjeeling' by H. J. Elwes, a specimen (ROM#54247) was collected from the Duars region of WB in March 1876, and a male (YPM#022973) specimen was collected from Siliguri (26.728°N, 88.400°E) in the Darjeeling District by Rainer H. Brocke on 22 May 1949. All three specimens are also included in (BirdLife International 2001f:2150). Ali & Ripley (1987):522 included Darjeeling in its distribution range, whereas the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:472) included Bhutan but specifically excluded N. Bengal in their maps. This intervening gap in its distribution range may now be filled, considering these three specimens from N. Bengal, and we accepted the species to the checklist.

**Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris*:** Historically, a resident in N. Bengal probably still occurs in low numbers. Several specimens from N. Bengal were identified, including one (NHMUK#1886.78.2194) collected from 'below Darjeeling' on 20 May 1870 by W. Masson (Hume 1872:109; Warren & Harrison 1971:164), a male (FMNH#85249) procured from Mongpu (26.972°N, 88.370°E; c.1,140 m) on 17 December 1930 by Stevens, a third specimen collected by Inglis from Phalut in Singalila NP (Stevens 1924:1016), and another specimen collected from Darjeeling by J. Fotheringham (Seebohm 1881:126). Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a):486 also accepted its distribution in Darjeeling and N. Bengal, and we did the same here.

**Chinese Bush Warbler *Locustella tacsanowskia*:** Winter visitor, historically, to the terai of N. Bengal and probably still visiting. At least three well-documented specimens (YPM#043173 by H. V. O'Donel, YPM#043174 by Inglis, and a third Mandelli's specimen) listed from WB (Gogoi et al. 2024), and we included the species in the WB checklist.

**Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Hemitesia pallidipes*:** Most likely, a resident around Darjeeling, historically, and wintering in the terai of N. Bengal. The only specimen we know of is one collected by Inglis

from Gabur Basra [=Gabaur Bachhra Forest] (26.765°N, 89.407°E) in Jalpaiguri District (Inglis 1958:41), but that still remains untraced. Four 'Bhotan Dooars' skins taken by Mandelli in January and April 1876–77 (Stevens 1924:1028) were most likely were taken within WB, considering that Mandelli has not supplied any Assam skins. Stevens also lists Ging (27.071°N, 88.288°E; c.1,500 m) and Lebung (27.061°N, 88.276°E; c.1,816 m), both near Darjeeling, where it is known to breed. Stuart Baker cited Stevens for having taken a nest at 'Rangbong Valley, Sikkim' (Stuart Baker 1924:509); however, Rangbong Valley is in fact in the Darjeeling District. The *Handbook* explicitly mentions 'Darjeeling' in its breeding distribution (Ali & Ripley 1987:512), probably on the basis of Stevens, and N. Bengal plains in its wintering distribution, probably after Inglis. The *Ripley Guide* broadly sketched its distribution to depict the different breeding and wintering distributions in N. Bengal (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:298). Although we could not locate an actual specimen, the evidence regarding its occurrence is overwhelming enough to list it for the WB checklist.

**Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*:** Historically, a resident in N. Bengal with altitude movements, although recent records exist from Sikkim and adjoining Bhutan. Three undated specimens were obtained from Darjeeling, including those from J. H. Fleming (ROM#55153), Stainforth (RMNH#171627), and J. Fotheringham (Sharpe 1879:406). The *Handbook* included Darjeeling (Ali & Ripley 1987:559) while the *Ripley Guide* listed the western limit as eastern Nepal (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:514), and its map covered parts of N. Bengal (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:308). We included the species in the WB checklist on the basis of these specimens.

**Manchurian Bush Warbler *Horornis canturians*:** Vagrant. One of the three records for South Asia is a specimen procured from the Duars region of WB on 28 March 1933 (Inglis 1958:42; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:481). Although we could not find the specimen, even at NHMUK, we included it in the checklist on the basis of this widely accepted record.

**Jerdon's Babbler *Chrysomma altirostre*:** Historically, a resident in the Duars. A single specimen (NHMUK#1886.10.1.4696) was collected by Mandelli from 'Buxa Duars' in February 1878. The species was also recorded from 'Buxa Duars' (Inglis et al. 1920a:989). Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:441; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:443) included this species for N. Bengal Duars; hence, we included it in our checklist.

**Black-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis flavirostris*:** Fairly widespread historically in N. Bengal Duars with a number of documented specimens (BirdLife International 2001g:2136), on the basis of which we included the species in the WB checklist.

**Pale-billed Parrotbill *Suthora atosuperciliaris*:** Resident historically in N. Bengal, the expected subspecies is the little-known *S. a. oatesi*, which is restricted to Sikkim and N. Bengal and does not have a black brow. From WB, only two specimens from Darjeeling, obtained at c.2,100 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:444), by Webb in 1845 (Blyth 1852:102; Sclater 1892:74), were known. However, we could not find any specimens at NHMUK from Darjeeling. The *Ripley Guide* also included N. Bengal in its distribution (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:465); hence, we accepted this species to the checklist on the basis of these historical specimens.

**Buff-chested Babbler *Cyanoderma ambiguum*:** Resident in N. Bengal Duars, now, either very rare or local. Two specimens, including a male specimen (YPM#043001) collected from Duars, Nangdala (26.740°N, 89.118°E), Jalpaiguri District, on 20 January 1929 by Inglis and another specimen (BNHS#16095) procured from Peshoke (27.064°N, 88.387°E; c.1,235 m), Darjeeling District, by A. E. Jones, on 23 January 1944 (Abduali 1983:347). Although the *Handbook* only included Sikkim for its distribution (Ali & Ripley 1987:435), evidently because Peshoke is listed for Sikkim in the BNHS Catalogue, the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:438) included W. Bengal as well. We included the species based on the two specimens from N. Bengal.

**Indian Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis*:** Resident in N. Bengal Duars, historically at least. The only specimen located was a male (USNM#106480) collected by Mandelli from Buxa Duars in the Alipurduar District in January 1878. The *Ripley Guide* also mentioned 'Bhutan Duars' specimens, though not located by us, as probably from India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:516). However, this is also true per our analysis (see Methodology), and it may have been from WB. The *Handbook* also mentioned Jalpaiguri Duars in its range description (Ali & Ripley 1987:530). We included the species in the checklist on the basis of Mandelli's specimen.

**White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*:** Historically a resident in N. Bengal terai but now extirpated or perhaps very local. A number of historical specimens from Darjeeling and N. Bengal (MCZ#33698, YPM#043070, ROM#889, FMNH#84826, AMNH#588261, AMNH#588263–64, UMZC#27/Tim/9/a/1–2) and the latest known specimen was from Tarkhola [=Tar Khola; 27.129°N, 88.503°E; c.315 m], Teesta Valley on 15 January 1931 by H. Stevens. Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:473; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:449), in their species maps of the latter, documented its presence in N. Bengal; hence, we also accepted the species in our checklist on the basis of these specimens.

**Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus rufogularis*:** Historically a rare resident, now possibly extirpated. The only specimen (NHMUK#1886.10.1.6200) we could locate was the type specimen from 'Bhotan Doars, north-east Bengal' collected in December 1872 by Mandelli (Warren & Harrison 1971:481). The species is documented for Jalpaiguri District in standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:482; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:454), probably on the basis of this specimen. We included the species in the checklist on the basis of the type of specimen.

**Slender-billed Babbler *Argya longirostris*:** Historically, a common resident in the N. Bengal Duars, but now very local or perhaps extirpated. Ten specimens from N. Bengal from NHMUK apart from one from YPM (YPM#043028) were listed (BirdLife International 2001h:2120). The species was believed to be 'common' in the grasslands of Jalpaiguri District (Inglis et al. 1920a:988), and all references accept this distribution. Last reported from Gorumara NP (26.756°N, 88.797°E) on 22 November 2002 (Chatterjee 2002) but, identification details are not now available. We included the species for the state checklist on the basis of the specimen records.

**Indian Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*:** The only evidence of its occurrence in WB is two specimens (ZSI#29215–16) listed in the ZSI catalogue taken from Kolkata [=Calcutta] taken on 07 October 1963 by A. K. Das. We have not physically verified these specimens

nor do we know of anybody else. ZSI's *State Fauna Series* did not list any nuthatches outside the limits of N. Bengal despite having access to these collections (Majumdar et al. 1992:389). Although the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:536) do not explicitly include WB in their distribution (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:536), their maps do (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:324), whereas the *Handbook* also mention 'Nadia, c.23°N 88°E' from southern WB in its distribution (Ali & Ripley 1987:632); the source of the latter could not be traced. The current distribution of the species reaches adjacent states in eastern Bihar, eastern Jharkhand, and northern Odisha. While we have some reticence in accepting the specimens at ZSI without physical verification, the strong distribution support rendered by the standard references would override that concern, and hence, we accepted the species to the checklist. In the future, it would be desirable that ZSI curators locate the specimens and publish their fuller details, including photographs of the original labels.

**Grandala *Grandala coelicolor*:** Straggler from Sikkim to Darjeeling. Five specimens were located from Darjeeling. They include a male (FMNH#305185) procured by Mandelli in 1873, two females (RMNH#169995, #169997) collected in 1878 by F. Finn, and two more undated specimens with no collector information (RMNH#169996, #169998). On 16 February 1912, 'an immense flock', presumably of this species, was observed near Phalut, Singalila NP, at an elevation of c.3,550 m (Stevens 1925b:355). Another species that has the propensity to wander down during bad weather, although it usually restricts itself above 3,000 m in winter. Although standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:579; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:389) do not include Darjeeling in its range, its propensity to reach an elevation of 2,200 m has been documented. We included this species on the basis of the multiple specimens documented above.

**Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris*:** Resident historically. The type specimen was a female that Blyth found among a collection from Darjeeling (Blyth 1849:814), which remains untraced. In addition, a male specimen (ZSI#2803) was collected from Darjeeling by J. Anderson on 30 May 1869, which is now listed in the ZSI catalogue. In addition to Anderson's specimen, another female specimen by Mandelli, presumably also taken from Darjeeling, was also described (Blanford 1872b:158). Although standard works (Ali & Ripley 1987:500; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:385) only listed Sikkim in its distribution, we have found enough evidence to support listing for WB, as each of the specimens has been taken in Darjeeling.

**White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*:** Rare resident or winter visitor, at least historically, to the Bengal Duars. The only specimen (RBINS#38494) is one collected from Kurseong (26.880°N, 88.282°E; c.1,600 m) near Darjeeling by R. P. Wery on 10 February 1935. Reported to be occasional in the winter in the Jalpaiguri District (Inglis et al. 1920a:993), standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:581; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:401) considered it a resident in Darjeeling. We included the species in the checklist on the basis of the specimens from Kurseong.

**Amur Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*:** A very difficult species to identify even with specimens and probably a regular winter visitor, at least to N. Bengal. The specimens included a male (YPM#043285) from Jalpaiguri on 11 January 1931 by Inglis in addition to five specimens collected from Dunhus, near Gairkata

(26.691°N, 89.022°E), Haldibari (26.752°N, 89.023°E), and Jalpaiguri from January to March (Roy 1948:37). The *Handbook* noted its distribution in Jalpaiguri (Ali & Ripley 1987:586), and we accepted the species to the WB checklist on the basis of Inglis specimens, whereas the other five that we could not locate may need investigation before acceptance.

**Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*:** Straggler from Sikkim to Darjeeling. Known from three specimens from Darjeeling. They include an undated specimen collected by G. F. L. Marshall (FMNH#305097) and two more specimens (RMNH#169414–15) procured in 1878 by F. Finn. The species occurs on the southern slopes of Kangchenjunga in West Sikkim as well as in the Zuluk region (27.251°N, 88.778°E) of East Sikkim and is known to winter at lower elevations, usually as low as 2,500 m in Sikkim and exceptionally to 1,200 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:616; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:354), making the Darjeeling records likely. We included the species in our checklist on the basis of the three specimens.

**Blanford's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda blanfordi*:** Straggler from North Sikkim to Darjeeling. Multiple specimens, all undated from unknown collectors, were obtained from Darjeeling in the Hume Collection of NHMUK (Sharpe 1888:265). They include three adults (NHMUK#1887.6.1.403–405) and one juvenile (NHMUK#1887.6.1.406). These records are also mentioned, without any reservations, in some works (Stevens 1925b:373; Ali & Ripley 1987:675) though the *Ripley Guide* do not specifically include Darjeeling in the distribution (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:578). Snowfinches, in general, move around during extreme winters, as evidenced by the recent records of Rufous-necked Snowfinch *P. ruficollis* from Tiger Hill in Darjeeling (Bengal 2015) and Mahananda WLS (Gayen 2022). Compared with that species, Blanford's is relatively rarer in North Sikkim (eBird 2024d), and exceptional migrations might be overlooked. We accepted this species on the basis of these historical specimens.

**Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*:** Possibly a winter straggler during migration but probably overlooked currently. The only evidence of its occurrence in WB are three specimens listed from Mednapur [= Medinipur] in 1846 (Blyth 1852:136); none of them are currently locatable. Sight records are hard to evaluate; however, they include five records from Anderson's Weir and Durgapur (Gauntlett 1986:532), Bardhaman [=Burdwan] (Ball 1878:220), and Midnapore [=Medinipur] (Ball 1878:220). The *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:318) included both southern WB and Bangladesh in its winter range. Hence, we included the species in the WB checklist on the basis of the historical specimens listed by Blyth.

**Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*:** Possibly a straggler during migration. The only known specimen from WB is one collected from a flock of about 20 pipits from Senchal Hill (26.995°N, 88.278°E; c.2,480 m), Darjeeling (Brooks 1880:485). The *Handbook* cited this record and added that the specimen is in the NHMUK (Ali & Ripley 1987:646), but we are unable to trace it. Although Darjeeling is not explicitly mentioned in the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:321), their wintering range map included it (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:214). Although unlocated, we accepted the specimen by Brooks, who seemed knowledgeable enough to identify from other similar-looking pipits,

and lately, the species has been found in other parts of Northeast India (Ash & Sinha 2020), extending its range and making the intervening distribution plausible. A more thorough search among other pipit specimens in the NHMUK is needed to locate this specific Brooks' specimen.

**Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus*:** Straggler to Darjeeling from Sikkim. Three known specimens from Darjeeling. They include a male (AMNH#712843 in 1880) and a female (AMNH#712844 in the winter of 1869–70) collected by H. J. Elwes, as well as a female (NHMUK#89.6.1.1408) in the Hume Collection taken in April (Sharpe 1888:433). However, neither of the standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:701; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:568) included Darjeeling in its range. However, the species was recently reported a few times from the southern ridges of Kangchenjunga (eBird 2024e), with which the crestline of Sandakphu is continuous. Hence, we include this species in the checklist, a likely straggler from West Sikkim, on the basis of the three specimens.

**Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*:** Straggler to the mountains of N. Bengal from Bhutan or further east. Two specimens from Darjeeling include an undated male specimen (NHMUK#1887.6.1.1482) from an unknown collector obtained from Darjeeling in the Hume collection (Sharpe 1888:455), alongside another untraced male specimen from Jorebunglow [=Jorebunglow] (26.999°N, 88.166°E; c.2,190 m) near Darjeeling collected by Gammie (Edwards 1945:6). There are also sight records, from as early as April 1862, of two males and numerous females at Tangloo (27.034°N, 88.080°E; c.3,070 m) in Singalila NP by Beavan (Edwards 1945). More recently, several reports from N. Bengal have been published in eBird, mostly without details, and hence have been difficult to evaluate. Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:703; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:569) included Darjeeling in its range. We accept the species to the checklist on the basis of the two specimens.

#### Notes on the species included based on media evidence

**Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*:** The first claim of this species from WB was two female specimens (UMZC#14/Pha/32/a/7 and UMZC#14/Pha/32/a/10) procured from 'Darjeeling' by W. B. Farr, with the date presented as 17 November 1892. While this record has apprehensions, we recently received support for its presence from a rather poor photograph of a male by Shantanu Prasad on 03 May 2023 from Sandakphu (Rarities 2023), with just enough details to identify the species. The species is known to occur in adjacent ranges in Sikkim and may visit the Sandakphu area, at least on rare occasions. We accepted the species in the checklist on the basis of recent photographs.

**Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*:** Several specimens were observed or obtained from the 'Calcutta Bazar' (Blyth 1843b:170; Hume 1879:491), but none are currently available for examination. Kaushik Ghosh & Padmanava Santra photographed a single Greater Flamingo, each time, on 18 November 2020 and 30 October 2021, from Andulpota (22.624°N, 88.799°E), North 24 Parganas District. While these images were posted retrospectively in eBird, we verified the details with the observer to be convinced that they stand as good records. It has also been reported, without diagnostic details, from Tardaha Kapasati (22.487°N, 88.493°E)

(Chattopadhyay 2023). We included the species in the checklist on the basis of photographic records from Andulpota, while the specimens that Blyth and Hume saw in the market must have mostly come from the state itself.

**Brown Crake *Zapornia akool*:** Known from two historical specimens and recent photographs. The specimens included one (TNHM#1158) collected from Kolkata [=Calcutta] in December 1882, another collected from Budge Budge near Kolkata in 1843 by R. W. G. Frith (Blyth 1852:284) and a third collected from a site c.40 km from the Kolkata market (Hume 1879:489). Recently, it has been photographed multiple times from the Teesta River bed (26.518°N, 88.737°E), Jalpaiguri District, starting on 21 November 2020 (Roy 2020). The *Ripley Guide* considered this species a resident of the Kolkata region (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:142). On the basis of these records, we included Brown Crake in the WB checklist.

**Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone*:** Historically a resident but now extirpated. Two specimens were located, but the provenance was uncertain. A male was collected from Kolkata [=Calcutta] on 12 April 1970 by K. Kobayashi (MNHAH#A1-31043), whereas another specimen from Kolkata (not Kolkata Market), collected by Finn, is possibly present in the ZSI collection (ZSI#21345). A number of historical reports from the districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Purulia, and North 24 Parganas are known (BirdLife International 2001i:1125; Sundar & Choudhury 2003). Although they are sight records, they are likely to be correct for such a diagnostic species. However, the only independently verifiable evidence we used is an undated photograph of a pair of Sarus Cranes that was published in *The Statesman* newspaper from Asansol (c.210 km from Kolkata) on 07 March 2007 and was stated to have been photographed by the 'Statesman News Service' (Rarities 2007).

**Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*:** A number of specimens from WB from both northern and southern WB known (BirdLife International 2001j:1404). However, a recent report of this species is a photograph taken from Gairibas DG (27.049°N, 88.030°E), Singalila NP, Darjeeling District, on 19 March 2024 (Giri 2024). We included the species on the basis of historical specimens and recent photograph.

**Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*:** Known from one historical specimen and one recent photograph. A bird collected from Kolkata [=Calcutta] in 1828 by Carl Jakob Sundevall (MZLU#L828/3002) and a recent photograph from Kumirmari (22.181°N, 88.684°E), South 24 Parganas District (Das 2023). On the basis of these two records, we included the species in the WB checklist.

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*:** While records of most small *Buteos* have been either Himalayan Buzzard *B. refectus* or Long-legged Buzzard *B. rufinus*, there is a large pool of media in eBird that have been claimed as Common Buzzard *B. buteo*. These are very hard to evaluate (see Ganpule 2024). We include this species on the basis of a report from southern Bengal (Biswas 2022), which shows a Common Buzzard, most certainly *B. b. vulpinus*, which is based on slimmer and more pointed wings, lacking dark carpal patches, prominent secondary barring and moustachial stripes, and a uniform underbody lacking a contrasting breast band.

**Grey-lored Broadbill *Serilophus rubropygius*:** Several specimens from N. Bengal as well as recent photographs. The specimens included several from Darjeeling, including one from

1871 (MCZ#33686), three others collected by Mrs. Saxon and C. S. Bonnevie between 1843 and 1846 (Blyth 1852:196), and six adult specimens from Hume's collection at NHMUK (Slater 1888:462) apart from a male specimen (BNHM/B#208) procured from Kalimpong on 17 January 1934 (Saha et al. 1997:227). Recently, the species was also photographed on 14 August 2022 and 22 July 2024 in Buxa, Alipurduar District (Rarities 2022, 2024). We included the species on the basis of historical specimens and recent photographs.

**Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*:** An undated specimen (AMNH#555401) was collected by H. J. Elwes from Darjeeling; however, the same specimen was not located during our enquiries for examination. However, a recent photograph on 09 February 2024 (Menon 2024) from Darjeeling District with a brown streaky body, broad and diffuse paler eye-ring, shorter bill and whiter underparts contrasting more with the buffy breast-band provided compelling evidence to include the species in the WB checklist.

**Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama*:** Several photographs of this species in eBird, but it is not possible to be 100% confident in eliminating the similar-looking Booted Warbler *I. caligata* in all the cases. However, a bird photographed from Telidih (23.318°N, 86.329°E) in Purulia District appears paler and greyer and has a longer bill with no dark tip and a longer, more graduated tail. Additionally, the associated vocalizations also support the ID as a Sykes's Warbler (Das 2020). We included the species in the WB checklist on the basis of this record.

**Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus*:** Although the species has been documented through photographs since 2007 from WB (eBird 2024f), a lack of in-hand measurements or associated audio recordings has been cited as concerns, and at times, these records are treated as 'highly probable' rather than confirmed (see Round et al. 2014). However, recently, an individual was photographed and sound recorded (Chakraborty 2024) and identified as this species was confidently confirmed on the basis of the shape, length, and colour of the bill, in addition to the claw shape and length as well as the song fragments (Lars Svensson in email to referee in April 2024); hence, we added this species to the checklist.

## Notes on species included solely on the basis of observations

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*:** The first report of this species included two independent undated observations by Blanford from Raneegunje [=Raniganj], Paschim Bardhaman [=Burdwan] District (23.622°N, 87.110°E) and by G. King from Kolkata [=Calcutta] Botanical Gardens (22.555°N, 88.305°E) (Hume 1874:458). Neither report carried any field notes to assess (Blanford 1898:61). However, a sandgrouse must have been unmistakable in the field, and this is the most expected species from the genus. Stuart Baker while missing mention of the Kolkata [=Calcutta] record, added Birbhum (23.839°N, 87.618°E) to its distribution; the basis of its inclusion remains untraceable (Stuart Baker 1928:272). We could not find any WB specimens in any museum, even in the NHMUK collections. Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:200; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:202) included WB as its eastern extremity of distribution. However, the only report that can be independently evaluated is a male-dominated flock of 25 birds observed at Khoyai, Ballavpur, Santiniketan (23.691°N, 87.672°E) by Ajoy Home in summer. He described the birds in

Bengali (Home 1995:115) as birds with sandy-grey upperparts and pale reddish-yellow colouring, striking black crescent-shaped patterns on its wing against a pale-buff background, necks encircled with a garland of black contrasting with the pale-buff head and breast, and with chocolate-brown belly and abdomen (translation ours). The birds took to the wing and sickle-like wings, and the pointed tails produced a distinctive appearance. Home also noted the flight call as a *kut-ro kut-ro* or sometimes a sweet *gutter*; all these details are definitive for this species. Hence, we included this species in the checklist on the basis of Home's observation, whereas other sightings by Blanford and King are likely to be correct.

**Lesser Florican *Syphoetides indicus*:** Vagrant. There were no preserved specimens nor any historical mention of specimens in a museum. Two birds were shot at Neora Nuddy Tea Garden (26.728°N, 88.742°E) in Jalpaiguri District, a location close to Gorumara NP (Inglis et al. 1920b:155), but probably the specimen was not preserved. O'Donel 'frequently encountered' this bird near Hasimara Tea Estate (26.725°N, 89.345°E) over three years in April, May and June (O'Donel 1913:201). In June 1911, he secured a specimen—a young male—during a shooting trip, although he did not preserve the skin, believing that the bird had already been documented in the region. O' Donel's records and observations are not considered definitive here, as all of them were during the peak breeding season of Bengal Florican in that area, a species he failed to list. We could not find any specimens at NHMUK from N. Bengal. Without any references, it has been stated that this species has occurred as far as Malda (24.996°N, 88.191°E) and Nadia (23.471°N, 88.557°E) (Stuart Baker 1929:70). Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:143; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:149) seem to have accepted all these records, as they include N. Bengal in its winter range; hence, we also included this species in our checklist, but only on the basis of the record included by Inglis.

**Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*:** Although Stuart Baker included WB in its wintering distribution, probably also sourced by the *Handbook* (Ali & Ripley 1987:146), he did not provide any original source or evidence for this statement (Stuart Baker 1929:182). Otherwise, its winter distribution is only until Bihar, where hard evidence exists (BirdLife International 2001k:1390; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:159). There is a specimen (BNHS#14499) taken from 'Bunar' in January 1915 by C. Primrose (Abdulali 1969a:552), which could have been from WB or even Bangladesh (BirdLife International 2001k:1394). Although Home described the species and mentioned sporadic sightings from the Sundarbans in winter, no explicit records are available for an assessment (Home 1995:132). While the description may have been that of Home's original observations, it could also have been from another reference. Dipankar Ghosh and Srikumar Chattopadhyay observed four individuals for c.20 min in the Shyampur-Budge Budge area (22.493°N, 88.195°E), c.25 km south of Kolkata [=Calcutta], on 17 January 1999 (Ghose & Chattopadhyay 2001:54). The birds were described as Red-wattled Lapwing *V. indicus* sized, with a broad white supercilium flanked by a dull brown crown above and another brown eyestripe below. As the birds had conspicuous dark streaks on their necks, they were assumed to be either juveniles or adults in non-breeding plumage. When flushed, they uttered a feeble *week-week* sound in flight. Without any further details, Srikumar Chattopadhyay reported another flock of eight birds flying overhead on 19 December 1999 at Asuti (22.474°N, 88.256°E),

12 km southwest of Kolkata, and c.15 km from the site of previous sighting (Ghose & Chattopadhyay 2001:54). Apparently, the birds were present until January 2000, but exact sighting details were not provided (Ghose & Chattopadhyay 2001:54). We included this species in the checklist on the basis of the details shared by Ghosh & Chattopadhyay (2001) about their first observation of four birds, whereas other observations could not be independently evaluated.

**Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*:** Inglis was probably the first to report this species from the political boundaries of WB when he annotated it as 'common' in the grasslands of Jalpaiguri District (Inglis et al. 1920b:151). However, we could not find any specimens in the NHMUK, where most Inglis collections are housed. Subsequent compilers included the sub-Himalayan terai of Bengal in its distribution, probably after Inglis but also the adjoining plains, specifically, Malda [=Maldah] (Stuart Baker 1927:387), the source of the latter remains untraceable. The *Handbook* mentioned a similar distribution, including the sub-Himalayan terai, duars, and the Gangetic plains until Bengal, without highlighting any specific site or record (Ali & Ripley 1987:242). Although the *Ripley Guide* did not explicitly call out Bengal, their distribution statement (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:234), as well as the maps in their field guide (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012b:160), is enough reason to believe that they also included the terai and duars of N. Bengal in its distribution. Although this sounds problematic in the absence of absolute evidence, the likelihood of it having occurred in the Jalpaiguri grasslands is certainly very high. However, Home documented a pair at Santiniketan in autumn (Home 1995:67). His description, when translated, included their upperparts being dark brown with distinctive white spots, unlike Barn Owl's golden-yellow colouration. Their round faces had a white mask encircled by a dark brown collar, with dark patches below their eyes. Feathered long legs, brown eyes, flesh-white bills with pink, uncovered nostrils, and dark brown legs and toes with horned brown claws were also documented by him. We include this species in the checklist on the basis of the strength that Inglis identified the species properly together with the detailed description by Home.

**Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*:** The only record of this species was an individual bird originally ringed (Moskwa #224242) in the Kizilkumsky region (42.982°N, 68.415°E), Kazakhstan, on 25 May 1989 and captured by the BNHS team on 09 December 1990, at 'Senpukur, Baj Bay c.22°15'N 88°12'E', and released with a BNHS ring AB-66176 (Ali & Ripley 2001:103). The record details were reverified with the Russian ringing agency, which confirmed that the identification was performed at the ringing site (not the recapture site), and the identification is currently treated as valid (Konstantin Litvin in email to Praveen J dated 27 July 2023). Note that there is a possible minor error in the location, and the WB locality might be related to Senpukur, Budge Budge (22.479°N, 88.195°E), 16 km west southwest of Kolkata [=Calcutta].

**White-winged Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*:** The first account of this bird from WB was by L. J. Mackintosh, who included the details of this species in his list of birds from Darjeeling (Mackintosh 1915:116). Although no dates are given, he is stated to have occasionally seen it at Sandakphu (3,636 m), near the summit. Described as larger than Black Redstart *P. ochruros rufiventris*, he details the male as dark rufous on its underparts and



rump, silvery white head with black on upper breast, back, frontal band, and most of wings with white on crown, neck, and portions of the wing. The description is sufficiently detailed to eliminate other Redstarts, and in conjunction with the habitat, this description should be acceptable. For corroboration, a bird was also listed from Sandakphu on 09 April 1930 (Matthews & Edwards 1944:27). Although they typically occur at relatively high altitudes in summer, they are known to descend during the winter to elevations as low as 1,500 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:576; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:398). This aligns broadly with the altitude of Singalila NP (2,500–3,636 m) in the Darjeeling District. Hence, we accept the species into the checklist on the basis of these two records.

**Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni*:** Historically, a resident or a seasonal visitor to the terai. No specimens were located from WB. The syntype (NHMUK#1864.10.27.1) collected by Jerdon from Purnea [=Purneah] on the Ganga River (Warren & Harrison 1971:340) is in Bihar, which is adjacent to the West Dinajpur District of WB. Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:587; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:405) include WB for the distribution of this species, indicating that there must have been at least one well-documented specimen that we are unable to locate. Additionally, Inglis observed a male on 31 December 1931 and a female on 08 February 1932 in Haldibari, Jalpaiguri District (Roy 1949:1). Although a WB specimen could not be located, its historical distribution and extreme likelihood of having occurred historically in the WB Terai, owing to its distribution to the west and east, as well as observations by Inglis, led us to accept this species to the checklist.

## Discussion

The state of WB is the most bird-diverse state in India, with nearly 68% of Indian avifauna occurring in a region of size less than 3% of the country. This includes 11 Critically Endangered, 11 Endangered, 25 Vulnerable, and 53 Near Threatened species, including Pink-headed Duck and Manipur Bush Quail, which have not been reported from anywhere for nearly a century (SolB 2023:17). There are 123 species in WB that have been classified as High Priority in the State of India's Birds (SolB 2023). Fifty-four species have been included solely on the basis of historical specimens, which may indicate local extinctions. This number is very high for a state; despite many birdwatchers and photographers visiting all habitats, they are unable to find many species that once existed. Even the national number of species included on the basis of only specimens is 22 (eBird 2024g), which is less than half of the WB number.

The state has permanently lost the Terai habitats, both forests and grasslands, and together with it, many species, such as Pale-billed Parrotbill, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, White-hooded Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Indian Grassbird, Bengal Florican, etc. Several species that are resident in Sikkim Himalaya, such as Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge, Snow Pigeon, Red-billed Chough, Yellow-billed Chough, Horned Lark, Grandala, Robin Accentor, Rufous-necked Snowfinch, Blanford's Snowfinch, and Red-fronted Rosefinch, also occur sporadically in Singalila NP, indicating movement across the Himalaya. None of these appear to be permanent residents and are likely to be visitors during harsh winters or inclement weather conditions. Birdwatcher visits to Singalila during winters are less frequent, and hence, many of them find a place in the checklist purely on the basis of historical specimens. Some of the species that have declined across their ranges, such as Vultures, Baer's Pochard, Finn's Weaver, and White-bellied Heron, have also largely disappeared from the state in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

New discoveries include reports of several pelagic birds, mostly following cyclonic storms. The western parts of the districts have been less studied historically and have led to some recent discoveries of dryland species (e.g., Striolated Bunting, Painted Spurfowl, Indian Spotted Creeper) or species of the northeastern Ghats (e.g., Indian Black-lored Tit). Although many wetlands around Kolkata have been lost, those habitats are more or less retained around Sundarbans, and historical rarities such as the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Nordmann's Greenshank, and Red-breasted Merganser have been rediscovered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Kolkata wetlands appear to be a staging ground for the enigmatic Large-billed Reed Warbler during spring migration; although a number of records are not 100% certain, we have found at least one that is satisfactory in all respects.

Seventy species are listed in the unconfirmed list. While some of them are definitely errors, there are a number of species that are likely to occur in the future. The total number of species in WB may reach nearly 1,000 species in the future.

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### Unconfirmed species

**Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*:** Known from two poorly documented sightings. One, reported from WB (Savage & Abdulali 1970), lacks details (Praveen et al. 2014:117), and another, from Kolkata [=Calcutta] (Stuart Baker 1929:401), also lacks comprehensive documentation.

**White-winged Wood-Duck *Asarcornis scutulata*:** Known only from a specimen (ZSI#239) from the Kolkata [=Calcutta] Bazaar. A resident in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:72), this record from the Bazaar might have originated outside WB and has not been accepted for the checklist.

**Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*:** Another trans-Himalayan species but again a male specimen (NHMUK#1889.5.10.1037) in the Hume collection from 'Darjeeling' (Ogilvie-Grant 1893:195). Like the previous species, chances of encountering one from thus far from North Sikkim are very unlikely. No other literature has currently accepted this record for Darjeeling.

**Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*:** A trans-Himalayan species, but there is a female specimen (NHMUK#89.5.10.1197) in the Hume collection from 'Darjeeling' (Ogilvie-Grant 1893:105). Chances of finding one thus far from North Sikkim are remote, and no other standard works have accepted a distribution from Darjeeling, leading us to drop this species from the checklist.

**Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*:** There are two 'Darjeeling' specimens (NHMUK#1880.1.1.2827–2828) obtained through the India Museum collection (Ogilvie-Grant 1893:117) and the same verified by the current curator at NHMUK. Another specimen (Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery #66300) in R. Hughes Buller collection collected from a broad area termed Bengal is also not considered here. Additionally, Mackintosh described encountering this species in Darjeeling, noting its occasional presence and behaviour of hiding among the 'Bhuta Khets' (Mackintosh 1915:187). This suggests that the species perhaps once occurred in the Darjeeling District, a claim not supported by standard references that consider east-central Nepal as its eastern range extremity (Ali & Ripley 1987:99; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:120). We tentatively excluded this species until more definitive evidence of its historical occurrence was obtained.

**Rock Bush-Quail *Perdicala argoondah*:** Four specimens were reported from 'Calcutta Market' (Abdulali 1969c:262) without any details of the original collection locality. As there is no distribution for this species in WB (Ali & Ripley 1987:107; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:125), we have left this out.

**Painted Bush-Quail *Perdicala erythrorhyncha*:** The first inclusion of a locality from WB in the range of *P. e. blewitti*, the expected subspecies here, was by Stuart Baker, when he included '...Manbhum and Singbhaum...' in its range (Stuart Baker 1928:382). The original reference on which he included the district of Manbhum is unclear; however, the present-day districts of Purulia in WB and East Singhbhum in Jharkhand were carved out of 'Manbhum' of the Bengal Presidency. Standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:108; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:126) included WB, possibly following Stuart Baker. Some specimens collected by Blewitt were tagged as 'Raipur' but were georeferenced to WB in the

GBIF; these refer to Raipur (21.253°N, 81.615°E) in Chhattisgarh. In summary, there is no credible evidence for including WB in the distribution of this species.

**Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*:** A sighting of six birds in non-breeding plumage at Purbasthali (23.457°N, 88.335°E) in the Purba Bardhaman [=Burdwan] District (Dasgupta 2003; Sharma 2004) with no detailed descriptions is not treated as definitive (Praveen et al. 2014:121). Hence, we excluded the species from the checklist.

**Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*:** The only evidence of its occurrence in WB is an undated male specimen (NHMUK#1889.3.2.29) collected from Darjeeling by H. Seebohm (Salvadori 1893:252). Although standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:210; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:205) included a lower altitude of 1,500 m, particularly during harsh winters, neither included Darjeeling in its distribution, and Sikkim birds are confined to the far north closer to the Indo-Tibetan border. More evidence is needed to validate this record.

**Painted Sandgrouse *Pterocles indicus*:** The *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:204) included WB in its distribution though past works (Stuart Baker 1928:264; Ali & Ripley 1987:202) did not. We could not find any specimens from WB, even at the NHMUK, nor any other evidence.

**Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps*:** Although the *Handbook* (Ali & Ripley 1987:142) included WB in its distribution, such a mention is not present anywhere else (e.g., BirdLife International 2001:1321). Species excluded due to lack of evidence.

**Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii*:** A male procured from Kolkata [=Calcutta] Zoo by D. Ezra on 03 January 1912 (YPM#042341) is perhaps not wild caught and hence excluded from the checklist.

**Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis*:** A historical specimen record from the 'Tista Valley' is mentioned by Jerdon, although no further details are available (Stevens 1925c:678). The Teesta Valley spans a large area that includes parts of both Sikkim and WB, making the exact location of this record uncertain. Additionally, there was a sighting reported at Zero Point (27.090°N, 88.707°E) in Neora Valley NP (Chatterjee & Ghose 2004:33), with no further details. Owing to the ambiguity in the specimen location and the lack of a detailed description of the records, this species was not included in the checklist.

**White-rumped Spinetail *Zonavena sylvatica*:** The only claim for this species from WB was by Mackintosh from Darjeeling, where he described it as 'more frequently met with from 1000 to 5000 ft' (i.e., 300–1,500 m). He additionally described the birds as having a 'short and wedge-shaped tail, long pointed wing, glossy greenish tinge above, white rump and upper tail coverts, grey breast and throat, underparts white and black bill' (Mackintosh 1915:27). These features do not align with the key identification features of this species, which include a short square tail and broad wings with hooked outer wings. Additionally, no other observers, including Inglis, have come across this species in N. Bengal. Although standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:269; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:257) also acknowledged its presence in southern WB, no actual specimens could be traced. Hence, the species is not included in the checklist.

**Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*:** The only claim of this species was of a flock seen at Manebhanjan (26.987°N, 88.118°E; c. 1,945m), Darjeeling District, in the morning of 06 April 1980 (Inskipp 1980) after a violent and prolonged thunderstorm. They saw ten birds along with White-throated Needletail *H. caudacutus*, and these were "...larger, broader, and longer wings than the White-throated Needletail, with a dusky throat; however, the white vent was not seen" (Carol Inskipp, in email dated 31 May 2019). Although the size, wing breadth, rounded tail and lack of contrast on the mantle rule out similar Silver-backed Needletail *H. cochinchinensis*, the fact that the white lores, normally expected on the species, were not noted by the observers would indicate that the observations were not close enough or sustained. The nearest records of this species are from central Assam (eBird 2024h); hence, these observations are not sufficient to confirm its occurrence in WB.

**Indian Swiftlet *Aerodramus unicolor*:** Two specimens of this Western Ghat and Sri Lankan endemic that were procured from Darjeeling (Blyth 1852:86) were most likely misidentified Himalayan Swiftlets *A. brevirostris*. This must have been the source for incorrect listings in latter works as well (e.g., Sanyal et al. 2012:923).

**Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*:** An undated specimen (ANSP#33225) collected from 'Bengal' obtained by an unknown collector with no other details exists. The species has not occurred anywhere in the Indian mainland and hence is not included in the WB checklist.

**Little Crake *Zapornia parva*:** Listed from Sundarbans, Narathali [=Nagathuli] Lake (26.522°N, 89.768°E) in Alipurdaur District, and Farakka in Malda District, with no details (Sanyal et al. 2012:913) for assessment; hence not included in the WB checklist.

**Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*:** Listing from Narathali [=Nagathuli] Lake and Gorumara NP (Sanyal et al. 2012:918) are obviously in error as the authors were confusing this with some other species as Beach Thick-knee is restricted to coastal habitats.

**Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*:** During a bird survey at Nolbon Bheri (22.561°N, 88.433°E), North 24 Parganas District in 1997, this species was recorded among a flock of Little Ringed Plover *C. dubius* (Mookherjee et al. 1999:41); which probably was the basis for further inclusion from Nalbani [=Nolbon] (Sanyal et al. 2012:915). No further details are available to assess either of these records and hence the species is not included in the checklist.

**Caspian Plover *Anarhynchus asiaticus*:** Reported by a group of birdwatchers from *Prakriti Samsad* between 1997–2000 at Sundarbans (Chatterjee 2004:60). However, no further details are available, and Oriental Plover *A. veredus* may not have been ruled out.

**Great Snipe *Gallinago media*:** Although reported from southern WB between September and March (Home 1995:166), the absence of an identifiable description precludes us from including this species in the checklist.

**Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*:** Listed for Sundarbans (Chandra et al. 2020:62) but there is no description for us to assess for the WB checklist.

**Sooty Gull *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*:** An exceptional record reported from the Sundarbans Delta on 24 Jan 2005 (Sharma 2006; Sharma & Zöckler 2007) is considered insufficient in details to be treated as confirmed (Praveen et al. 2014:128); and hence not included in the checklist.

**Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi*:** Listing of this species, without listing the more expected Little Tern *S. albigrons*, from Baghmara (Sundarbans) and Gorumara NP (Sanyal et al. 2012:918), could be a mistake, and hence not included in the WB checklist.

**Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*:** A bird was sighted by M. E. Jones at the entrance of the Hooghly River from the sea in 1959, but no details were provided (Jones 1961). Given the potential for confusion with both, White-tailed Tropicbird *P. lepturus* and the Red-tailed Tropicbird *P. rubicauda*, both of which are known to have occurred in the state, this identification needs further support. Fewer Red-billed Tropicbirds have been reported in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea, with the nearest confirmed record from the Odisha coast (Chatterjee 2013). Given the limited evidence and potential for misidentification, we decided to exclude it from the checklist.

**Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*:** Although several works (Stuart Baker 1929:273; Ali & Ripley 1987:8; Home 1995:343) listed this species for WB, there are no actual specimens or records supporting this claim. The *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:50) did not include WB in its distribution and hence not included in our checklist.

**Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa*:** A juvenile specimen (MZLU#L828/3054) listed from Kolkata [=Calcutta] but identity as this (*contra* Indian Pond-Heron *A. grayii*) is suspect and hence not included in the checklist.

**Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*:** Although there is a specimen from 1844 (Blyth 1852:33), it is not certain whether Slender-billed Vulture, the more expected species with which it was once considered conspecific, was eliminated. The specimen has remained untraced until now. The species was also photographed once near the Ellen Barrie TE police station (26.871°N, 88.532°E) near Siliguri on 15 April 2002 (Ranade & Prakash 2022). Although the photograph was not clear, Ranade described the bird with a yellow beak and cere; no white thigh feathers (*contra* Slender-billed Vulture); no black head, neck or bill feathers (*contra* Slender-billed Vulture); and a comparatively smaller size than the Himalayan Vulture *G. himalayensis*. However, the tint of the picture does not convincingly support the described field features. In the absence of a validated specimen or a clear photograph, we do not include this species in our checklist.

**Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*:** Four potential specimens. Three specimens (RMNH#191068–70) with a broad locality such as 'Bengalen' were not considered here, as this could have included a larger area than the current WB. Additionally, photographs of two of the specimens (#191068 and #191070) were obtained, and the identity as Upland Buzzard is suspect, as they had bare tarsi. A fourth specimen (RMNH#191071) from Darjeeling also had bare tarsi. We could not find any specimens at NHMUK from Darjeeling. Although a few photographs have been obtained from Darjeeling, a likely area for the species, none of them convincingly eliminate the much more likely Himalayan Buzzard *B. refectus*. Hence, this

species is not included in the checklist.

**Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus*:** One bird seen at Asanpani (22.776°N, 86.433°E), Purulia District, on 13 May 2018 by Anirban Patra, who managed to take a very fuzzy photograph of its tail (Patra 2018). Although a likely species considering it occurs on the adjacent side in Jharkhand, we await better documentation before adding this species to the checklist.

**European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*:** A specimen (ROM#24101) from Chandannagar (22.867°N, 88.352°E) from 1833, purportedly collected by Victor Jacquemont, a French botanist and geologist, exists. However, he had travelled extensively in northern India, and he may have obtained this collection elsewhere; his entire consignment may have been incorrectly labelled as originating from Chandannagar, where he was based. He also had travelled to Kashmir, and most likely, the specimen was collected there. The year of collection, as 1833, must obviously be incorrect, as he died of cholera on 07 December 1832.

**Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente*:** The only documentation of this species from WB is by Lester Leroy Short when he had a 'fleeting glimpse' of a male in April–May 1972 in a sal forest near Sukna (26.804°N, 88.338°E), Darjeeling District (Short 1973:355). It flew calling *ch-yew* several times, which, according to him, was nearly identical to that of the Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *H. concretus* of Southeast Asia. There are three known populations of this species in India: the largest in the Western Ghats, a smaller one in East-central India and north-eastern Ghats, and a third, little-known population in Cachar, Manipur, and the adjoining Chittagong hill tracts in Bangladesh (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:291). A fourth population in the Himalayan Terai would be truly remarkable if it has gone undetected all these years or even if it has lately been extirpated due to the loss of sal forests. Another possibility is a straggler from adjacent populations, but this woodpecker is not known to wander much. Some references (Ali & Ripley 1987:318; Grimmett et al. 2011:252), apparently, have accepted WB distribution, probably on the basis of this record. The ZSI State Fauna Series (Majumdar et al. 1992:299) included Bankura, Bardhaman, Hooghly [=Hugli], Medinipur [=Midnapore], North 24-Parganas, and South 24-Parganas in its distribution on the basis of observations, but that must obviously be an error and must refer to another species. While a small population could exist in the districts of WB adjoining the Similipal Tiger Reserve (21.593°N, 86.294°E) in Odisha, the only available evidence from Darjeeling, a fleeting glimpse and some calls, is not sufficient to include the species in the state checklist.

**Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocytes auriceps*:** The only record of this species from WB is a specimen (RMNH#204420) from Finn's collection with the tag 'Darjeeling' and collected in 1868. Species identity is correct; however, the species has not been reported east of eastern Nepal (Ali & Ripley 1987:315; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:282). Therefore, more evidence is required to accept the record.

**Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus*:** This species was recorded during a bird survey conducted from May 2000 to July 2001 at Buxa Tiger Reserve (Sivakumar et al. 2006:130). However, no further details were available, and the species is not found in any connected forest in Assam or Arunachal Pradesh; and this may have been the similar-looking Fulvous-breasted

Woodpecker *D. macei*.

**Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*:** Listed, with no detail, from Neora Valley NP (Sanyal et al. 2012:926) and the record must obviously relate to another *Dinopium* or *Chrysocolaptes* species.

**Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus*:** This species was reported from Singalila NP (27.036°N, 88.076°E; c.3,080 m) without any specific details (Rahmani et al. 2016:1971). The eastern range of this species (eBird 2024i) extends up to Solukhumbu, Nepal (27.696°N, 86.739°E; c.4,000 m). The *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:288) also included its distribution until Central Nepal and its occurrence in Sikkim subject to verification. Therefore, more evidence is needed to accept this record.

**White-bellied Minivet *Pericrocotus erythropygus*:** Although historical works (Oates 1890:488; Stuart Baker 1924:332) restricted its distribution to Odisha and Jharkhand, with Lohardaga (23.441°N, 84.687°E) in Jharkhand being the closest to WB, standard references (Ali & Ripley 1987:404; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:326) included WB in its distribution, probably on the basis of a statement in Stuart Baker (1933):300. We have not come across any specimens or sightings from WB; hence, it is not included in the checklist.

**Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*:** A large number of photographs of grey and white minivets have been uploaded to websites, discussion forums, social media, and citizen science platforms in the past 15 years. All confirmed records to date have been of Swinhoe's Minivet *P. cantonensis*, a very similar species; however, once and again, Ashy Minivet has been claimed (e.g., from Buxa by Sanyal et al. 2012:931). We excluded this species from the checklist until unassailable evidence from the field is gathered.

**Marshall's lora *Aegithina nigrolutea*:** Identification compounded with the presence of Common lora *A. tiphia*, whose field separation was not well known until recently. Sometimes listed for 'Eastern Bengal' (Ali 1945:5), whereas Stuart Baker (1922):344 stopped the distribution at Santhal Parganas (24.311°N, 87.380°E), Jharkhand. It was also reported from Purulia District, with a description, but it was not sufficient to identify (Home 1973:51). Additionally, it was reported without any details from Rashik Beel (26.419°N, 89.726°E), Cooch Behar District (Roy et al. 2012). Owing to the lack of well-documented records and uncertainties in past identification, it is desirable to wait for more definitive evidence to include the species in the checklist.

**Common Raven *Corvus corax*:** Reported from Neora Valley NP with no further details (Roy et al. 2011) and hence excluded from the checklist.

**Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*:** Known from only three specimens. One specimen (TNHM#1274) was obtained by an unknown collector from Kolkata [=Calcutta] on 27 February 1882, and two specimens were collected by H. J. Watson on 22 February 1900 from 'Calcutta Market' (Abdulali 1976:492). The eastern edge of its range is Uttar Pradesh (Ali & Ripley 1987:332; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:301; eBird 2024j) and it has never occurred in Bihar, Jharkhand, or Chhattisgarh. Therefore, the specimen from Calcutta is highly unlikely and requires more supporting evidence for inclusion in the checklist.

**Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*:** Known from 11 specimens, all said to be preserved in the ZSI collection as per the catalogue; the actual specimens we have not accessed or verified. Nine of those specimens are also listed in Majumdar et al. (1992):303, but with some varying details. The specimens included six male (ZSI#39209–214) and three female (ZSI#39215–218) specimens collected from Deganga (22.686°N, 88.647°E), North 24 Parganas District, on 23 November 1966 by B. Biswas; however, Majumdar listed only four males instead of six. Additionally, S. S. Saha collected a female (ZSI#39218) from Salt Lake, but the same is listed as from Nalbon [=Nolbon] area (22.561°N, 88.433°E) by Majumdar, dated as 27 (23 by Majumdar) August 1969. An unsexed individual (ZSI#39218) from Salt Lake on 08 October 1969 is listed as being from Mitpukur (22.630°N, 88.586°E) by Majumdar. Although the catalogue lists these specimens under Biswas and Saha, it is likely that some other bird collector, deputed by ZSI, brought these specimens, as Majumdar lists all of them as 'coll. not known'. There is also a sight report, but without supporting details, from Ilambazar (23.625°N, 87.545°E), Birbhum District, on 11 February 1968 (Gauntlett 1986:523). The accepted distribution of Crested Lark in India is no further east of Bihar and Chhattisgarh (Ali & Ripley 1987:334; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:305); however, there are a few sight records accepted from Koshi Tappu (26.651°N, 87.000°E; c.100 m) in eastern Nepal, although with no supporting details, and that locality is not far from the WB border. Given that we did not verify the specimens at ZSI, Kolkata, and that the sight records might have been confounded with the more regular Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*, more proof is needed to validate the records of the Crested Lark in WB.

**Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*:** Although reported as a 'forest species' in Jalpaiguri (Inglis et al. 1920a:991) and accepted in the *Handbook* (Ali & Ripley 1987:532), we are unable to trace any WB specimen of this species. We have tentatively excluded this species pending further research as also alluded in the *Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:477).

**Rufous-fronted Prinia *Prinia buchanani*:** The only claim of this species is from the arid areas of Bankura, Midnapur (East & West), and Purulia by A. Home, with no further details (Home 1973:79). We excluded this species for want of absolute evidence.

**Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*:** This species was recorded in winter in Jalpaiguri District (Ali & Ripley 1987:539; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:491). However, the identification of this bird in the field is challenging, as it is very similar to the Paddyfield Warbler *A. agricola*. Given the weak documentation supporting its presence, this record has not been included in the checklist.

**White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*:** The species was sighted once at Bishnupur (23.064°N, 87.329°E) in February by (Home 1973:59), who described its call as 'Quick—a drink with you'; however, with insufficient plumage description. The species is not migratory in nature, and this record is far from its normal range in the Indian subcontinent and could have been a cage escapee. A bird, photographed from Palamau Tiger Reserve (23.684°N, 84.235°E) in the adjoining Jharkhand, is also believed to be a probable escapee (Shahid et al. 2023). Additionally, no other standard literature mentioned its distribution in WB and therefore was not included in the checklist.

**Red-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*:**

This species was reported from Zero Point in Neora Valley NP (Chatterjee & Ghose 2004:38) with no further details and was most likely a result of confusion with Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler *P. ferruginosus*, which is common there; hence, it was not considered for the WB checklist.

**Indian Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*:** The Indian Scimitar Babbler was reported at Zero Point in Neora Valley NP (Chatterjee & Ghose 2004:38) and from Mahananda WLS of Darjeeling District (Sanyal et al. 2012:932), but both without supporting details. Given the likelihood of taxonomic confusion with the White-browed Scimitar Babbler *P. schisticeps*, a species common there, and the absence of mention by any other field workers, these records are deemed dubious and has not been included in the checklist.

**Snowy-throated Babbler *Stachyris oglei*:** This species was reported from Gorumara NP, but no specific details were provided (Rahmani et al. 2016:1936). The species is restricted to eastern Assam and south-eastern Arunachal Pradesh (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:440; eBird 2024k) and occurs nowhere close to N. Bengal. Given this fact, the presence of the Snowy-throated Babbler in Gorumara NP is questionable and, therefore, it is not included in the checklist.

**Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre*:** The only report is of a bird seen at Jaldapara NP (26.638°N, 89.285°E) on 08 April 2008 by Apurba Chakraborty and its call recorded (Chakraborty 2008a; b) but suspected now to be of Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* (Lastukhin 2016).

**Spot-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax merulinus*:** A specimen collected by Pearson with the tag 'Darjeeling' (Horsfield & Moore 1854:403; Sharpe 1883:449) must surely have originated elsewhere, as its range is nowhere near WB.

**Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus nuchalis*:**

It was reported at Zero Point in Neora Valley NP, with no other details (Chatterjee & Ghose 2004:38). For a species that is range restricted to lowland forests in extreme Northeast India, we do not treat this record as valid.

**White-cheeked Nuthatch *Sitta leucopsis*:** Its distribution mentioned for Mahananda (Sanyal et al. 2012:942) most certainly a name confusion with the more expected White-tailed Nuthatch *S. himalayensis*. Their prior work (Sanyal & Roychoudhury 1994:102) carried a photograph of that species with the name as White-cheeked Nuthatch.

**White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*:** Two specimens traced from Darjeeling. They include an immature (UMZC#27/Cin/1/a/5) by W. B. Farr presented to the museum collection on 17 November 1892 and another in Hume's collection from 1870 (RMNH#128386). Confined mainly to the Tibetan facies and trans-Himalaya, some birds are known to drift to lower altitudes in winter but rarely below 2,400 m (Ali & Ripley 1987:613) and never reach the main Himalaya (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:353). There are also no references other than the documented catalogue entries that include Darjeeling in its range. There are two records in Sikkim, south of the trans-Himalaya, that are closer to the WB border, one (Viswanathan 2021) from East Sikkim near Nathu La (27.385°N,



88.829°E; c.3,900 m.) and another (Ash 2020) along the southern facies of Kangchenjunga (c.4,300 m) in West Sikkim, but both from ideal habitats next to snow-fed streams. We excluded this species because there are no suitable habitats for this species in Singalila NP.

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*:** The only report of this species from WB is a specimen (RMNH#170694) from 'Darjeeling' in 1868, which apparently originated from F. Finn; we verified the specimen's identity; however, no further information is available on the tags. No references or past claims exist of this species having occurred east of central Nepal (Ali & Ripley 1987:612; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:370; eBird 2024). Hence, this record is considered doubtful due to locality issues.

**Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*:** Although the Eurasian Blackbird is not included in the *India Checklist*, it was recorded from Buxa and Jaldapara NP (Sanyal et al. 2012:941) without any supporting details. Therefore, this species has not been included in the checklist.

**White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis pallidipes*:** A single male specimen (ZSI#38459) from Bankura (Majumdar et al. 1992:354) was found to be a misidentified female Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* (Maheswaran et al. 2022). Hence, the species is deleted from the checklist.

**Hill Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis whitei*:** A male specimen of *C. banyumas* was collected from the vicinity of Kolkata [=Calcutta] by Blyth in April 1855 (Blyth 1856:448); *C. whitei* until recently considered conspecific with *C. banyumas*. Blyth noted, "A well-known Javanese bird, only once known to have been procured before in India, —viz. by Mr. Jerdon in the Nilgiris, his specimen being also now in the Society's collection.". These specimens are not traceable, and (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:385) do not include WB in its distribution. Even today, *Cyornis* taxonomy is complex, and some other species could have been involved here; hence, this species has been excluded from the checklist.

**Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*:** The only claim of this species from the state was by Inglis, who stated that the bird was an 'occasional cold weather visitor to Jalpaiguri district' (Inglis et al. 1920a:993). No dates or field features have been provided. We verified with NHMUK curator for all the Inglis specimens but found none. However, the *Handbook* included 'Darjeeling' in its winter range (Ali & Ripley 1987:576), and the *Ripley Guide* a species included 'N W Bengal' (Rasmussen & Anderton (2012a:385). This probably indicate a historical specimen that we were unable to locate. Although N. Bengal is at its western edge of its wintering range, there have been recent reports of this species from further west in Koshi Tappu, Nepal (Acharya 2009), indicating that it may not be entirely unlikely in N. Bengal. However, we wait for unassailable evidence, possibly a museum specimen that Inglis collected, before admitting it to the WB checklist.

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*:** Although an observation is listed from Raset Trail (27.102°N, 88.696°E; c.1,770 m), Lava (Chatterjee & Ghose 2004:39), lack of detailed evidence for a species that will be recorded for the first time in the country made us treat this claim as unconfirmed.

**Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana*:** A specimen (MCZ#34102) was reportedly collected near 'Darjeeling, India',

on 20 January 1878. For a species restricted to the south-eastern parts of Northeast India, there is uncertainty regarding the place of collection as per the labels and hence is not accepted.

**Black-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*:** Two seen enroute to Sandakphu to Phalut at an elevation over 3,350 m on 19 February 1912 (Stevens 1925b:373). No specimens were secured, and the description was insufficient to accept this trans-Himalayan species for WB.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*:** Although reported from Mahananda, Darjeeling District, and Jaldapara NP (Sanyal et al. 2012:942), specific details supporting these sightings are lacking. Given the challenges in accurately identifying pipits in the field, these records are doubtful and probably relate to another common species.

**Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *Mycerobas icteroides*:** A flock of birds was sighted at Latpanchor (26.915°N, 88.402°E; c.1,115 m) during a survey conducted by the Forest Department (Anonymous 1996:14). Although no details were provided, a poor photograph was available for assessment. The photograph does not necessarily eliminate the more likely Collared Grosbeak *M. affinis* and hence is treated here as doubtful.

**Spot-winged Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodopeplus*:** The only evidence of its occurrence within WB limits is the four specimens, three males and one female, obtained by R.A. Paynter in June/July 1958 from Sandakphu (Majumdar et al. 1992:412). However, as per the ZSI catalogue, these are not by Paynter but by R. K. Ghosh and include five males (ZSI#39626–27, ZSI#39629–31) and a female (ZSI#39628) collected between 20 June and 26 June 1974/75. Past claimed photographs of Spot-winged Rosefinch from N. Bengal were of Dark-rumped Rosefinch *C. edwardsii*. We have not had a chance to verify the ZSI specimens nor have anyone else recently. As standard literature (Ali & Ripley 1987:697; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012a:565) did not include any distribution east of Nepal, except for a Sikkim specimen by Mandelli mentioned in the *Handbook* (Ali & Ripley 1987:697), we also did not include it. It is desirable to reverify the identity of the ZSI specimens.

**Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus*:** A male observed between Mane Bhanjang (26.988°N, 88.120°E; c.1,970 m) and Meghma (27.023°N, 88.084° E; c.2,800 m) of the Singalila NP (Gregory 1995). However, the insufficient description "Claret collared (sic) overall, white tips to tertials, pink supercilium, dark mantle streaking." provided renders the record as doubtful, as it does not eliminate a more likely Pink-browed Rosefinch *C. rodochroa*.

**Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*:** Reported from Samthar (26.979°N, 88.501°E; c.1,274 m), Kalimpong District, but no description was provided (Lobo Undated). Hence, this species is not considered for the checklist.

**Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*:** Reported from Neora Valley NP with no details (Roy et al. 2011) and hence considered unconfirmed here.

**Eurasian Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*:** A pair was sighted by P. W. Munn from Barrackpore (22.769°N, 88.351°E), but no detailed description was provided (Munn 1894:52). However, it has been suggested that it might have been a Chestnut-eared Bunting *E. fucata* (Blanford 1894:321); hence, it was not included.