

Gharana Wetland, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, on 27 January 2020 (Kumar 2020). The species was reported twice from Jagadhari, Yamunanagar District, Haryana, on 22 February 1920 and 05 March 1935 (Jones 1927; Waite 1937). In Punjab, the species was reported once from Harike Wetland on 01 April 1994 (Robson 1994), and a flock of 13 buntings was recorded at Kiratpur, Rupnagar District, on 04 and 05 January 1997 (Robson 1997). Further west, there have been more recent records from Pakistan (Karam & Ahmed 2021).

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Observations on the nesting ecology of the Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Birds have evolved a variety of parental behaviours to reduce predator-induced nest loss, which includes the construction of elaborate, cryptic or concealed nests; distraction displays; and nest guarding (Gottfried 1979). The quality of the breeding habitat may directly affect the survival and development of progeny; therefore, the selection of a suitable nest site is an important factor affecting the reproductive success of birds (Zhou et al. 2020). The Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* is distributed in tropical and sub-tropical forests from the northwestern Himalayas to Southeast Asia (Billerman et al. 2022).

Long-tailed Broadbills are gregarious species that are often observed in small flocks. In India, Long-tailed Broadbills breed from March to August. They build large pear-shaped hanging nests, usually at the end of a branch, typically near a water body, with small pieces of dry twigs/sticks, roots, leaves, and grasses. (Cameron & Harrison 1978; Bruce 2020). They are also known to nest on electricity transmission lines (Zhou et al. 2020). A study carried out in China revealed that these birds prefer to nest on power lines (88.5%), and nest site selection is affected mainly by predation pressure and food resources (Zhou et al. 2020).



168. A pair of Long-tailed Broadbill building a nest near Kolukhet village, Dehradun-Mussoorie Road.

On 26 May 2022, one nest of Long-tailed Broadbill was observed (30.416°N, 78.079°E) near Kolukhet village, which is located across the Dehradun-Mussoorie Road, Uttarakhand.

The nest was being built at the end of a dry and delicate branch of the catch tree *Acacia catechu*. It was surprising to record that those birds chose such a thin twig of the tree to build its nest [168]. We continued opportunistic observations of the nest for the next few days. Both male and female were involved in nest building. The nest was built within the forest area, near a natural, perennial water source. The highest nest-building activity was observed during the early morning hours, followed by the evening hours, when birds were observed bringing nest-construction material at the nest site. The pair took c.18–20 days to build the nest. Notably, the nest site is adjacent to Dehradun-Mussoorie Road, on which vehicular traffic is quite high throughout the year, especially during the summer season. On 21 May 2022, another nest was found near Benog Wildlife Sanctuary (30.442°N, 78.060°E), which was suspended from a live overhead electric wire c.5–6 m from the ground. However, no broadbills were observed near the nest. The nest may have been damaged due to exposure to high winds in the previous weeks. Thereafter, on 11 June 2022, another nest was encountered near the Dhobighat area (30.464°N, 78.071°E) across the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary. This nest was woven at the end of a small dangling branch of a Palas tree, as in the Kolukhet area [169], which is also near a stream.



Raju Pushola

169. A Long-tailed Broadbill perching over the nest at Dhobighat area, near Benog Wildlife Sanctuary.

Observations indicate that in the Mussoorie area, as in other parts of its range, the species also prefers to nest at the end of a dangling branch of moderately tall trees in an undisturbed forested habitat or on electric wires of moderate height (Bruce 2003). However, this choice of nesting site may expose nests to high winds. Although it is considered a resident in the Himalayan foothills up to c.2000m asl, this species is most commonly seen in Uttarakhand between April to September, the breeding season (Singh 2000; Tak & Sati 2010; Mohan & Sondhi 2015; Joshi & Bhatt 2015). Considering the rarity of the species outside its breeding season, it is likely that it performs local or altitudinal movements. However, this would indicate upslope migration during the winter, which is rare but known in some Himalayan birds.

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An assessment of the origins of the two Spur-winged Lapwings *Vanellus spinosus* in Warangal, Telangana, India

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* is a monotypic, medium to large-sized wader recognizable by its distinctive black crown, a prominent black stripe extending from the chest to the upper neck, a black tail and a unique spur located at the wrist joint (Hayman et al. 1986; Wiersma & Kirwan 2020). It is primarily distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa (Snow & Perrins 1998; Wiersma & Kirwan 2020), the Nile Valley, the Nile delta (Goodman & Meininger 1989), and southeastern Europe. It typically inhabits wetlands, marshes, and agricultural fields and feeds on insects and other small invertebrates. These birds are social, often observed in pairs or in small groups, and are known for their loud, persistent calls that contribute to the acoustic environment of their habitats. Both the River Lapwing *V. duvacelli* and the Masked Lapwing *V. miles* were once considered conspecific with Spur-winged Lapwing. In this article, we discuss the first report of Spur-winged Lapwing from South Asia at Ammavaripeta Cheruvu, Warangal, Telangana, and examine its potential origins.

Observations

On 24 January 2024, JP observed a single Spur-winged Lapwing alongside Red-wattled Lapwings *V. indicus* at Ammavaripeta Cheruvu (17.942°N, 79.553°E), Warangal District, Telangana. It was initially misidentified as River Lapwing owing to its similarity and greater likelihood in the region. During the subsequent visit by INR, JP and AR on 18 February 2024, the species was identified as a Spur-winged Lapwing using Google Lens [170, 171]. Because this was the first report of the species from India, the site has since been visited by a large number of birders who have continued to document its presence at least until 29 October 2024 (JP).