

Besten 2004; Grimmett et al. 2011; eBird 2024; Pittie 2024). Thus, my sightings of Bristled Grassbird appear to be the first records of the species from Himachal Pradesh. However, this record is not unexpected, as the species has been previously reported further west from Pakistan (Roberts 1992; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), and has also been reported from the neighbouring states of Uttarakhand (Sharma 2009), Punjab, and Haryana in India (Grimmett et al. 2011). More recent records are also available on eBird for the aforementioned three states (eBird 2024). Recently, it has also been recorded in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (Kapur 2022).

Bristled Grassbird is a globally threatened species with IUCN status as Vulnerable, owing to declining populations due to the loss and degradation of the tall and dense grassland, on which it is totally dependent (BirdLife International 2024b). Thus, information on new and potential breeding areas and breeding season records of this species is important. This sighting also highlights the need for stringent measures to protect these habitats from the human interference.

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## A Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* unsuccessfully capturing a Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

The Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* is an uncommon winter migrant to Assam, India (Choudhury 2000). I report an observation of a Booted Eagle's failed attempt to catch Fulvous Whistling Ducks *Dendrocygna bicolor*. On 18 February, 2023 while observing birds near Khanajan (26.128°N, 91.633°E), outside notified Deepor *beel* wildlife sanctuary, my attention was drawn towards some noise. It was a Booted Eagle, which tried to prey upon a Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*. The duck seems to have been drowned by the eagle, who appeared to lift off with the duck. Despite struggling for several minutes, the eagle was unsuccessful in taking the duck and abandoned its kill. Some Red-crested Pochards *Netta rufina* were not very far (within 10m) from the eagle but they remained indifferent to the attack while the entire flock of some 40 Fulvous Whistling Ducks panicked and took to wings.



205. Booted Eagle drowning a Fulvous Whistling Duck.

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## Attempted kleptoparasitism by a Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* from Tamil Nadu, India

Klepto-parasitism is a foraging tactic where an animal steals or robs food or prey from another animal (Rothschild & Clay 1957). It is a well-documented mode of foraging especially in species belonging to the families Accipitridae, Laridae and Corvidae (Brockmann & Barnard 1979; Iyengar 2008). Six species of harriers are found in India, including the Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* which is known to prey on small birds (especially land birds), rodents and reptiles (Simmons 2001; Verma and Sharma 2013). Here, I report a case of a Pallid Harrier attempting to kleptoparasitize a Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* in a grassland in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.

On 20 December 2023, I was engaged in a routine harrier roost count in a grassland near Moolaikkadu in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu (8.379°N, 77.673°E). At 1754 h, I observed an adult male Pallid Harrier chase and mob a Common Kestrel. The kestrel