

- Pakistan: Implication for monitoring and conservation. *Diversity* 14(9): 752.
- Kaul, R., & Qadri, S., 1989. Western Tragopan surveys in the Limber Valley, Kashmir, India. *WPA News* 26:12–14.
- McGowan, P. J. K., & Garson, P. J., 1995. *Pheasants, status survey and conservation action plan 1995–1999*. IUCN, Gland. Pp. vi + 116.
- McGowan, P. J. K. & Kirwan, G. M., 2020. Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.westra1.01>. [Accessed on 02 Jan 2025.]
- Miller, J., 2010. Species distribution modeling. *Geography Compass* 4(6): 490–509.
- Shah, A., Kayani, A. R., Ihlw, F., Nadeem, M. S., Mahmood, T., Islam, S., Hausmann, A. E. & Päckert, M., 2022. Range-wide and regional distribution of the Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* and effects of disturbance on local abundances. *Bird Conservation International* 33: 1–14.
- Singh, H., Kumar, N., Kumar, M., & Singh, R., 2020. Modelling habitat suitability of western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) a range-restricted vulnerable bird species of the Himalayan region, in response to climate change. *Climate Risk Management* 29: 100241. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2020.100241>.

– **Mehnaz Nazir, Tawqir Bashir, & Intesar Suhail**

Mehnaz Nazir, School of Chemical Engineering and Physical Sciences, Department of Environmental Science, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, 144001, Punjab, India. Division of Wildlife Sciences, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Benhama, 19120, J&K, India.

Email: mehnaznazirbhat23@gmail.com [Corresponding Author] [MN]

Tawqir Bashir, Division of Wildlife Sciences, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Benhama, 191201, J&K, India. Email: tawqir84@gmail.com [TB]

Intesar Suhail, Department of Wildlife Protection, Rajbagh, -190001, Srinagar J&K, India. Email: intesar.suhail@gmail.com [IS]

A Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* from Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, India

The Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* is a distinctive, long-tailed cuckoo with a prominent black crest, whitish collar, chestnut wings and a whitish belly (Grimmett et al. 2011). It is widely distributed across south and southeast Asia, with range extending from the Himalayan foothills in north India and Nepal to southeast China, Myanmar, east to Philippines. In winters, it migrates to southern India, Sri Lanka, and Greater Sundas (Payne & Kirwan 2020).

On 01 August 2022, we were birding in a privately owned woodland in the buffer zone of the Kanha Tiger Reserve (22.143°N, 80.656°E). At 0830 h, a movement was noticed about 5 m above ground, in the middle canopy of a Tamarind tree *Tamarindus indica*. Initially, we thought it to be a Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*, a common resident bird in the area, due to its dark and brownish plumage. As the bird emerged from foliage and flew to the top of a Harra tree *Terminalia chebula*, its long tail, slender body, and colouration suggested a Pied Cuckoo *C. jacobinus*. However, after observing carefully, the combination of a thick pointed crest, rich chestnut wings, and orange throat confirmed the identification as a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo. The bird then flew to a Lendia tree *Lagerstroemia parviflora* before finally disappearing into a patch of tall Sal *Shorea robusta* forest, extending towards the Banjaar River. Since no camera was available with us, we made the documentation using binoculars and a mobile phone [194, 195].

There are no previous records of the Chestnut-winged Cuckoo from Madhya Pradesh, nor is it included in the avifaunal checklists of the Kanha Tiger Reserve (Chandra et al. 2006; Dookia & Gupta 2008; Thakur 2009). However, the species was subsequently observed on 27 April 2023 by Anuranjan Singh Dhurwey (Park Guide, Kanha Tiger Reserve) and Shrikanth Nayak from Kanha Tiger Reserve (Dhurwey & Nayak 2023). Within the broader region, there are records from the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amravati District, Maharashtra, located c.400



194. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo photographed using a binocular and mobile phone from Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, India.



195. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo showing the chestnut wings, long tail and orangish throat.

Both photos: Sijo K. J.

km south-west of the Kanha Tiger Reserve (eBird 2025), and from the Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary in Khordha District, Odisha situated c.750 km east of the Kanha (Mohapatra et al. 2019). The current observation represents the first photographic documentation of this bird from the region. The species may use Central India and the Eastern Ghats as a passage during migration to southern India and Sri Lanka.

We thank Arun M. K. Baros, Praver Mourya, Yajuvendra Upadhyaya, and Manoj Sharma for giving valuable information and support in publishing this observation.

References

- Chandra, K., Mahabal, A., Gupta, R. P., & Nema, D. K., 2006. Avifauna of Kanha Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh). *Records of the Zoological Survey of India, Occasional Paper No.* 250:3 pr. II., 1-214+12.
- Dhurwey, A. S., & Nayak, S., 2023. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S135164724>. [Accessed on 12 April 2025.]
- Dookia, S., & Gupta, R. P., 2008. Additions to the avifauna of Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. *Indian Birds* 4 (2): 56–59.
- eBird 2025. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/species/chwcuc1/IN-MH-AM>. [Accessed on 12 April 2025.]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*, 2nd edn. Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm, London. Pp. 1–528.
- Mohapatra, R. K., Purohit, S., Ray, S. S., Sahoo, A. A., Panda, M. K., Panda, B. P., Nanda, S., Sahoo, M., Padhee, B. K., Parmar, M., Biswal, U., Parida, S. P., Das, J. K., Paul, S., 2019. Addition of some bird species to checklist of Nandankanan wildlife sanctuary, Odisha. *International Journal of Avian & Wildlife Biology* 4 (3): 80–85.
- Payne, R. B. & Kirwan, G. M., 2020. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.chwcuc1.01>. [Accessed on 12 April 2025.]
- Thakur, S., 2009. Additions to the bird list of Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. *Indian Birds* 4 (5): 160.

– Anand T. M., Jaya Rakesh, & Sijo K. J.

Anand T. M., Thekkevila Veedu, DDRA 306, Kooliyottukonam, Kudappanakunnu, PO Thiruvananthapuram 695043, Kerala. Email: anandtm19@gmail.com [Corresponding Author] [ATM]
Jaya Rakesh, 40 Sarjapur Road, Doddakannelli, Chikkanayakanahalli, Chikkakannalli, Bengaluru 560035, Karnataka. Email: jayaarakesh@gmail.com

Sijo K. J., Karimbimoolayil house Edayoorkunnu, Kartikulam, PO Wayanad 670646, Kerala. Email: sijokj30@gmail.com

A Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* in the Sumin Reserved Forest, Sikkim, India

The Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* is a resident of the Eastern Himalaya and the hills of northeastern India and inhabits the broad-leaved evergreen forests in tropical and subtropical zones (Grimmett et al. 2011). In Assam, it has been reported as a common winter migrant to Nameri National Park (Barua et al. 2005). Outside India, it is common in China, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sumatra, Nepal, and Bhutan (Collar & Robson 2020). Both males and females resemble each other, and they can be easily distinguished from other sibilas by their distinctive long, white-tipped, graduated tails, crimson irises, and a white patch on the wings (Collar & Robson 2020).

On 16 January 2025, we were returning home after birdwatching at Sumin Reserve Forest (27.235°N, 88.551°E; 1670 m asl). At 1030 h, we observed a flock of 12 birds with long tails feeding on the nectar of Ghurpis *Leucosceptrum canum* flowers. At first, we ignored them, assuming they were Grey Treepies *Dendrocitta formosae*, but after a few seconds, we realized they seemed different, so we observed them again carefully. Unsure of their identity, we immediately opened the Merlin app and searched for “long tail.” The top result was Long-tailed Sibia, and upon comparison, we felt confident in the identification, adding another lifer to our list. A check of its eBird range map indicated the species is sparsely distributed. Since there was no network coverage at the site, we walked downhill for ten minutes to call senior birders for confirmation. While they suggested it might be a different species, we remained convinced it was a Long-tailed Sibia, having already verified the identification on Merlin and matched it with the plates in Grimmett et al. (2011). We then returned to the site, obtained photographs and videos using binoculars and a phone camera, and sent them to Rozen Dhungel and Dibyendu Ash. They confirmed the identification. The sighting was subsequently uploaded to eBird (2025) and confirmed as a Long-tailed Sibia by the reviewer. Since our initial images were of low resolution, we informed fellow birders Kanchan Rai and Ranjeet Subba, who later captured high-resolution photographs [196], which were featured in newspapers such as *The Voice of Sikkim* and *The Echo of India*.

Historical records indicate multiple sightings and preserved specimens of the Long-tailed Sibia from Sikkim and the nearby areas of Darjeeling and eastern Nepal, including the three syntypes by Hodgson from Nepal at the Natural History Museum, London (Sharpe 1883:402). Sharpe also listed four more skins from Nepal and three from Darjeeling (Sharpe 1883:402). GBIF (2025a) lists a specimen (CUMV#11915) collected by Frank S. Wright in 1860 from an unspecified location in Sikkim. Stevens (1923) reported observing a large party of Long-tailed Sibilas feeding on ‘Simul’ (*Bombax*) flowers and noted their occurrence beyond Singtam in the Tista Valley at 1,800 m asl during February and March 1920; he later collected a nest and egg (NHMUK#E1925.12.25.6647 in GBIF 2025b) as well as specimens (FMNH #84840) from Sikkim (Field Museum of Natural History 2025). Additionally, five historical specimens from Darjeeling were listed from the Indian



Kanchan Rai

196. Long-tailed Sibia, Sumin Reserved Forest, Sikkim.

Museum (Finn 1901:70). Ali (1962) also mentioned the species for Sikkim. No photographic or any other published records from the state exist after his account. Acharya & Vijayan (2010) likewise contain no record. Consequently, the recent sighting at Sumin after more than six decades represents a significant ornithological record for Sikkim.

We express our sincere gratitude to Dibyendu Ash, Kushal Gurung, and Rozan Dhungel for helping identify the bird, and to Prem Kumar Chhetri from the Forest Department of Sikkim for guiding us in manuscript preparation.

References

- Acharya, B. K., & Vijayan, L., 2010. Status and distribution of endemic and threatened birds of the Eastern Himalaya in Sikkim, India *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 2(2):685–689.
- Ali, S., 1962. *The Birds of Sikkim*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi pp.214.
- Barua, M., & Sharma, P., 2005. The Birds of Nameri National Park, Assam, India. *Forktail* 21:25–26.
- Collar, N., & C. Robson, C., 2020. Long-tailed Sibia (*Heterophasia picaoides*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.lotsib1.01>
- eBird, 2025. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S209458200> [Accessed on 09 September 2025.]
- Field Museum of Natural History, 2025. CC BY-NC 4.0. Website URL <https://collections-zoology.fieldmuseum.org/catalogue/876445> [Accessed on 09 August 2025.]
- Finn, F., 1901. *List of the birds in the Indian Museum. Part I. Families Corvidae, Paradisidae, Ptilonorhynchidae and Crateropodidae*. Indian Museum, Calcutta. Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Pp. i–xvi, 1–115.
- GBIF, 2025a. Long-tailed Sibia specimen from Sikkim. Webpage URL: <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/1852382876> [Accessed on 09 August 2025]
- GBIF, 2025b. Long-tailed Sibia specimen from Sikkim. Webpage URL: <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/1291523656> [Accessed on 09 August 2025]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp.1–528.
- Sharpe, R. B., 1883. *Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the collection of the British Museum. Cichlomorphae: Part IV. Containing the Concluding Portion of the Family Timelidae (Babbling-Thrushes)*. British Museum of Natural History, London. Vol. VII of 27 vols. Pp. i–xvi, 1–698.