

## References

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1987. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Cuckoo-shrikes to babaxes*, 2nd (Hardback). (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press, Delhi. Vol. 5 of 10 vols. Pp. i-xvi, 1-278+2+8 ll.
- Antczak, M., Hromada, M., & Tryjanowski, P., 2005. Spatio-temporal changes in Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* impaling behaviour: from food caching to communication signs. *Ardea* 93 (1):101-107.
- Caro, T., 2005. *Antipredator Defenses in Birds and Mammals* (S. Girling, ed). University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA. Pp. 592.
- Lefranc, N., 1997. *Shrikes. A guide to the shrikes of the world*, 1st edn. Yale University Press; Pica Press, New Haven; London. Pp. 1-192.
- Olsson, V., 1984. The winter habits of the Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. III Hunting methods. *Vår Fågelvärld* 43:405-414.
- Probst, R., Wegleitner, S., & Schmid, R., 2003. Relationship of Vertebrate Prey Size to Transport Mode and Distance in the Northern Shrike. *The Wilson Bulletin* 115 (2):201-204.
- Sangha, H. S., Maclean, G. L., & Kirwan, G. M., 2025. Indian Courser (*Cursorius coromandelicus*), version 2.0. In *Birds of the World* (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.
- Schön, M., 1994. Characteristics of the habitats of the Great Grey Shrike *Lanius e. excubitor* in the region of the southwestern Schwäbische Alb, Southwestern Germany: seasonal utilization and territory-size, structural characteristics and their changes, micro-structures and cultivation. *Ökologie der Vögel* 16.
- Sureja, N. J., Radadia, H. R., Patel, J. B., & Chovatiya, S. K., 2021. Notes on the breeding behaviour of Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* from Khijadiya, Jamnagar District, Gujarat, India. *Buceros* 26 (1):15-22.
- Yosef, R., International Shrike Working Group, I., Sharpe, C. J., Marks, J. S., & Kirwan, G. M., 2025. Great Gray Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), version 1.1. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, E. de Juana, and M. G. Smith, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.
- Yosef, R., & Pinshow, B., 2005. Impaling in true shrikes (Laniidae): A behavioral and ontogenetic perspective. *Behavioural Processes* 69 (3):363-367.
- **Ratnakar Hiremath, Shivanand B. Hiremath & Raghvendra S. Vanjari**  
Ratnakar S. Hiremath, Krantisinh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science, Shirwal, Satara 412801, Maharashtra, India. Email: [ratnakarhiremath2633@gmail.com](mailto:ratnakarhiremath2633@gmail.com)  
[Corresponding author]  
Shivanand B. Hiremath, Siddheshwar Highschool, Solapur 413001, Maharashtra, India.  
Raghvendra S. Vanjari, Department of Zoology, Walchand College of Arts and Science, Solapur 413006, Maharashtra, India

## Addition of the Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans* to the avifauna of Jammu & Kashmir, India

In this note, we report the sighting of a Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans* near Kalakote (33.242°N, 74.440°E), Rajouri District, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

On 25 November 2025, SKB, AR, their daughter, and HK visited the area for birdwatching and reached the site at 1015 h. At 1110 h, while observing birds along a small hill stream, we noticed a drongo sallying for insects from a tree branch. Shortly afterwards, the bird was displaced by Large-billed Crows *Corvus macrorhynchos*, forcing the drongo to fly away. Thereafter, a distinctive metallic call was heard from the surrounding pine *Pinus* sp. trees. We followed the call and soon spotted the bird perched on the top of a pine tree. It was identified as a Crow-billed Drongo [131], on the basis of a broad tail with shallow fork, white spotting on the underparts, and the characteristic stouter bill (Grimmett et al. 2011). We took some photographs and shared them with GPS who confirmed the identification as a first-winter Crow-billed Drongo.

In the Indian Subcontinent, the Crow-billed Drongo breeds in the Himalayan foothills from Uttarakhand eastwards through the north-eastern India and winters mainly in Bangladesh and the adjoining north-eastern India (Rocamora & Yeatman-Berthelot 2020). There are no previous records of this species from Jammu & Kashmir (Kichloo et al. 2024; Kichloo 2025). In the



131. Crow-billed Drongo near Kalakote, Rajouri District, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

Photo: Sachin Kumar Bhagat/Anu Ramotira

area between the present location and the eastern Uttarakhand, this species has been reported only from Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh (Abhinav et al. 2019; eBird 2025).

This observation constitutes the first record of the Crow-billed Drongo from Jammu & Kashmir and extends the known distribution of the species further north-west in the Western Himalaya. The record also suggests that suitable habitat for the species may exist in the Kalakote region and adjoining areas.

## References

- Abhinav, C., Vikrant, A., & Dogra, P., 2019. Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*, Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans*, and Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* in Col. Sher Jung National Park, Simbalbara: Additions to the birds of Himachal Pradesh. *Indian Birds* 14 (6):183-185.
- eBird 2025. Species maps: Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans*. Website URL: <https://ebird.org/map/crbdro1> [Accessed on 29 November 2025.]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*, 2nd edn. Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm, London. Pp. 1-528.
- Kichloo, M. A., Sharma, N., Suhail, I., Shagoo, P., & Kumar, P., 2024. A checklist of the birds of Jammu & Kashmir, India. *Indian BIRDS* 19 (6):163-180.
- Kichloo, A. M., 2025. A checklist of the birds of Jammu & Kashmir, India (v2.0). Website URL: <http://www.indianbirds.in/indian-states/> [Date of publication: 01 July 2025.]
- Rocamora, G., & Yeatman-Berthelot, D., 2020. Crow-billed Drongo (*Dicrurus annectans*), 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.

Website URL: <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.crbdro1.01> [Accessed on 29 November 2025.]

– Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Anu Ramotra, Hemant Kumar & Gurpartap Singh

Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Government Degree College, Marh 181206, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

E-mail: [sachinbhagat\\_skb@yahoo.com](mailto:sachinbhagat_skb@yahoo.com) [SKB]

Anu Ramotra, Lecturer, Environmental Sciences, Government Higher Secondary School, Kalakote 185202, District Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

Email: [anuramotra16@gmail.com](mailto:anuramotra16@gmail.com) [AR]

Hemant Kumar, Billawar 184204, District Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir, India.

E-mail: [hemantzyx@gmail.com](mailto:hemantzyx@gmail.com) [HK]

Gurpartap Singh, 1969, Sector 64, Mohali 160062, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab, India. E-mail: [prof.gurpartap.singh@gmail.com](mailto:prof.gurpartap.singh@gmail.com) [GPS] [Corresponding author]

### The Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* in Assam

The Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* is a distinctive waterbird, easily recognized by its long, curved bill and streaked brown plumage (Smith et al. 2025). It has a white underbelly marked with dark streaks, a mottled brown and gray back, and a prominent white stripe above the eye that contrasts with the dark crown and nape. On 04 October 2024, at 1507 h, I observed a Whimbrel resting near the sand dunes of Khabolughat on the Subansiri River in Upper Assam's North Lakhimpur district. Despite the rain, the bird displayed typical behavior and allowed close observation. I photographed the individual [132] and recorded a video, later confirming the identification.



Photo: Jugal Borah

132. Whimbrel Khabolughat, Subansiri River, Assam.

This record represents the first documented photographic evidence of the Whimbrel in Assam. Earlier surveys, including

those by Stevens (1914, 1915a,b) and Betts (1956), did not record the species in the Subansiri floodplains. Historical accounts, however, include the sighting of a small flock in Lakhimpur in 1900 and individuals shot in North Cachar (present-day Dima Hasao district) in 1899 (Baker 1929), but specimens remain untraced. There is also a mention of the species from Dibru-Saikhowa (Choudhury 2006, 2009), though the number of birds and exact locations were not specified.

Highly migratory, the Whimbrel has a wide global distribution. In India, it is most frequently recorded along the coasts but also occurs in inland wetlands. Records from much of inland north-eastern India, however, remain scarce. The lack of systematic surveys, particularly along river floodplains outside the birding season, further limits our understanding of seasonal movements in the region. Although not a rare waterbird (Skeel et al. 2020), this observation highlights the underexplored biodiversity of the Subansiri floodplains and their importance as stopover sites for both resident and migratory species. This record makes a significant contribution to Assam's ornithological documentation. It also adds to our understanding of the Whimbrel's distribution in India, particularly with respect to inland flyways.

We confirmed the identification with the help of Shyamal Saikia, Manash Pratim Medhi, Sutirtha Lahiri, Leons Mathew, and Binanda Hatibaruah, to whom I express my sincere gratitude.

### References

- Baker, E. C. S., 1929. *The Fauna of British India: including Ceylon and Burma (Vol. 6)*. Taylor & Francis. Pp: 203–205.
- Betts, F. N., 1956. Notes on birds of the Subansiri area, Assam. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. 53 (3): 397–414.
- Choudhury, A., 2006. Birds of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Biosphere Reserve, Assam, India. *Indian Birds* 2 (4): 95–105.
- Smith, M. G., Skeel, M. A., Mallory, E. P., & Pyle, P., 2025. Eurasian Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whimbr5.01>
- Stevens, H., 1914. Notes on the birds of Upper Assam. Part I. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. 23 (2): 234–268.
- Stevens, H., 1915a. Notes on the birds of Upper Assam. Part II. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. 23 (3): 547–570.
- Stevens, H., 1915b. Notes on the birds of Upper Assam. Part III. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. 23 (4): 721–736.

– Jugal Borah

Jugal Borah, North Lakhimpur, Assam, India.

E-mail: [cbipb9054l@gmail.com](mailto:cbipb9054l@gmail.com).

## Errata



133. An Indian Vulture in flight at Vaibhargiri Hill and a large flock at Rajgir Zoo area.

In the last issue (IB 22(1): 32A), we covered a photograph (#76) of a vulture from Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, India labelled as an Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*. However, it is in fact a juvenile Himalayan Vulture *G. himalayensis*. The mistake is regretted. The correct photo of the Indian Vulture that should have accompanied that article is presented here [133], which indeed is an Indian Vulture. Our thanks to Adhithyan N.K. for spotting this mistake.