

# Further notable bird records from Bangladesh

PAUL M. THOMPSON AND DAVID L. JOHNSON

Details are given of 23 species new for Bangladesh that were recorded between June 1993 and June 2002, or that were inadvertently omitted from the most recent national checklist (Harvey 1990), or Thompson *et al.* (1993). New sightings and information are given for a further 101 species that either have few records since 1978, or for which there have been major changes in known status, or for which there is uncertainty over status. In addition, nine species of doubtful occurrence are discussed, and the status of threatened and Near Threatened species is updated where appropriate. Following a peace agreement, it has been possible to travel in many areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts since late 1998; this area had been closed to outsiders since the 1960s. This has opened the possibility of rediscovering many species known in Bangladesh only from older or uncertain records, but unfortunately most of the original forest cover of this area has now been lost.

## INTRODUCTION

Harvey (1990) summarised the current status of birds in Bangladesh and included in his list a number of species new for Bangladesh. This was updated and expanded by Thompson *et al.* (1993). The purpose of this paper is to further update status information on birds in Bangladesh. Species discussed in this paper fall into three main categories: (1) species new for Bangladesh in the period June 1993 to June 2002 (marked with an asterisk); (2) species previously assumed to occur or which had not been recorded for many years before 1978 and that were recorded between June 1993 and March 2003; and (3) species for which major changes in status have been discovered within this period. Details of all records since June 1993 are given for species with five or fewer records since 1978. For those that have been found to be more frequent, general details of status and peak counts are given. First records for regions of the country are also detailed. It should be noted that 'new' species for Bangladesh are broadly defined, because in many cases previous lists (e.g. Rashid 1967) included species that were assumed to occur, but for which specimens or documented observations were not available. In addition, nine species of doubtful occurrence for which there are recent claims, but that are not proven to have occurred in Bangladesh, are briefly discussed and are shown within square brackets [].

Records are related to regions of Bangladesh (north-west, south-east, etc.) in the following list. The regions used in Harvey (1990) have been revised, and the boundaries are shown in Figure 1, along with the locations of the 71 sites mentioned in the text. Place names follow current usage in official documents and maps in Bangladesh, but it should be noted that there are often alternative transliterations in common usage. One place name change adopted is the name Lawachara forest. This is the area of natural forest and old plantations within West Bhanugach Reserve Forest referred to in Thompson *et al.* (1993), all observations attributed to that forest in fact came from the Lawachara section of the forest. The term *haor* refers to saucer-shaped depressions bounded by river levees in the north-east of the country, which, during the monsoon (wet

season), are flooded and merge to form a vast inland sea. In the dry season, the water area is reduced to a number of lakes, termed *beels*, within each haor. The term *char* refers to recently accreted sandy-silt islands located in the main rivers and coastal areas.

An important change that has taken place within the period covered by this paper is that a peace agreement was developed for the Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1998. Since late 1998 it has been possible for both Bangladeshi and foreign birders to travel to many areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, an area that had been largely closed to outsiders since the 1960s, although access and the security situation can change at short notice. This has opened the possibility of discovering or rediscovering many species known only from older, and in some cases uncertain, records. Notable records from the Hill Tracts, even of species that are likely to be widespread there, are included in this paper, and we hope that this will be an incentive for further ornithological exploration of this fascinating region.

In the following list the global threatened status from the IUCN Red List is indicated as CR (Critically Endangered), EN (Endangered), VU (Vulnerable) or NT (Near Threatened) following Birdlife International (2001). Where different, the national threat status in Bangladesh is indicated as Nationally: cr (critical), Nationally: en (endangered), Nationally: vu (vulnerable), or Nationally: dd (data deficient) following IUCN Bangladesh (2000). This is followed by a comment on the status or occurrence in Bangladesh. The records reported here are all sight records, but in each case have been made by at least one observer with several years of field experience in the region, where possible field notes have been collated and are stored with P.M.T.; additional documentation (photographs and tape recordings) is also noted. The initials of the observers are given as follows: Robert L. Ake (R.L.A.); Nalini Bayen (N.B.); Torborg Berge (T.B.); Jimmy Carter (J.C.); Kashrul Chowdhury (K.C.); W. J. Collis (W.J.C.); J. Nick Dymond (J.N.D.); Sharifin Gardiner (S.Ga.); Steve Goodbread (S.Go.); Ronnie Halder (R.H.); Enam-ul Haque (E.H.); Clive Harris (C.H.); W. G. Harvey (W.G.H.); David L. Johnson (D.L.J.); Minu Johnson (M.J.); Altamash Kabir (A.M.K.); Anisuzzaman Khan (A.K.); Reza Khan (R.K.); Ian

Lockwood (I.L.); Merrick Lockwood (M.L.); the late David Millin (D.J.M.); John O'Malley (J.O.); Sue O'Malley (S.O.); S.M.A. Rashid (S.M.A.R.); Murray

Smith (M.S.); Shahjahan Sarder (S.S.); Paul M. Thompson (P.M.T.); Robert Walton (R.W.); Ann Wheeler (A.W.); Niek P. van Zalinge (N.P.V.Z.); Robert van Zalinge (R.V.Z.).

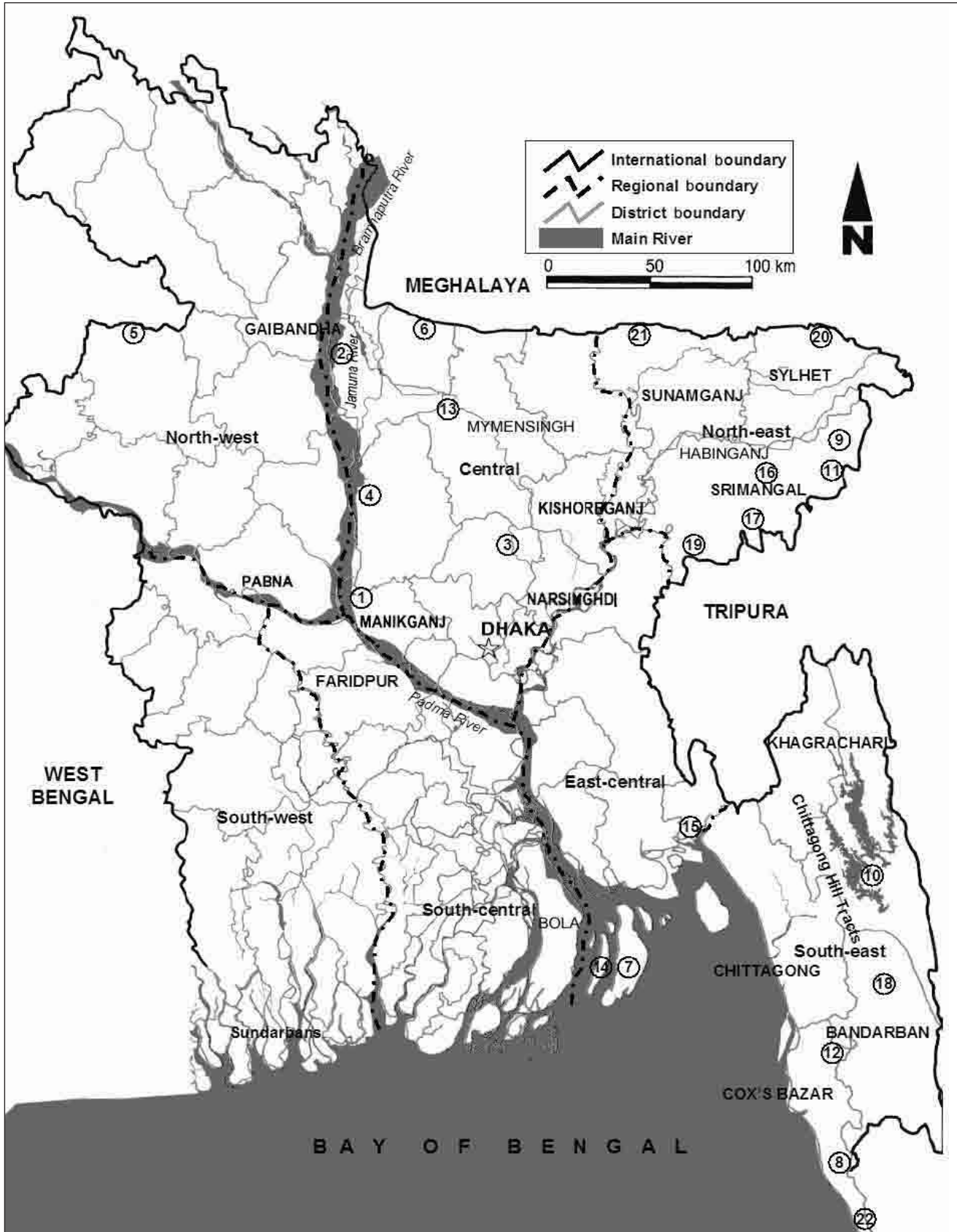


Figure 1. Map of Bangladesh showing locations mentioned in the text. Numbers indicate sites as listed in the Appendix.

## NEW SPECIES AND NOTABLE RECORDS

**BLACK FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus francolinus* Nationally: cr  
Status uncertain. Although widely reported since Simson (1882) in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this species was believed to be extinct within Bangladesh until a female was seen in Modhupur forest (central region) in January 1999 (E.H.). The lack of other records from this site suggests that any population must be very small.

### RAIN QUAIL *Coturnix coromandelica*

A rare or local resident. This species would appear to have been overlooked in the past. The second recent record was from the same location as the earlier record: two in scrub close to forest at Malumghat between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar (south-east region) on 14 March 1994 (D.L.J.). A pair was photographed at Modhukhali in Faridpur district (south-west region) in September 1995 (E.H.). Three were flushed (only one was positively identified – as a male – based on its black breast) from a cut area of catkin grass on a char in the Jamuna river north of Aricha (central region) on 1 December 2000 (P.M.T.). Four or more quail were flushed from the same area of chars on 26 January 2001 (P.M.T. and S.Go.). These could have been this species, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (which is rarely recorded), or Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* (which has yet to be definitely recorded in Bangladesh). Similarly a female at Boalmari, Faridpur district (south-west region) on 5 April 2002 (E.H.) was presumed to be this species.

### GREY PEACOCK PHEASANT *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* Nationally: cr

Rare resident. Although this species has been reported from the forests of south-east Bangladesh by a number of authors since Hume (1888), there are few recent records. It is reported still to occur and to be hunted in hills north of Chittagong (local people verbally to A.M.K. in early 1990s) although there are no specific records. An observation of three at Babuchera, Dighinala in Khagrachari district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) in February 1999 (E.H.) is welcome confirmation of its continued presence in this area.

### FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata*

Scarce winter visitor. There have been continued observations of up to ten per winter, on the Jamuna river and in the haors. There have been no larger counts since 1993, but a male on the lake in Dhaka zoo on 3–16 February 1995 (R.W., P.M.T., N.B.) was the first in the central region and was followed by six at Jahangirnagar university (central region) in February 1999 (E.H.). Two males at Muhuri dam on 29 January 1999 (P.M.T., W.J.C.), and four at the same site in January 2000 (E.H.), were the first in the east-central region.

### \*BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa* VU

Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Khan (1982), the first documented record for Bangladesh was a male with other wintering wildfowl on the lake in

Dhaka zoo (central region) on 6–8 January 1995 (S.M.A.R., A.K., D.L.J., P.M.T.). The male was seen well and photographed. In addition, a probable female was seen twice on 7 January and 17 February 1995 at the same site (D.L.J.); it was distinguished from female Garganey *Anas querquedula* by the loreal spot. The birds were fully winged and in perfect plumage, and associated with a mixed flock of several thousand wintering ducks, notably Common Teal *Anas crecca* and Garganey. We are not aware of any Baikal Teal ever being kept in the zoo collection, and no free-flying wildfowl are kept in the zoo. Subsequently, a male was video-recorded in a large flock of ducks on Pana beel (north-east region) on 23 February 2001 (R.H.). With a scatter of records from northern India, including Bihar, West Bengal and Assam (Birdlife International 2001) the occurrence of this species was to be expected.

### RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Rhodonessa rufina*

Local winter visitor. Small numbers were recorded in winters following the previous peak count in 1992–1993 (Thompson *et al.* 1993), until there were unprecedented counts of over 13,000 in Pashua and Tanguar haors (north-east region) on 20–21 January 2001 (E.H.) and about 40,000 in Tanguar haor in February 2002 (R.L.A., R.H., D.L.J.), where similar numbers were present in February 2003 (E.H., R.H.).

### FERRUGINOUS POCHARD *Aythya nyroca* NT

Local winter visitor. Typical wintering counts in Bangladesh (almost all in the haors) are in the low thousands, so an estimated 70,000–90,000 in haors in Sunamganj district, mainly Tanguar haor (E.H., R.L.A., R.H., D.L.J.), in February 2002, is notable considering the apparent decline in other parts of its range (BirdLife International 2001).

### BAER'S POCHARD *Aythya baeri* VU

Local winter visitor. The only notable counts in this period were of 28 (filmed) in the Jamuna river near Gaibandha (north-west region) on 25 January 2002 (E.H.), and 70 on Tanguar haor (north-east region) on 24–25 February 2002 (E.H.).

### GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Rare winter visitor. The fourth record was of a male at Halir haor (north-east region) on 20 January 1995 with a flock of Tufted Ducks *Aythya fuligula* (P.M.T., R.W., S.M.A.R., A.K.). This bird was in the same flock as the record of Smew *Mergellus albellus* listed below, and the flock also contained what was considered to be a male *Aythya* hybrid resembling a Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, and presumed to be a cross between Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Tufted Duck, based on information in Madge and Burn (1988).

### \*SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Vagrant. The first record was a female or immature male watched closely in a flock of diving ducks from a boat on Halir haor (north-east region) on 20 January 1995 (P.M.T., R.W., A.K., S.M.A.R.). Although considered possible by Rashid (1967), the closest previous records are from northern Bihar and Assam (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

**GREY-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER** *Picoides canicapillus*  
Locally common resident. Thompson *et al.* (1993) raised the question of whether Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* occurs in the Sundarbans, and of its possible confusion with Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. However, further observations in the Sundarbans (D.L.J. and P.M.T.) confirmed that *D. canicapillus* is common there. No confirmed records of *D. nanus* in Bangladesh since 1978 have come to light. Although *D. canicapillus* is rarely recorded in Lawachara forest, it has been recorded in more open forest in Satcheri (north-east region) on several occasions, it is common in Modhupur forest (central region), and it was recorded several times in forest patches at 900 m near the international border in Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts on 7 January 2000 (P.M.T., D.L.J.).

**YELLOW-CROWNED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*  
Rare; status uncertain. Although the first published record is apparently from 1944–1945 in the east-central region (Collins 1948), and this species has been listed in a number of subsequent publications and mapped as occurring in the west of the country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), there were no recent records until one was photographed in acacia trees within the Karnaphuli export processing zone by the Karnafuli river in Chittagong (south-east region) on 8 March 2002 (E.H.). This is well outside the expected range, but matches records of another species more typical of drier woodland further west – Black-headed Cuckooshrike *Coracina melanoptera* – from the same location. However Yellow-crowned Woodpecker occurs locally and disjunctly in South-East Asia, for example in south-west Myanmar (Robson 2000), unlike the cuckooshrike.

**PALE-HEADED WOODPECKER** *Gecinulus grantia*  
Rare resident. The second and third recent records were of two together in mature bamboo forest near Madhaphkhundo waterfall (north-east region) on 15 December 1996 (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H.), and a female in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 18 May 2001 (P.M.T.).

**BAY WOODPECKER** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*  
Rare resident. This species has been recorded in the past from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, for example by Ali and Ripley (1987), but away from that region the only recent records are of one near Madhaphkhundo waterfall (north-east region) on 17 January 1990 (D.L.J., M.J.) and one at the same site in February 2000 (E.H.). Observations of 2–3 in dead trees in bamboo forest at about 950 m above sea level near Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on 7 and 8 January 2000 confirmed its continued presence in that region (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H., E.H.).

**HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Hemicircus canente*  
Vagrant? The second recent record was a single bird in forest north of Inani (south-east region) on 21 January 1997 (J.N.D.). This forest patch supported a high diversity of forest birds, but has subsequently been cleared (D.L.J. pers. obs.).

**GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER** *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*  
Rare resident. Although reported from Bangladesh by Husain (1967) and included in subsequent lists, there were no records since 1977, and this species was thought likely to be extinct in Bangladesh given the lack of large areas of forest that might support the species. However, on 23 November 2002, a party of four (two adults and one juvenile keeping close to the adults, the fourth bird was not seen well) were watched and video-recorded at close quarters in 'Dulahazara Safari Park' (E.H.). This site is actually a small area of protected, good quality forest contiguous with Malumghat forest in the south-east region between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. The juvenile was free-flying but not adept at feeding (attempting to catch flying insects while the male excavated in the tree trunk). The adults are presumed to have bred in this or neighbouring areas, since this is a relatively isolated area of forest. Surprisingly, considering that it is a relatively well-watched site, a single bird was subsequently seen and also filmed in Satcheri forest (north-east region) in March 2003 (R.H., E.H.).

**GREAT BARBET** *Megalaima virens*  
Rare resident? Although listed for the hill tracts of Bangladesh by Ripley (1982), the first recent record was of one photographed near Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district (Chittagong Hill Tracts, south-east region) in April 1999 (E.H.), several were recorded from the same area on 7 and 8 January 2000 (D.L.J., R.H.).

**GREAT HORNBILL** *Buceros bicornis* NT; Nationally: cr  
Possibly rare visitor. No observations were made during this period, but local people in Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east region reported to R.H. and E.H. that this distinctive species is a seasonal visitor around October each year to forest fragments in the area. Movements may be associated with fruiting seasons; the birds may come from elsewhere in the Hill Tracts or from neighbouring India or Myanmar (both borders being about 10 km distant).

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** *Halcyon coromanda* Nationally: vu  
Status uncertain: possibly rare resident. The second documented recent record is of one at Nilddoomoor in the south-west Sundarbans on 6 June 1994 (R.H.). Two were photographed at Katka near the coastal edge of the Sundarbans in July 2000 (E.H.), and local tour guides report that this species is occasionally seen in this area.

**VIOLET CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*  
Rare resident or migrant. There were four recent records up to 1993; the only record since is of a female in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 5 July 1997 (D.L.J., P.M.T.).

**ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET** *Psittacula eupatria* Nationally: cr  
Status uncertain: possibly rare resident. Although historically reported breeding in the Sundarbans by Rainey (1875), and from Sylhet (Hume 1888), this species had been suspected but not definitely recorded since 1977. The only recent confirmed record is of one

in Modhupur forest (central region) on 2 February 2002 (D.L.J., R.L.A.). At best, this species is surviving in very small numbers.

[PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Status uncertain: possibly rare resident or escape. Although there are published records attributed to this species from Faridpur (Cripps 1878) and Pabna (Husain and Sarker 1971), there were no records since 1977 until a group of one male and at least three females or juveniles were seen in Dhaka botanical gardens (central region) during 3–10 August 2001 (P.M.T., J.C., D.L.J.). However, this species is sold in the local cage-bird trade along with other species from central India, and in early 2003 there were over 50 in cages in the nearby Dhaka zoo, so it is possible that these were escapes, although the birds were wary and elusive.]

HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET *Collocalia brevirostris*

Scarce winter visitor. Six records were detailed in Thompson *et al.* (1993) and there have been a number of subsequent records from the north-central, north-east and south-east regions. Only high counts are given here: at least ten over a river near Gazni forest (central region) on 16 December 1993 (D.L.J., R.H.), and recorded on 8–10 January 2000 (up to two per day) between Darjeelingpara, Thamchi and Ruma in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east region (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H., E.H.).

WHITE-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL *Zonavena sylvatica*

Vagrant or passage migrant. Recorded from Sylhet without further details by Ali and Ripley (1987). The first recent record was of 5–10 in a mixed flock of over 50 swifts over cliffs behind the coast 3 km south of Inani, between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf in the south-east region on 9 and 10 March 1994 (D.L.J.). They were distinguished from Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* in the same flock by their small size, fast wing-beats and white rump and vent; House Swift *Apus affinis* were also present in the same flock for comparison.

\*SILVER-BACKED NEEDLETAIL *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*  
Vagrant or passage migrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Husain (1979) and Khan (1982), and considered likely to occur in the hill tracts of Bangladesh by Ali and Ripley (1987), there appear to be no documented records on which its inclusion in those lists was based. The first confirmed record is therefore of one over Malumghat forest (south-east region) with Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* on 6 March 1994 (D.L.J.). Subsequently several were seen in a mixed flock of swifts over cliffs behind the coast 3 km south of Inani, between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf (south-east region) on 9 and 10 March 1994 (D.L.J.). In comparison with Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*, their smaller size, paler back and squarer white vent could be seen when close.

BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL *Hirundapus giganteus*

Vagrant or passage migrant. Although Ali and Ripley (1987) reported that this species occurs in the hill tracts, presumably Chittagong Hill Tracts, there are no recent or detailed records. The first recent record is of several

in a flock of over 50 swifts over cliffs behind the coast 3 km south of Inani between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf in the south-east region on 9 and 10 March 1994 (D.L.J.). Compared with Silver-backed Needletail, their large size was apparent, with slower wing-beats; the extent of white from the vent to the upper flanks was visible from some distance, but the white loreal spot was only seen at close range.

SPOT-BELLIED EAGLE OWL *Bubo nipalensis* Nationally: en  
Rare resident. Between 1978 and 1993 this species was recorded by several observers, mainly from Modhupur forest (central region) and from the forest patches in the north-east region. The most recent, and only record since 1993, is of one near Madhapkhundo waterfall (north-east region) on 15 December 1996 (D.L.J., R.H.).

DUSKY EAGLE OWL *Bubo coromandus*

Rare resident. Although there were five records up to January 1993, all from Modhupur forest, the only record since from this site was one on 30 November 1996 (D.L.J.). This species may have been lost from this well-watched site where the few remaining large trees continue to be felled. One heard and seen in a bamboo grove at Ashulia near Dhaka on 29 October 2001 (R.H., D.L.J.) and at the same site in 2002 (R.H.) was unusual and suggests this species may survive in village groves.

BROWN WOOD OWL *Strix leptogrammica*

Local resident. Since 1993 this species has been recorded on many visits to Modhupur forest, and at three other locations: one in Lawachara forest and several in Satcheri forest in the north-east region, and several in the south-west region in the Sundarbans (D.L.J.). It seems likely that it is resident in most remaining forest areas in the north-east, central, and south-west regions.

[JUNGLE OWLET *Glaucidium radiatum*

Status uncertain. Although reported by Lister (1951), the recent records from the 1980s and 1990s, for example in Harvey (1990), should now be regarded as not proven since there are no recent definite sightings, and recent records based on call were confused with some of the calls of Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*, which is a locally common to uncommon resident, for example in Lawachara forest (north-east region).]

HODGSON'S FROGMOUTH *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*

Rare, status uncertain. Although listed for the hill tracts by several authors, for example Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there were no records between 1978 and 1993. One was heard calling and watched perched upright about 3 m above the ground on a low tree on the edge of a clearing in Modhupur forest on 6 January 1996 (D.L.J., R.H., N.B.). The two-note call sounding similar to a car trying to start with a nearly dead battery, and repeated every 10–15 seconds, initially drew attention. Once located it was identified as a male; the large bill, dark brown (not rufous-brown) mottled plumage, four white scapular spots, and long tail with evenly spaced paler bands, were seen at dusk.

**GREAT EARED NIGHTJAR** *Eurostopodus macrotis*  
Rare or localised resident. There were two recent records prior to June 1993 (Thompson *et al.* 1993) but the only record since is of one at Madhapkhundo (north-east region) in February 2000 (E.H.).

**PIN-TAILED GREEN PIGEON** *Treron apicauda* Nationally: CR  
Rare, possibly a nomad from neighbouring hills. The second record was of one in late December 1995 in Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary in the north-east region (A.K.).

**WEDGE-TAILED GREEN PIGEON** *Treron sphenura*  
Rare resident. The second record was of five in a fruiting tree with many Pompadour Green Pigeons *Treron pompadora* at Satcheri forest on 26 March 1995 (D.L.J.). This was followed by an unprecedented observation (filmed) of nesting at the same site on 15 April 2001 (D.L.J., R.H.). This site is approximately 50 m above sea level; Grimmett *et al.* (1998) note its altitudinal range to be normally above 1500 m.

\***MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL PIGEON** *Ducula badia*  
Rare visitor or resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Bangladesh was not included in its range by Ali and Ripley (1987) and there appear to be no confirmed records. The first records are from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where at least two were seen and photographed in remnant forest at 900 m above sea level near Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district on 7 January 2000 (P.M.T.), and one was seen in a largely deforested valley at around 700 m above sea level near Baklai village in Bandarban district on 9 January 2000 (D.L.J., E.H., R.H., P.M.T.). This species could be resident in the hill tracts, but further observations are needed to confirm this.

**MASKED FINFOOT** *Heliopais personata* VU; Nationally: EN  
Rare resident. Since the mid-1990s, when regular tour boats have visited the Sundarbans mangrove forests, this species has been seen by many observers, including the authors, along Katka *khal* (a natural canal or channel) in Kochikhali Tiger Reserve in the southern edge of the Sundarbans, where a pair or possibly two pairs (N.P.V.Z.) appear to be resident. In addition, there are a few records from other locations in the central area of the Sundarbans from along the main channels. However, in most of the Sundarbans, the small channels preferred by this species have rarely if ever been explored for birds, and so this species may well be more widespread.

[**LITTLE CRAKE** *Porzana parva*  
Possible vagrant. Following a review of the record published by Thompson *et al.* (1993), and despite a subsequent possible sighting in 1996 by the same observers, the descriptions are considered inadequate in view of potential confusion with Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (which is now known to be a regular winter visitor to larger wetlands) and we have withdrawn these records.]

**EURASIAN WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*  
Rare winter visitor. First recorded in Bangladesh by Hume (1888). The only recent record is of one shot on 10 March 1992 at Amo tea estate near Raghunandanpur

forest in Habiganj district (north-east region; A.M.K. pers. comm. to E.H. 2002).

**NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK** *Tringa guttifer* EN  
Scarce winter visitor. The only record since 1992 of this globally threatened species is of two at Patenga beach (south-east region) on 4 November 1994 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.). However, the coastal areas where this species has been recorded are difficult to access and are rarely visited by observers.

**GREY-TAILED TATTLER** *Heteroscelus brevipes*  
Rare passage migrant. All records after the first (Thompson *et al.* 1993) have been from the same location, Patenga in the south-east region, and all have been in late April or early May. Four were seen together on 7 May 1994 (D.L.J., R.W., R.H.), two were seen on 28 April 1995 (D.L.J.), two were roosting with other waders on a fish-pond on 3 May 1997 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.), and one was at the same high tide roost on 5 May 2001 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.). This species appears to be a rare spring migrant on the coast of south-east Bangladesh; there are no winter or autumn records, and the only other record from elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent is from Goa in 2001 (*Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 35: 85).

**ASIAN DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus semipalmatus* NT  
Rare winter visitor. There were a few records from before 1993 of this species, mostly from mid-winter waterbird surveys. Apparently the only records since 1993, and the largest known counts in Bangladesh, were a flock of 12 near Hatiya island (east-central region) in January 1995 (A.K., R.K.), and two flocks of eight and 25 near Nizumdip, south-east of Hatiya island on 7 January 1997 (J.N.D.).

**SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Calidris pygmeus* VU  
Rare winter visitor. Since 1993, only small numbers have been recorded. The maximum recorded in this period was c.30 near Nizumdip in the east-central region on 7 January 1997 (A.K.). Other records are of six on Char Bhorunuddin near Hatiya (east-central region) on 8 January 1998 (A.K., T.B., P.M.T.), and three records at Patenga (south-east region): one on 4 November 1994 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.), one on 26 October 1996 (D.L.J.), and one filmed on 6 January 2000 (R.H.).

**LONG-BILLED PLOVER** *Charadrius placidus*  
Vagrant. The record considered possible by Thompson *et al.* (1993) and included in Harvey (1990) is now regarded as confirmed following experience of the observer with the species elsewhere. One was flushed (revealing its narrow wingbar) from the beach near a stream along the coast about 4 km south of Cox's Bazar (south-east region) on 30 November 1977 (D.L.J.).

**NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*  
Rare winter visitor. There were no recent records in the period 1978 to June 1993 covered in Thompson *et al.* (1993), although this species had been listed earlier for Bangladesh (Ali and Ripley 1987). Subsequently, small numbers have been seen regularly in the north-east region: four at Pasua beel, Gurmar haor on 19–20 February 1994 (D.L.J., R.H.), one at the same site on

21 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.) and six there on 9 February 2002 (D.L.J., R.L.A., R.H.); four at Tangua haor on 18 February 1996 (D.L.J., R.H., P.M.T.); and 14 at Aila beel on 18 January 1998 (T.B., A.K.).

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*  
Vagrant. The third recent record, and the only one since 1992, was of one video-recorded at Patenga (south-east region) on 8 February 2002 (E.H. and C.H.).

\*WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* NT  
Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh was an adult (photographed) resting on a sandbank in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river north of Gaibandha (north-west region) on 2 January 1996 (P.M.T.). This species is regularly recorded upstream along the Brahmaputra and main rivers in Assam, for example in Kaziranga (Barua and Sharma 1999) to the north-east of this location, so it is not surprising that one wandered further to the south.

WHITE-RUMPED VULTURE *Gyps bengalensis* CR  
Scarce local resident. This species is still regularly recorded in Bangladesh despite a recent catastrophic decline in numbers particularly in India (BirdLife International 2001). Numbers have declined from the 1980s when it was widespread but not common in Bangladesh. Even so, small groups of up to 20 have been regularly seen in the north-east region (in the haor basin of Sunamganj and near Srimangal), near the Jamuna river (central region), in the north-west region and near and in the Sundarbans (south-west region) during 2001 and early 2002 (many observers including authors).

SLENDER-BILLED VULTURE *Gyps tenuirostris* CR  
Rare resident? This recently recognised species (Rasmussen *et al.* 2001) has been reported from Bangladesh by numerous authors since Bates (1935), but it is generally rare, with only a few records in recent years, mainly from the north-east region (D.L.J., P.M.T. and others). We are not aware of any records in Bangladesh since 2000 and the recent catastrophic decline in vulture numbers in the region.

EURASIAN GRIFFON *Gyps fulvus*  
Vagrant. One feeding on a carcass with White-rumped and Slender-billed Vultures near Juri (north-east region) on 24 February 1995 was filmed and is the second record (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.).

\*HIMALAYAN GRIFFON *Gyps himalayensis*  
Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh was of two immatures (one photographed) originally seen feeding with six White-rumped Vultures on a sandbank in the Jamuna river near Aricha (central region) on 26 January 2001 (P.M.T., S.Go.). Appearing almost twice the size of the other vultures, they took off circling northwards, showing dark upperparts and underparts, with pale streaking, and variable pale bars on the underwing-coverts. This species has wandered as far as Malaysia (Chong 1996); there are apparently no published records outside the Himalayas from the eastern part of the subcontinent (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), but there are previously overlooked specimens from Assam (P. Rasmussen *in litt.* 2003).

CINEREOUS VULTURE *Aegypius monachus*  
Vagrant. The second reported record is apparently of three caught near Narsinghdi (central region) sometime during 2000 or 2001, and kept in Dhaka zoo, with two reported to be still alive in 2002 (E.H., R.H. pers. comm. 2001 from zoo staff).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*  
Vagrant. The second recent record was of a sub-adult male watched for 30 minutes and photographed and video-recorded both perched and flying over a cultivated char in the Jamuna river (central region) north of Aricha on 1 December 2000 (P.M.T., R.H., E.H.). What was presumably the same bird was recorded at the same site on 26 January 2001 (P.M.T., S.Go.).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*  
Vagrant. The third record was a single bird seen flying directly overhead in Modhupur forest on 17 February 1995 (P.M.T., R.W.).

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus*  
Scarce winter visitor. There were four recent records prior to mid-1993. Since then three have been recorded: one at Aila beel (north-east region) on 24 December 1993 (D.L.J.), one over the Jamuna river at Sariakandi (north-west region) on 14 February 1998 (P.M.T.), and two on a char in the Jamuna near Aricha (central region) on 26 December 1999 (D.L.J.).

IMPERIAL EAGLE *Aquila heliaca*  
Rare winter visitor. Thompson *et al.* (1993) detailed five recent records, and the few subsequent records have continued to be from the chars in the combined Brahmaputra and Jamuna river: two near Aricha (central region) on 22 January 1994 (D.L.J., A.W., R.H.), and one immature on a sandbank in the Jamuna river near Gaibandha on 2 January 1996 (P.M.T.).

RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE *Hieraaetus kienerii*  
Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh in a number of publications including Ali and Ripley (1987), there appears to be a lack of any detailed documented record or observations. The only recent record is of a juvenile flying over forest at Inani between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf (south-east region) on 10 March 1994 (D.L.J.). The closest known populations are in the north-east hill states of India.

\*BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*  
Vagrant. Although reported from Bangladesh in Perennou *et al.* (1990), there are no details available supporting this record, so we do not regard it as confirmed. One was watched among a large concentration of waterfowl from a boat on Tangua haor (north-east region) on 7 February 2002 (R.L.A., D.L.J.). In non-breeding plumage, its dusky throat, small square-shaped head, dark ear patch, and thin bill were all clearly seen by observers familiar with this species. There have been a few vagrant records from neighbouring areas in Nepal and possibly Assam (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

[WESTERN REEF EGRET *Egretta gularis*  
Possible vagrant. Although reported from Bangladesh by Mountford and Poore (1968), this species was not

listed by Harvey (1990), and there appear to have been no recent records. There are several possible records from the coastal edge of the Sundarbans in the south-west region, and all were white morph birds: five on Egg island on 6 November 1995 (D.L.J.) showed horn-coloured bills with a yellow base, and greyish legs with yellow feet, one at Tiger Point on 1 December 1997 (D.L.J.) and five at Egg island on 14 October 1999 (D.L.J., M.L.). However, without at least photographic evidence, we treat these as hypothetical records.]

PACIFIC REEF EGRET *Egretta sacra*

Vagrant. There must be some question over the identity of some of the dark morph reef egrets reported as Pacific Reef Egret in Thompson *et al.* (1993) since it is possible that both this and Western Reef Egret can occur in Bangladesh, or that dark morph Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* may occur. However, one record of Pacific Reef Egret is well-documented, and brief details are given here of one first seen at Patenga beach, Chittagong on 31 January 1989 (W.G.H. and D.L.J.): this was a white-phase bird, similar in colour to nearby Little Egrets, but distinguished by its stockier shape and notably short legs; it showed thick head-plumes, a yellowish bill with a dark tip, and greenish legs.

GOLIATH HERON *Ardea goliath*

Vagrant. The third recent record was one reported in the coastal chars near Hatiya island, east-central region, in January 1995 (A.K. and R.K.).

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Vagrant. Although first recorded in what is now Bangladesh by Cripps (1878), and included in a number of subsequent lists, there appear to have been no recent records of wild birds apart from one on Pasua beel, Gurmar haor (north-east region) on 25 December 1993 (D.L.J.) and two photographed at Muhuri dam (east-central region) on 1 February 2001 (E.H., R.H.). A group of up to five have been resident on the lake in Dhaka zoo for the last 15 years or more (Harvey 1990; pers. obs.), but are not considered wild since they are not known to have moved away from the zoo, and their origins are uncertain.

PAINTED STORK *Mycteria leucocephala*

Vagrant. Although this species has been included in many lists of birds from Bangladesh since first being recorded by Tytler (1854), there had been a lack of recent records, with none recorded during 1977–1992 (Thompson *et al.* 1993). A flock of 20 was seen flying over Munshiganj (central region) in February/March 1996 (E.H.), and one was video-recorded on Bhola island (south-central region) in December 2001 (R.H.). This species is believed to be extinct as a breeding species in Bangladesh, and these birds are presumed to be vagrants.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

Rare winter visitor. Prior to June 1993, there were only three documented records (Thompson *et al.* 1993); since then this species has proved to be a regular, but rare, winter visitor to chars in the Jamuna and Padma rivers. Records are as follows: on the Jamuna river (central region) two near Aricha on 22 January 1994 (D.L.J.,

A.W., R.H.), one immature near Aricha on 11 March 1994 (P.M.T.), three together at Nagarbari on 31 January 1995 (P.M.T.), one near Bahadurabad on 3 January 1996 (P.M.T.), and one near Bhuapur on 5 January 1996 (P.M.T.); and on the Padma river near Manikganj (central region) 3–5 on 2 January 1998 (T.B., A.K., E.H., P.M.T.).

[BLACK-NECKED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* NT; Nationally: dd

Vagrant/extinct. Although reported in Bangladesh by several authors since the first reports by Simson (1882), there is a lack of recent records. One was reported to be held in captivity by fishery guards at Pashua haor (north-east region) on 10 March 1998 (C Sawbridge *in litt.* 1998 to D.L.J.), however no further details were provided, so this record is considered likely, but unconfirmed.]

GREATER ADJUTANT *Leptoptilos dubius* EN; Nationally: cr

Vagrant/rare visitor. Although there are many past references to the occurrence of this species in Bangladesh since the first reference (Tytler 1854), there have been very few recent records. There were unconfirmed reports (E.H. pers. comm. 1999 to P.M.T.) of a small group in north-west Bangladesh in the mid-1990s that were presumed to have wandered from Assam, the main stronghold of this species. There is no evidence of breeding now in Bangladesh.

BLUE-NAPED PITTA *Pitta nipalensis*

Scarce resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by a number of authors, and recorded several times in Lawachara forest (north-east region) between 1978 and 1989 (D.L.J.), this species was always elusive, and it was not recorded in the early 1990s. In February 1996, one was seen at the same site (D.L.J., R.H., N.B., P.M.T.). In January 1997, it was found to be common in Lawachara forest, where at least ten were heard calling (J.N.D.); subsequently c.6 were heard in January 1998 (P.M.T., I.L.). From responses to tape playback it has been confirmed as present during the early monsoon (in May–June) at this site, most recently in June 2000 (P.M.T.), although no birds have been seen during the monsoon. The only records away from Lawachara are of two in forest north of Inani (south-east region) on 21 January 1997 (J.N.D.), one calling in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 7 March 1998 (D.L.J.) with another calling at the same site on 15–16 November 2002 (R.H.), and one at Babuchera, Dighinala in Khagrachari district (south-east region) in February 1999 (E.H.). It is therefore presumed that this is a scarce breeding resident, although it appears to be mainly vocal in January–February and is extremely elusive at other times.

[EARED PITTA *Pitta phayrei*

Hypothetical. An exceptional record of a juvenile in Lawachara forest (north-east region) in mid-September 1996, the first for the Indian subcontinent, has already been published (Vestergaard 1998). This is apparently a remarkable range extension. However, we note that some of the other species reported from Lawachara forest in the same paper have not been recorded by other observers in this relatively well-watched site, and we



consider them to be most likely misidentifications, and we are not convinced that this species has occurred in Bangladesh.]

MANGROVE PITTA *Pitta megarhyncha*

Resident, status uncertain. This species has long been known from the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans (Whistler 1934; Paynter 1970), but there were no confirmed reports during 1977–1992, and there is only one more recent record: one photographed at Jamtola khal, Kotka in the Sundarbans (south-west region) on 12 January 2002 (K.C.). This species is presumably resident, but the population size in this still-extensive area of mangroves is unknown owing to the limited amount of fieldwork that has been carried out away from the main river channels.

ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD *Chloropsis hardwickii*

Local resident. Past works (for example Ali and Ripley 1984), included the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) within this species' range, but there were no records between 1978 and 1993. Recent observations from Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts confirm its presence, and it appears to be uncommon in remnant forest patches above c.500 m (D.L.J., R.H., E.H., P.M.T.).

SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE *Lanius meridionalis*

Rare winter visitor. Following taxonomic revisions, the sole recent record from February 1984 (S.M.A.R.) previously reported as Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (Thompson *et al.* 1993) should be assigned to this species.

\*SWINHOE'S MINIVET *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

Rare winter visitor. Not previously reported for Bangladesh, this species was once treated as a subspecies of Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus* and consequently was omitted by mistake in Thompson *et al.* (1993). One was seen by the same observers in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 20 February 1987, and again in the same location on 3 April 1987 (D.L.J., D.J.M., M.S.). Identification was based on it resembling a pale version of Rosy Minivet *P. roseus* without a rosy wash and with a paler rump. The lack of red or yellow in the plumage would appear to exclude the '*stanfordii*' form of *P. roseus* as described by Robson (2000), while the pale tan rump distinguished the bird from Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*. The only subsequent records are a flock of ten in New Samanbagh tea estate near Madhapkhundo waterfall (north-east region) on 24 March 1990 (D.L.J., N.B.) and one with Rosy Minivets in Modhupur forest (central region) on 23 January 1993 (D.L.J., P.M.T.). These constitute the first records for the Indian subcontinent, and occurred in areas where *P. roseus* is a common winter visitor. The closest regular wintering areas for *P. cantonensis* are in southern Myanmar (Robson 2000).

\*ASHY MINIVET *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Rare winter visitor. The first record for Bangladesh was a female observed for 15 minutes in the Dhaka botanical gardens (central region) on 4 December 1993 (D.L.J., A.W.). Compared with Rosy and Swinhoe's Minivets, it looked grey and white with a light-grey face, uniform

grey uppersides from the head to tail, with no contrast on the rump, and no wingbar noticed, white tail-sides and undersides, black feet and a large black bill. Subsequent records are of a male in forest north of Inani (south-east region) on 25 December 1996 (D.L.J., R.H.), and a female in Modhupur forest (central region) on 17 January 1998 (D.L.J., P.M.T.). Although this is a long-distance migrant, and there are several records from southern India (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), these are apparently the first records from the eastern side of the subcontinent other than from the Andaman islands.

SCALY THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*

Vagrant. The second recent record was of one in Satcheri forest in the north-east region on 9 January 1998 (D.L.J., R.H.).

\*LONG-BILLED THRUSH *Zoothera monticola*

Vagrant? Although listed for the Chittagong Hill Tracts by Rashid (1967) and other authors, it is unclear if this was based on documented records. One was watched briefly while it perched on a low branch in a dark steep-sided gully in a forest patch at 950 m near Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 7 January 2000 (P.M.T.). Its very large bill and generally dark appearance, with no markings on the head, were clearly seen. This appears to constitute the first confirmed record.

DARK-SIDED THRUSH *Zoothera marginata*

Rare winter visitor? There was one previous record prior to 1993. One was in forest just above sea level, north of Inani in the south-east region on 21 January 1997 (J.N.D.); one was recorded in Lawachara forest in the north-east region on 7 February 1997 (P.M.T.); and one was watched for about 30 minutes feeding on the ground in forest with a dense bamboo understory near a waterfall at c.900 m between Darjeelingpara and Baklai villages in Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 8 January 2000 (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H., E.H.).

INDIAN GREY THRUSH *Turdus unicolor*

Vagrant. The fourth to sixth recent records were from the central and north-east regions: a male and female in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 2 March 1996 (D.L.J., R.W., I.L.); six feeding on the ground in a loose mixed flock with Black-breasted Thrushes *Turdus dissimilis* and a Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* in Modhupur forest (central region) on 4 January 1997 (D.L.J., J.N.D., P.M.T.); and a female in Bhawal National Park (central region) on 31 January 1997 (R.W.).

EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus*

Rare passage migrant. The third recent record was one away from forest near Sunamganj (north-east region) on 20 February 1995 (J.O.), and was followed by one in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 22 February 1996 (P.M.T., R.H.), and another at the same site in late February 1997 (S.Ga.).

LESSER SHORTWING *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

Rare winter visitor. There were three previous records, all from Lawachara forest (north-east region) where

separate birds were seen on 14 and 15 January 1997 (J.N.D.), and 21 January 1999 (P.M.T.). One presumed male (with a brown back) was watched and tape-recorded singing in a stream-bed near Baklai in Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 9 January 2000 (D.L.J., P.M.T.).

**DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa sibirica*

Rare passage migrant. There were three recent records up to June 1993 (Thompson *et al.* 1993). Since then there have been five records: in the Sundarbans (south-west region), one on Egg island on 7 November 1995 (D.L.J.), and singles at Katka and on Mandarbaria island during 29 October to 1 November 2002 (N.P.V.Z., R.V.Z.); and in the north-east region one was recorded at Surma tea estate on 13 April 2001, and one was in the nearby Satcheri forest on 14 April 2001 (both P.M.T.).

**\*BROWN-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa muttui*

Vagrant. Although regarded as possibly occurring in Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), there are no previous confirmed records. Vestergaard (1998) listed it from Lawachara forest (north-east region) but gave no details, he also reported two other species from this well-watched forest that have not been seen there by other observers – Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense* (resident only in the Sundarbans) and Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* (no confirmed records of this montane species) – so all of these records are treated as hypothetical. One was watched closely and photographed east of Ruma in Bandarban district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 4 April 1999 (R.H., E.H.). Identification was based on the pale lower mandible to its long bill, pale legs and prominent pale moustachial stripe. As this species breeds in the hills of north-east India and winters in southern India (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) it is surprising that it is not recorded more regularly on migration through Bangladesh.

**RUFIOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula strophilata*

Rare winter visitor. Only one recent record was reported by Thompson *et al.* (1993). Since 1993 there have been two records: one male in dense 'reed forest' at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 20 February 1996 (D.L.J.) and one near Boga lake, Bandarban district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 6 April 1999 (R.H.). The 'reed forest' at Tangua haor was formed from an unidentified plant species resembling a stand of dense bamboo, 6–10 m tall, adjacent to the large wetland; several forest birds were present at the same time, but this habitat had been cleared by February 2002.

**SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hyperythra*

Uncommon winter visitor. Thompson *et al.* (1993) listed only two records. Since 1993 this species has been found to be a regular winter visitor but in variable numbers. Records are listed by region: north-west region: one in a small patch of relict Sal forest by the Indian border at Dhamoirhat on 25 November 1995 (P.M.T.); central region: a male on 10 February 1995 at Modhupur forest (R.W.) and a male on 28 January 2000 in Dhaka botanical gardens (P.M.T.); north-east region: in

Lawachara forest there were several in most winters, e.g. two males and two females on 25 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.), several during winter 1995–1996, and two males and a female on 7–9 February 1997 (P.M.T.).

**\*SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula tricolor*

Vagrant. Although considered possible by Rashid (1967), there are no previous confirmed records. A pair were seen together inside the patch of dense reed forest at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 19 and 20 February 1996 (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H.). The birds were attracted by 'pishing' and approached closely. Also a female was seen at close range along a stream in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 21 January 1999 (P.M.T., I.L.). This species occurs in the north-east Indian hill states including Meghalaya, so its occurrence in winter immediately south of Meghalaya was not surprising, although Tangua haor at c.15 m is unusually low.

**\*LARGE NILTAVA** *Niltava grandis*

Vagrant. The first for Bangladesh was a male watched closely for several minutes in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 9 January 1998 (D.L.J.). Although included for Bangladesh in Rashid (1967), this was based on expectation: the nearest populations are in the hills of Meghalaya and Assam (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Satcheri forest is at c. 50 m.

**SMALL NILTAVA** *Niltava macgrigoriae*

Vagrant. The second record of this species was a male near Madhaphkhundo waterfall (north-east region) on 24 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.).

**RUFIOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA** *Niltava sundara*

Rare winter visitor. As with earlier records, the third and fourth records were from the north-east region: a male in Satcheri forest on 19 November 1994 (D.L.J., R.H., N.B.) and a male near Madhaphkhundo waterfall on 24 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.).

**\*PALE BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis unicolor*

Rare winter visitor. Although listed for the Chittagong Hill Tracts by Rashid (1967) and included in subsequent lists by other authors (e.g. Ali and Ripley 1987), there appear to have been no previous documented records. The first confirmed record was a male in an area of forest, which has since been cleared, north of Inani (south-east region) on 25 December 1996 (D.L.J., R.H.). It was seen well, and the colouration was pale blue rather than the green-blue hue of Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*, with a pale belly and vent. Subsequent records comprise: a female in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 15 January 1997 (J.N.D.), a male in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 6 December 1997 (R.H., E.H.), and a female in Lawachara forest on 8 March 2003 (P.M.T., W.J.C.).

**WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT** *Luscinia pectoralis*

Vagrant. The only previous record would appear to be from the Sylhet region in the nineteenth century (Godwin-Austen 1870). A very tame male of the 'Tibetan' subspecies *tschebaiewi* was watched closely

down to 1 m, and photographed inside a stand of dense reed forest at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 19 and 20 February 1996 (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H.).

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN *Luscinia brunnea*

Rare winter visitor and migrant. There was only one record since 1978 (Thompson *et al.* 1993) before a male was watched down to about 10 m while feeding on the ground along a dry stream-bed in a forest patch at 950 m above sea level near Darjeelingpara in Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 7 January 2000 (P.M.T.). Then three males and one female, presumably on migration, were watched for over an hour in a bamboo grove in Dhaka botanical gardens (central region) on 21 April 2001 (P.M.T.).

\*ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Vagrant. The first records for Bangladesh were of two different females or first-winter males, both seen well, near Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 7 January 2000 (P.M.T., D.L.J.). One was seen along a stream in remnant forest while the other was feeding from low perches and the ground, along a trail through dense bamboo on a ridge, at c.950 m. There are a few records of vagrants or winter visitors in the north-east hill states of India (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), so its occurrence in Bangladesh was to be expected.

\*WHITE-BROWED BUSH ROBIN *Tarsiger indicus*

Vagrant or rare winter visitor. Originally reported as White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* (Crosby 1995), further examination of the records with the benefit of better field-guides has resulted in revised identification based on the obvious long white supercilium observed in both birds. The first record was in female plumage seen in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 25 February 1995 (D.L.J.). Another presumed female was seen and tape-recorded in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 2 December 1995 (D.L.J.). There are no previous records and P. Rasmussen (*in litt.* 2003) has traced only one specimen from south of the Brahmaputra river (from the Naga Hills). The altitude of Lawachara and Satcheri forests is c.50 m; according to Grimmett *et al.* (1998) this species normally occurs above 2,000 m, but winters uncommonly to the foothills.

DAURIAN REDSTART *Phoenicurus auroreus*

Vagrant. First recorded for Bangladesh by Hume (1888) from Sylhet region, there were no recent records between 1978 and 1993. A male was watched closely and photographed on the road between Ruma and Bandarban in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 11 January 2000 (P.M.T., D.L.J., E.H., R.H.).

WHITE-CAPPED WATER REDSTART *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Rare winter visitor. There are only four records since mid-1993. The regular site is at Madhapkhundo waterfall (north-east region): two on 29 December 1993, one on 5 December 1996 (both D.L.J.), and one (undated) during winter 2000 (R.H.). Unfortunately this site suffers from increasing disturbance from visitors and tourists since the construction of recreational

facilities in the late 1990s. In addition one was at Shuralong waterfall near Kaptai lake in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 11 December 2001 (R.H.).

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL *Enicurus schistaceus*

Rare visitor? The third recent record since 1978 was of two in Lawachara forest on 11 February 1996 (R.H., N.B.).

JERDON'S BUSHCHAT *Saxicola jerdoni*

Rare winter visitor. There were three recent records up to 1993; the only record since is of a female observed feeding on the edge of a small patch of long grass next to a canal in Pakundia sub-district, Kishorganj district (north-east region) on 31 January 2001 (P.M.T.).

CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH *Sitta castanea*

Rare resident. This species was first recorded in Bangladesh in the Sundarbans (south-west region) by Law (1948), and although included in a number of subsequent lists and publications, mainly for the Sundarbans, it is not clear if these involved additional records; Ali and Ripley (1987) also included the Chittagong Hill Tracts in its range. There were no recent records between 1978 and 1993. One was at sea level in the Sundarbans on 30 January 1998 (R.H. and S.S.), confirming its occurrence in these mangrove forests, although there apparently have been no records in the Indian Sundarbans (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). On 7–8 January 2000, at least three were in forest remnants at 950 m near Darjeelingpara in Bandarban district of Chittagong Hill Tracts, in the south-east region (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H., E.H.).

\*GREEN-BACKED TIT *Parus monticolus*

Vagrant. Rashid (1967) considered this a possible species for Bangladesh. The first confirmed record was of two in a village area near Moulvi Bazar town in the north-east region on 5 December 1997 (T.B.). They were noted as being very similar to the European race of Great Tit *Parus major*, having a greenish back and yellow belly, with a black stripe down the centre of the belly. These are presumed to be winter vagrants from higher altitudes; the normal range extends to Meghalaya to the north of this location, but at not more than 30 m this would appear to be the lowest record.

\*PALE MARTIN *Riparia diluta*

Vagrant/status uncertain. Recently recognised as a separate species from Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (Inskipp *et al.* 1996). The first record for Bangladesh was of one identified in a group of six martins watched closely near the village of Dowlatpur south of Pashua beel, Sunamganj district (north-east region) on 11 February 2002 (R.L.A.). The following features were noted: a diffuse greyish chest band similar to that of Sand Martin, throat pale but not as white as Sand Martin and clearly different from the dark throat of Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*, a minimal tail fork, overall more brownish-grey than the warmer brown upperparts of Sand Martin. The latter species is a regular winter visitor in small numbers to Bangladesh. Grimmett *et al.* (1998) indicate that its status is uncertain but the closest records are from Bihar, India and eastern Nepal.

STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW *Hirundo fluvicola*  
Vagrant. The second record for Bangladesh was of one watched closely and photographed in Monpura town, Monpura island in the eastern delta (east-central region) on 9–10 January 1998 (P.M.T., T.B., A.K.).

ASIAN HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon dasypus*  
Rare winter visitor. The second record was of a single over forest north of Inani in the Cox's Bazar–Teknaf peninsula (south-east region) on 21 January 1997 (J.N.D.).

NEPAL HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon nipalensis*  
Locally common winter visitor, possibly resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by Husain (1979), there are no documented records and it was not listed by Harvey (1990) nor Thompson *et al.* (1993). The following records are therefore the first for Bangladesh. On 6 April 1999, c.150 were seen near Ruma, Bandarban district in the south-east region (R.H., E.H.). Between 4 and 10 January 2000, several hundred were seen in small and large flocks at 80–1,050 m in scattered locations in Ruma and Thamchi sub-districts of Bandarban district in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (D.L.J., R.H., E.H., P.M.T.). Most birds appeared to completely lack any dark feathering on the throat, but some photographs of dark-throated birds were also taken. All individuals (including dark- and white-throated individuals) showed black undertail-coverts forming a square border with the white belly. This species could be resident given the presence of cliffs along the rivers. White-throated birds have also been collected from the nearby Lushai Hills (P. Rasmussen *in litt.* 2003).

BLACK BULBUL *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*  
Vagrant or rare visitor. First recorded in what is now Bangladesh by Hume (1888), and also listed for Bangladesh by Mountford and Poore (1968). The first recent record, and apparently the first record for the Indian subcontinent, of one of the migratory white-headed subspecies was one in Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 11 March 1995 (D.L.J., N.B.). It was identified as *H. l. stresemanni* by the white restricted to the head, and blackish underparts. In addition a bird of one of the normal blackish-headed subspecies (presumably *H. l. nigrescens*) was recorded near Keokradang peak, Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 6 April 1999 (R.H.).

GRACEFUL PRINIA *Prinia gracilis*  
Very local resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by a number of authors since Rashid (1967) and Mountford and Poore (1968), there were no recent records during 1978–1993. The only recent records are from two char areas. Several (>20 on each occasion) were watched closely and video-recorded in catkin grass and low bushes on an island in the Jamuna river north of Aricha (central region) on 20 November 1999 (D.L.J., R.H.), and in the same area in December 2000 and January 2001 (R.H., P.M.T., E.H.). Similarly, many were found in grass on an island in the Padma river (central region) near Mawa in February 2000 and February 2001 (D.L.J., R.H., N.B.). This species has probably been

overlooked in the riverine chars of the Jamuna and Padma rivers, where it may be locally common.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA *Prinia flaviventris*  
Rare or local resident. Since 1993 this species has been recorded in two areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region), where it may be locally common in areas of tall damp grass: it was observed in 1998 near the north-east end of Kaptai lake (D.L.J.), and in 2000 near Baklai in Bandarban district (P.M.T.).

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA *Tesia castaneocoronata*  
Vagrant. The second recent record was of one seen well at Bangal Halia in Khagrachari in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 27 March 1999 (R.H.).

SLATY-BREASTED TESIA *Tesia olivea*  
Vagrant. The second recent record was of one in a patch of dense undergrowth in Lawachara forest on 21 January 1999 (P.M.T., I.L.), a location where Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* is a common winter visitor and had been seen shortly before this sighting.

\*ASIAN STUBTAIL *Urosphena squameiceps*  
Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh was of one watched for several minutes at very close range (<10 m) in the undergrowth of secondary forest in Lawachara forest on 16 January 1997 (J.N.D.). It was feeding on the ground, and appeared little concerned by the observer's immobile presence, although it did call a few times and was tape-recorded giving a high 'zit' or 'tshk-tik' note. It was noted as tiny, very short-tailed, with a bold whitish supercilium, strong blackish eyestripe, brown upperparts, white underparts with a slight rufous wash to the flanks, and pale legs. The second record was of one seen while giving identical calls to the previous bird within 1 km of the earlier location in Lawachara forest on 18 December 1999 (P.M.T.). These are only the second and third reported records for the Indian subcontinent, the other record being from south-east Nepal (Lewis 1994). As the regular wintering range extends to western Myanmar (Robson 2000), further records of this skulking species may be expected.

SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER *Bradypterus thoracicus*  
Rare winter visitor. The second record was of two in a narrow strip of marshy vegetation next to Tangua haor (north-east region) on 23 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.). At the same site at least four were seen on 18–20 February 1996 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.), and four were seen on 9–10 February 2002 (D.L.J., R.L.A.).

[BROWN BUSH WARBLER *Bradypterus luteoventris*  
Probable vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by several authors since Rashid (1967), there were no recent records. Two at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 21 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.), and one at the same site on 19 February 1996 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.), did not show pale fringes to the undertail-coverts (which Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi* [= *B. madelli*] shows); also they lacked any spotting on the throat shown by Spotted Bush Warbler at the same location. However, further fieldwork is needed to confirm the identity of the plain dark bush warblers recorded at this site.]

**LANCEOLATED WARBLER** *Locustella lanceolata*

Rare winter visitor. The second recent record was one at Pasua beel, Gurmar haor (north-east region, the same site as the first record) on 21 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.). In addition one was seen well at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 19 February 1996 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.), and one was at the same site on 9 February 2002 (D.L.J.).

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Rare winter visitor. The second recent record is of one in marshy vegetation at Tangua haor (north-east region) on 23 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.), in the same area of marshland as a number of other skulking warblers, followed by one at the same site on 9 February 2002 (D.L.J.).

**RUSTY-RUMPED WARBLER** *Locustella certhiola*

Scarce winter visitor. Several records since 1993 indicate that in the marshy fringes of Tangua haor (north-east region) this is not an uncommon winter visitor; in addition to sight records they include birds trapped and photographed there in February 1996 (D.L.J., P.M.T., R.H.). The first record from the east-central region was one seen in marshy vegetation at Muhuri dam on 29 January 1999 (P.M.T.).

**BLACK-BROWED REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

Local winter visitor. Although there are no specimens or photographs of this species from the Indian subcontinent (P. Rasmussen *in litt.* 2003), we feel confident that this species occurs in Bangladesh and was previously overlooked, although further supporting evidence would be desirable. There are several records since 1993; these birds have been distinguished from Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* on the basis of a much blacker and broader lateral crown stripe, and broader white supercilia. On the basis of multiple records from the haors in the north-east region, particularly at Tangua haor, we believe it is a local winter visitor to the limited areas of suitable habitat.

**PADDYFIELD WARBLER** *Acrocephalus agricola*

Local winter visitor/passage migrant. D. Scott in Thompson *et al.* (1993) suggested that birds observed closely in May 1992 in the haor region were more likely to be Blunt-winged Warbler *A. concinens*. At Tangua haor (north-east region) between 18 and 20 February 1996, D.L.J. trapped a few of the many *Acrocephalus* warblers present and, on measurements compared with information in King *et al.* (1975), they were identified as *A. agricola*. However, further efforts to trap birds in winter and on passage migration in April–May should be made to assess the status of these and other reed-haunting warbler species.

**[ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Possible vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), there appear to be no confirmed records. On 19 February 1996, a bird was caught in marshy vegetation at the side of Tangua Haor (north-east region). It was photographed and initially identified using King *et al.* (1975) as this species based on wing measurements (D.L.J., P.M.T.); however, the

photographs are inconclusive (P. Rasmussen and P. Alström *in litt.* 2003).]

**SMOKY WARBLER** *Phylloscopus fuligiventer*

Vagrant. The third reported record was of one, noted to be much darker than Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, in low scrub at the edge of a bund bordering Pasua beel, Gurmar haor (north-east region) on 25 December 1993 (D.L.J.) However, there are no specimens of this species from Bangladesh. The only more complete description available is for a record from Dhaka botanical gardens on 18 February 1989 (Thompson *et al.* 1993); it was watched at very close range feeding in tangled bushes directly over water in a pond (the favoured habitat at Bharatpur, India). It was a much darker, earthier brown than Dusky Warbler (which is very numerous in Dhaka and was present in the area on the same day), with short and narrow whitish supercilia, and a dirty tinge to the underparts, a small dark bill and darkish legs (W.G.H.). While further records and confirmation would be desirable, we regard this to be a rare visitor.

**WHITE-SPECTACLED WARBLER** *Seicercus affinis*

Vagrant or rare winter visitor. Although not included in Thompson *et al.* (1993), since 1976 there have been only three records of this species: singles during March and November in Lawachara forest (north-east region) in the late 1980s (the late D.L.M. *in litt.* 1992, also included in Harvey 1990) and one in Modhupur forest (central region) on 10 December 1994 (D.L.J.). Distinguished from Grey-cheeked Warbler *S. poliogenys* by pale-grey cheeks; we believe the latter species has not yet been reliably recorded in Bangladesh.

**CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER** *Seicercus castaneiceps*

Vagrant. Although Ali and Ripley (1987) included the Chittagong Hill Tracts in its range, the only recent record is of one in Modhupur forest (central region) on 7 February 1998 (R.H., D.L.J.). This location is at low altitude (c.30 m) and distant from the nearest hills (in Meghalaya).

**RUFIOUS-RUMPED GRASSBIRD** *Graminicola bengalensis*

Rare resident. Although first recorded in what is now Bangladesh by Tytler (1854), presumably either near Dhaka or in the south-west region, there had been no recent records. Several were recorded in the north-east region in short scrub at the edge of Aila haor on 20 February 1995, and at Tangua haor on 23 February 1995 (D.L.J., J.O., S.O.). However, a visit to the same locations in February 1996 produced only one sighting in grass next to Tangua haor (P.M.T., D.L.J., R.H.), although more were seen there in February 2002 (D.L.J.). The only remaining suitable areas of wet grassland would appear to fringe some of the haors in the north-east region, where it is presumed to be resident and difficult to detect owing to its habit of hiding in relatively short dense marshy vegetation.

**[RUFIOUS-VENTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax gularis*

Status unknown. The single recent record reported in Thompson *et al.* (1993) has been withdrawn by the observer.]

LARGE SCIMITAR BABBLER *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*

Rare resident. Since 1993 this species has been recorded on a number of occasions in both winter and monsoon seasons, in most years up to and including 2000, with up to three together at any time. All records have been in Lawachara forest in the north-east region (J.N.D., P.M.T., D.L.J.) where a small population is apparently resident. However, it has not been recorded at any other sites since 1993.

\*RED-BILLED SCIMITAR BABBLER *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*

Rare resident? Although considered to possibly occur in Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), the first confirmed record was of one seen in a patch of bamboo and secondary growth in the narrow river valley between Ruma and Boga lake, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 6 April 1999 (R.H., E.H.).

\*WHITE-HOODED BABBLER *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

Rare resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), there appear to be no previous documented records. On 6 April 1999, a flock of 8–10 were seen and tape-recorded at Darjeelingpara, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east region (R.H., E.H.); also a few were seen and photographed at the same site immediately below the village in dense bamboo on 7 January 2000 (R.H., E.H.). It would appear to be a very local resident in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as none was recorded in other apparently suitable areas.

LONG-TAILED SIBIA *Heterophasia picaoides*

Vagrant. The third claimed record was of two in Lawachara forest (north-east region) on 1 March 1997 (S.Ga.), however we regard this to be unproven without a more detailed description. Details of one earlier sighting reported in Thompson *et al.* (1993) are available from Lawachara forest, Srimangal in February 1989 (W.G.H.): dull brownish with a grey head, mantle and breast; a strikingly long tail (Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*-like) which was graduated, and had small whitish feather tips; and a small white wing-patch. It was watched flying high among tree-tops (there may have been at least a second bird but it was obscured as they remained in the canopy). It should be noted that February 1989 was particularly cold with other records of higher altitude species, including a White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* singing in Modhupur forest (Thompson *et al.* 1993). There are apparently no confirmed records from the subcontinent south of the Himalayas (P. Rasmussen *in litt.* 2003), so further confirmation is desirable.

STRIATED YUHINA *Yuhina castaniceps*

Rare resident? Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), the first recent record is of a flock of more than ten moving over a ridge in remnant forest near Darjeelingpara in Bandarban district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 7 January 2000 (D.L.J.).

THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum agile*

Rare resident? There were five recent records prior to 1993. Further records comprise: several in rather dry

forest near Inani (south-east region) on 9–10 March 1994 (D.L.J.) and one in a degraded area of Satcheri forest (north-east region) on 27 June 1998 (D.L.J., R.W.).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*

Vagrant. One in Lawachara forest on 23 December 1994 (D.L.J., M.J.) was the second record for Bangladesh and for this site.

\*OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia jugularis*

Vagrant or rare resident? Thompson *et al.* (1993) regarded this species to be only of probable occurrence. A subsequent sighting and review of previous records indicates that this species is either a vagrant or recent colonist. Recorded from Sitapchar Reserve forest, Kaptai (south-east region) during October–December 1986 and September 1987–January 1988 (N.P.V.Z.), the only subsequent record is of one near Malumghat forest (a short distance south-west of the above location) in the south-east region on 14 March 1994 (D.L.J.).

STREAKED SPIDERHUNTER *Arachnothera magna*

Rare or local resident. This species has been included in a number of lists for Bangladesh in the past, when it has been regarded as a rare winter visitor. This appears to be its status in the forests of the north-east region, where the only recent records comprise one in Rajkandi forest on 22 February 1985 (D.L.J., N.B.) and one on 9 January 1998 in Satcheri forest (D.L.J., R.H.). However, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) it can be locally common in forest patches above c. 500 m, and it is presumed to be resident. Several were seen in December, January and April in 1999 and 2000, both in Khagrachari district and Bandarban district (R.H., E.H., D.L.J., P.M.T.).

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Rare resident. Only one recent record was given in Thompson *et al.* (1993), but since 1999 D.L.J. has recorded this species on several occasions at the international border at Tamabil (north-east region) in a pasture area, e.g. on 11 February 2002 a pair feeding young in a dead tree stump about 2.5 m high were seen just inside the border (D.L.J., R.L.A.).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare winter visitor. There were only three records during 1978–1993, all from the south of the country. Subsequent records comprise one at Babuchara, Khagrachari district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) in April 1999 (R.H.), and a flock of at least 20 males and females on a weedy hillside near Thamchi bazar in Bandarban district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east region) on 9 January 2000 (D.L.J., P.M.T.).

CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata*

Locally common winter visitor. There have been relatively few records since June 1993; new locations include: Bara beel, Haripur, 23 km north of Sylhet (north-east region) on 28 December 1993, one at Aila beel (north-east region) on 20 February 1994, and one at Patenga, Chittagong (south-east region) on 4 November 1994 (all records D.L.J.).

## DISCUSSION

The 123 species listed above (excluding the nine of doubtful occurrence in square brackets) fall into three categories: (1) Long-distance migrants which occur as vagrants, or which are regular visitors and were overlooked in the past (39 species); (2) Altitudinal or local migrants which breed within the subcontinent and which may be regular in small numbers, or are vagrants from the Himalayas and adjacent hillstates (46 species); (3) Species which are likely to be rare residents since they do not make regular movements, although in most cases there is no definite evidence of breeding (38 species). Recent fieldwork has been concentrated in the wetlands and forests: about 37 of the species discussed here are typically found in wetlands (mostly inland wetlands), while 52 species are typical of forests (mostly the moist evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of the eastern side of the country). A high proportion of significant records in the 1990s came from three habitats: the large wetlands (haors) of the north-east region (26 species), remnant forests in the north-east region (32 species), and forest and scrub patches in the newly accessible Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east region (26 species).

Among the haors, the most significant site is Tangua haor where 21 notable species were recorded. This large wetland hosts internationally significant concentrations of wintering waterbirds, and has been designated as Bangladesh's second Ramsar site. However, while it remains a prime site for wildfowl (which move between this and other nearby haors depending on disturbance due to fishing activity), an important patch of reed forest was cleared between 1996 and 2001.

Two small forest patches in the north-east region are particularly important: Lawachara forest (19 notable species) and Satcheri forest (15 notable species). These small areas are the best and most accessible areas of evergreen forest (a mixture of natural forest and old plantations) remaining in Bangladesh, despite continued degradation. On 7 July 1996, the Government of Bangladesh notified an area of 1,250 ha of Lawachara forest as Lawachara National Park, including the old plantations and natural forest of prime ornithological and conservation interest. However, no specific conservation plan or measures have yet been adopted since this name change. Although a five-year management plan has recently been drawn up by a consultant team (Forest Department 2000), it is unclear whether this will be accepted and implemented by the Forest Department. Of great concern is the continuing habitat loss in this national park. Local people from nearby villages and tea estates continue to cut firewood and trees for timber. In 1996, a fire resulting from an explosion during gas exploration destroyed a small part of the forest. Most unfortunately, since 1996 the Forest Department itself has cleared undergrowth and understory trees from areas of high quality forest inside the national park to make cane (rattan) plantations; it also felled a substantial area of old plantations immediately north of the national park in 1999–2000 (pers. obs.). Similar habitat changes – clearing of undergrowth for planting with cane and bamboo and clear-felling of some older plantations – have also been undertaken by the Forest Department in Satcheri forest

since 1995. Like Lawachara, Satcheri forest is one of the few remaining areas of evergreen forest in the north-east region. It covers 200 ha and comprises a mixture of degraded natural forest and old teak plantations surrounded by recent plantations and tea estates. Much of what was left of the natural forest at Satcheri has also been degraded since 1996 by illegal logging, clear-felling, firewood collection, and grazing.

There are about 80 species for which there are still no recent records, but which are listed by Harvey (1990) as occurring in Bangladesh on the basis of historical records. About 50 of these have been claimed in the past from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, although in some cases this may be on the basis of a known range in neighbouring areas of India. Based on visits so far to this area, plus aerial surveys of habitat in early 2002 (W. J. Collis pers. comm. 2002), it seems very unlikely that most of these species, particularly resident babblers, survive in Bangladesh. In addition to the remnant forest patches discussed in this paper, there appear to be patches of more-or-less intact forest only in the extreme south-east corner in the Sangu river valley, and in the north in Khagrachari district. Although most of the region has been extensively cleared, and now comprises scrubland, shifting cultivation and plantations of limited ornithological interest, there is still scope for important discoveries to be made in this remote area.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Pamela Rasmussen for her helpful comments on a draft of the paper and for advice on the status of birds in the region, and to Tim Inskipp for providing details of his extensive review of historical references. We thank all the observers who kindly provided details of their records and agreed to them being published here, and particularly thank Ronnie Halder and Enam-ul Haque for their company in the field, many records, comments on this paper, and help in documenting birds on film. We also thank Khandaker Hasib Mahub for preparing the map.

## REFERENCES

- Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. (1987) *The compact handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Barua, M. and Sharma, P. (1999) Birds of Kaziranga National Park, India. *Forktail* 15: 47–60.
- Bates, R. S. P. (1935) Some birds of Chittagong. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 38: 158–162.
- BirdLife International (2001) *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International red data book*. Cambridge U.K.: BirdLife International.
- Chong, M. H. N. (1996) Occurrence of Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* in Malaysia. *Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 24: 42–43.
- Collins, S. J. K. (1948) Birds of the Lalmai area, near Comilla, Tippera, Bengal. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 47: 57–69.
- Cripps, J. R. (1878) First list of the birds of Fureedpore, eastern Bengal. *Stray Feathers* 7: 238–315.
- Crosby, M. (1995) From the field. *Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 21: 68.
- Forest Department (2000) *First five year management plan for Lawachara National Park*. Volume 1 Management Plan. Dhaka: Forestry Sector Project, Ministry of Environment and Forests. [report prepared by TECSULT International Ltd. In association with SODEV, NRP, HCL and EPC.]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. (1998) *Birds of the Indian subcontinent*. London: Christopher Helm.

- Godwin-Austen, H. (1870) Second list of birds obtained in the Khasi and North Cachar hill ranges including the Garo Hills and country at their base in the Mymensingh and Sylhet districts. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* 39(2): 264–275.
- Harvey, W. G. (1990) *Birds in Bangladesh*. Dhaka: University Press.
- Hume, A. O. (1888) The birds of Manipur, Assam, Sylhet and Cachar. *Stray Feathers* 11: 1–353.
- Husain, K. Z. (1967) On the occurrence of some birds in East Pakistan. *J. Asiatic Soc. Pakistan* 12: 167–170.
- Husain, K. Z. (1979) *Birds of Bangladesh*. Dhaka: Government of Bangladesh.
- Husain, K. Z. and Sarker, S. U. (1971) Notes on a collection of birds from Pabna (Bangladesh). *J. Asiatic Soc. Bangladesh* 16: 259–288.
- Khan, M. A. R. (1982) *Wildlife of Bangladesh: a checklist*. Dhaka: University of Dhaka.
- King, B., Dickinson, E. C. and Woodcock, M. W. (1975) *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia*. London: Collins.
- Inskipp, T., Lindsey, N. and Duckworth, W. (1996) *An annotated checklist of the birds of the oriental region*. Sandy, U.K.: Oriental Bird Club.
- IUCN Bangladesh (2000) *Red book of threatened birds of Bangladesh*. Dhaka: IUCN, the World Conservation Union.
- Law, S. C. (1948) On the occurrence of *Sitta frontalis* Swains. & *Sitta castanea* Less. in Khulna Sundarbans. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 47: 733–734.
- Lewis, A. (1994) Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*: a new species for Nepal and the Indian subcontinent. *Forktail* 9: 155.
- Lister, M. D. (1951) Some bird associations of Bengal. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 49: 695–728.
- Madge, S. and Burn, H. (1988) *Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the world*. London: Christopher Helm.
- Mountford, G. and Poore, D. (1968) Report on the second World Wildlife Fund Expedition to Pakistan. (WWF Project 311). Unpublished report.
- Paynter, R. A. (1970) Species with Malaysian affinities in the Sundarbans, East Pakistan. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 90: 118–119.
- Perennou, C., Rose, P. and Poole, C. (1990) *Asian waterfowl census 1990: midwinter waterfowl counts in southern and eastern Asia, January 1990*. Slimbridge, U.K.: International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau.
- Rainey, H. J. (1875) Nidification and breeding habits of the large Rose-ringed Paroquet in the eastern Sundarbun. *Stray Feathers* 3: 382–384.
- Rashid, H. (1967) *Systematic list of the birds of East Pakistan*. Publication no. 20. Dacca: Asiatic Society of Pakistan.
- Rasmussen, P. C., Clark, W. S., Parry, S. J. and Schmitt, J. (2001) Field identification of 'long-billed' vultures (Indian and Slender-billed Vultures). *Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 34: 24–29.
- Ripley, S. D. (1982) *A synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka*. Bombay: Bombay Natural History Society.
- Robson, C. (2000) *A field guide to the birds of Thailand and South-East Asia*. Bangkok: Asia Books.
- Simson, F. B. (1882) Notes on birds found near Dacca. *Ibis* 4(6): 84–95.
- Thompson, P. M., Harvey, W. G., Johnson, D. L., Millin, D. J., Rashid, S. M. A., Scott, D. A., Stanford, C. and Woolner, J. D. (1993) Recent notable bird records from Bangladesh. *Forktail* 9: 13–44.
- Tytler, R. C. (1854) Miscellaneous notes on the fauna of Dacca, including remarks made on the line of march from Barrackpore to that station. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 2(14): 168–177.
- Vestergaard, M. (1998) Eared Pitta *Pitta phayrei*: a new species for Bangladesh and the Indian subcontinent. *Forktail* 14: 69–70.
- Whistler, H. (1934) Occurrence of the Larger Blue-winged Pitta (*Pitta megarhyncha* Schlegel) in Eastern Bengal. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 37: 222.

## APPENDIX: GAZETTEER

Locations shown by name in Fig. 1 are indicated with an asterisk; locations given a number in Fig. 1 are indicated by that number; remaining locations are near or within the italicised named location. Coordinates are not given for rivers or large geographic areas.

Site	Region	Coordinates	Fig. 1
Aila haor/beel (Sunamganj)	NE	24°25'N 91°10'E	21
Aricha (Jamuna river)	C	23°50'N 89°37'E	1
Ashulia ( <i>Dhaka</i> )	C	23°50'N 90°18'E	
Bahadurabad (Brahmaputra river)	C	25°12'N 89°45'E	2
Baklai ( <i>Bandarban</i> )	SE	21°51'N 92°31'E	
Bandarban ( <i>Chittagong Hill Tracts</i> )	SE	22°10'N 92°10'E	
Bhawal National Park	C	24°02'N 90°24'E	3
Bhola	SC	22°41'N 90°39'E	*
Bhuapur (Jamuna river)	C	24°22'N 89°52'E	4
Boalmar ( <i>Faridpur</i> )	SW	23°37'N 89°50'E	
Brahmaputra river	C		*
Chittagong	SE	22°20'N 91°49'E	*
Chittagong Hill Tracts	SE		*
Cox's Bazar	SE	21°26'N 91°58'E	*
Darjeelingpara ( <i>Bandarban</i> )	SE	21°58'N 92°31'E	
Dhaka	C	23°43'N 90°25'E	*
Dhamoirhat	NW	25°10'N 88°50'E	5
Dulhazari Safari Park	SE	21°37'N 92°05'E	12
Egg island (SE of Kochikhali, <i>Sundarbans</i> )	SW	21°50'N 89°53'E	



Site	Region	Coordinates	Fig. 1
Faridpur	SW	23°37' N 89°50' E	*
Habiganj	NE	24°22' N 91°25' E	*
Gaibandha (Brahmaputra river)	NW	25°20' N 89°34' E	*
Gazni forest	C	25°14' N 90°04' E	6
Hail haor ( <i>Srimangal</i> )	NE	24°22' N 91°40' E	
Halir haor (Sunamganj)	NE	24°59' N 91°10' E	21
Hatiya	EC	22°20' N 91°05' E	7
Inani	SE	21°10' N 92°04' E	8
Jahangirnagar university ( <i>Dhaka</i> )	C	23°47' N 90°16' E	
Jamuna river	NW & C		*
Juri	NE	24°36' N 92°07' E	9
Katka ( <i>Sundarbans</i> )	SW	21°52' N 89°48' E	
Katka khal (Kochikhali Tiger Reserve, <i>Sundarbans</i> )	SW	21°52' N 89°48' E	
Kaptai lake	SE	22°40' N 92°12' E	10
Khagrachari	SE	23°08' N 92°10' E	*
Kishorganj	C	24°26' N 90°48' E	*
Lawachara forest ( <i>Srimangal</i> )	NE	24°20' N 91°48' E	
Madhaphkhundo waterfall (Dhakshinbagh)	NE	24°42' N 92°13' E	11
Malumghat	SE	21°37' N 92°05' E	12
Manikganj ( <i>Padma river</i> )	C	23°44' N 89°50' E	
Modhukhali ( <i>Faridpur</i> )	SW	23°32' N 89°38' E	
Modhupur forest	C	24°50' N 90°05' E	13
Monpura island	EC	22°20' N 90°58' E	14
Muhuri dam	EC	22°48' N 91°27' E	15
Moulvi Bazar	NE	24°29' N 91°46' E	16
Mymensingh	C	24°45' N 90°25' E	*
Nagarbari (Jamuna river)	NW	23°55' N 89°40' E	1
Narsinghdi	C	23°55' N 90°45' E	*
New Samanbagh tea estate (Dhakshinbagh)	NE	24°42' N 92°13' E	11
Nilldoomoor ( <i>Sundarbans</i> )	SW		
Nizumdip (Hatiya)	EC	22°04' N 91°00' E	7
Pabna	NW	24°00' N 89°15' E	*
Padma river	C		*
Pakundia ( <i>Kishorganj</i> )	C	24°20' N 90°40' E	
Pana beel	NE	25°05' N 91°07' E	21
Pashua beel/haor (Gurmar haor)	NE	25°03' N 91°06' E	21
Patenga ( <i>Chittagong</i> )	SE	22°17' N 91°46' E	
Rajkandi ( <i>Srimangal</i> )	NE	24°15' N 91°55' E	
Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary	NE	24°07' N 91°37' E	17
Ruma (Chittagong Hill Tracts)	SE	22°03' N 92°24' E	18
Sariakandi (Jamuna river)	NW	24°53' N 89°35' E	4
Satcheri forest (Telepara)	NE	24°8' N 91°25' E	19
Sitapchar Reserve Forest (Kaptai lake)	SE	22°50' N 92°10' E	10
Srimangal	NE	24°19' N 91°44' E	*
Sunamganj	NE	25°04' N 91°23' E	*
Sundarbans	SW		*
Surma tea estate (Telepara)	NE	24°8' N 91°25' E	19

Site	Region	Coordinates	Fig. 1
Sylhet	NE	24°8'N 91°25' E	*
Tamabil	NE	25°11'N 92°02' E	20
Tangua haor	NE	25°05'N 91°07' E	21
Teknaf	SE	20°52'N 92°17' E	22
Telepara	NE	24°8'N 91°25' E	19
Thamchi ( <i>Bandarban</i> )	SE	21°49'N 92°26' E	
Tiger Point ( <i>Sundarbans</i> )	SW	21°53'N 89°53' E	
West Bhanugach Reserve Forest ( <i>Srimangal</i> )	NE	24°20'N 91°48' E	

*Paul M. Thompson, House 32, Road 10, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Email: iclarm@dhaka.agni.com*

*David L. Johnson, 26047 M-60 West, Cassopolis, MI 49031, U.S.A. Email: davelj@quixnet.net*