
Recent notable bird records from Bangladesh

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Details are given of 22 species new for Bangladesh which have been recorded since or were consciously omitted from the most recent checklist (Harvey, 1990), and one old record of a new species is also given; further details are given of 37 species new for Bangladesh listed in Harvey (1990); and new information is given for 88 species which have few records since 1978, or for which there have either been major changes in known status, or for which there is uncertainty over status. Bangladesh is very densely populated and natural resources are under severe human pressure. However, recent fieldwork has shown that the coastal mudflats and wetlands of the eastern delta, the beels and haors (large shallow lakes and depressions) of the north-east, and the remaining fragments of forest are all important for a number of bird species, several of which are globally threatened. Many of the species discussed are winter visitors or altitudinal migrants. Much still remains to be discovered about the status of birds in Bangladesh.

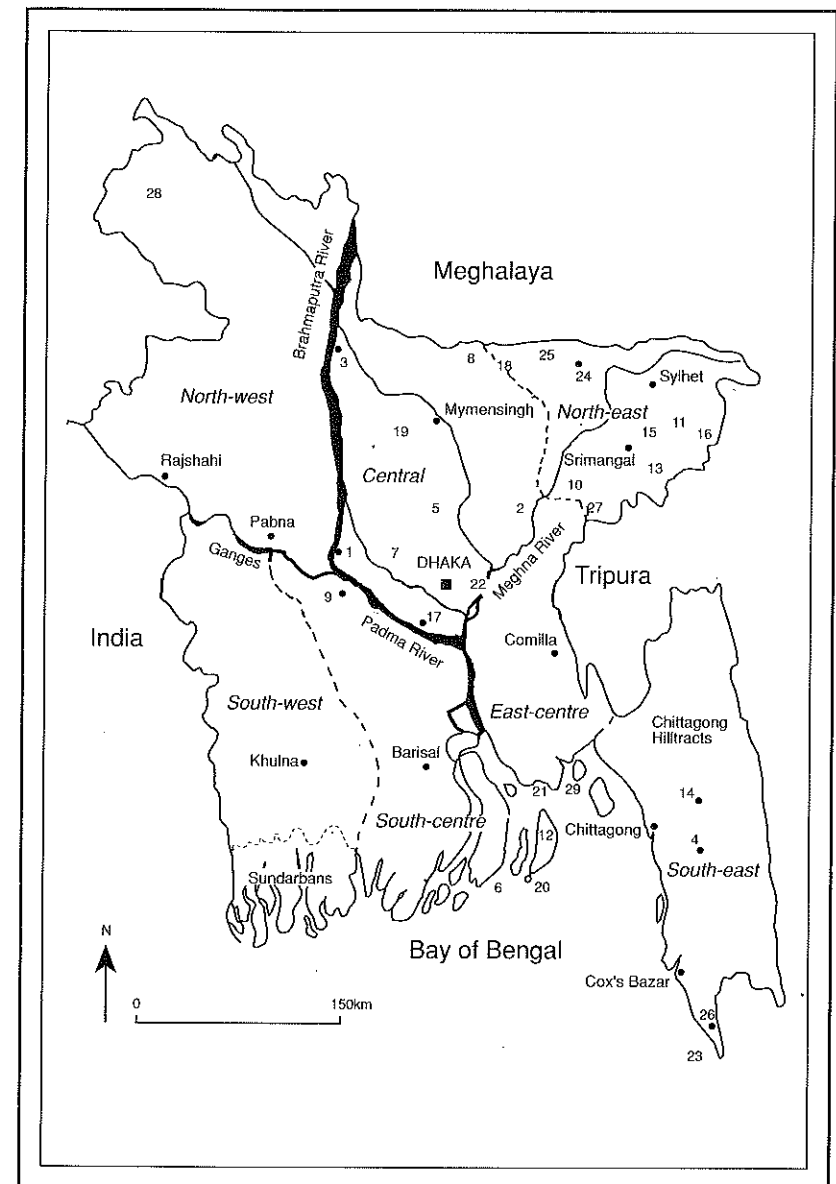
Although there have been a number of publications dealing with the birds of Bangladesh, many are difficult to obtain, and many of the older species lists included speculative records or did not detail observations of claimed new species, which has led to confusion. Compared with many other countries in the Oriental Region, Bangladesh has attracted few visiting birdwatchers. However, Bangladesh is of considerable ornithological interest because of its extensive but heavily used wetlands; its small areas of evergreen forest akin to those of the nearby Indian hillstates, which in recent years have been closed to visitors; its diversity of habitats; and its location on the boundary between South and South-East Asia.

Harvey (1990) summarised the current status of birds in Bangladesh and included in his list a number of species new for Bangladesh. The purpose of this paper is to update Harvey's list with new records since 1990 and to provide additional information on some of the records he included but which have not previously been fully documented. Species discussed in this paper fall into three main categories: species new for Bangladesh in the period January 1978 to June 1993 (marked with a * if they were listed in Harvey (1990) and with a ** if they are previously unpublished), species previously assumed to occur or which had not been recorded for many years before 1978, and species for which major changes in status have been discovered within this period. In addition, one old record of a species not listed by Harvey (1990) is given. Details of all records are given for species with up to five records since 1978, and for those which have been found to be more frequent general details of status and peak counts are given. It should be noted that the phrase 'new species for Bangladesh' is a broad definition

- Alinagar Tea Estate (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 25 Arabiakona Beel (Tangua Haor, north-east)
 1 Aricha (Brahmaputra, central)
 2 Ashuganj (Meghna, north-east)
 3 Bahadurabad railhead (Brahmaputra, central)
 Balai Haor (near Jokiganj, north-east of *Sylhet*, north-east)
 4 Banderban (Chittagong, south-east)
 Bara Haor (25 km north of *Sylhet*, north-east)
 * Barisal (south-centre)
 Baroorah Tea Estate (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 2 Bhairab Bazar (Meghna, north-east)
 24 Bhatigaon (Sunamganj, north-east)
 * Brahmaputra River (central)
 5 Bhawal National Park (central)
 Bogi (eastern *Sundarbans*, south-west)
 Char Khiderpur (*Rajshahi*, north-west)
 11 Chatla Beel (Hakaluki Haor, north-east)
 * Chittagong (south-east)
 * Chittagong Hilltracts (south-east)
 * Comilla (east-centre)
 * Cox's Bazar (south-east)
 24 Dekhar Haor (Sunamganj, north-east)
 * Dhaka (central)
 6 Dhal Char (south-west of Monpara, west of Hatiya; east-centre)
 7 Dhaleswari River (central)
 Dhangmari (*Sundarbans*, south-west)
 Dubla island (*Sundarbans*, south-west)
 8 Durgapur (Mymensingh, central)
 Egg Island (south-east of Kochikhali, *Sundarbans*; south-west)
 Erabi Beel (*Sylhet*, north-east)
 9 Faridpur (south-centre)
 * Ganges (north-west)
 10 Habiganj (north-east)
 Hail Haor (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 11 Hakaluki Haor (Moulvi Bazar, north-east)
 11 Haorkhal (Hakaluki Haor, north-east)
 26 Harikhola valley (Whykeong, Teknaf, south-east)
 12 Hatiya (east-centre)
 Himchari (*Cox's Bazar*, south-east)
 Joydepur (*Dhaka*, central)
 Kaliakoir (*Dhaka*, central)
 13 Kamalgonj Tea Estate (Kamalgonj, north-east)
 13 Kamarchera (Rajkandi, Kamalgonj, north-east)
 20 Kamlar Char (Nijumdip, east-centre)
 14 Kaptai (south-east)
 Katka (*Sundarbans*, south-west)
 Katka Khal (Kochikhali Tiger Reserve, *Sundarbans*, south-west)
 15 Kawadighi Haor (Moulvi Bazar, north-east)
 Khagra (*Sylhet*, north-east)
 Khakra Kuri Beel (Balai Haor, *Sylhet*, north-east)
 * Khulna (south-west)
 Madhabpore Lake (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 16 Madhapkundo waterfall (New Samanbagh Tea Estate, Dhakshinbagh, north-east)
 26 Madhya Nhila (Teknaf, south-east)
 15 Majjeil Haor (north-east of Kawadighi Haor; north-east)
 15 Majherbanda Beel (Kawadighi Haor, Moulvi Bazar, north-east)
 Malumghat (*Chittagong*, south-east)
 25 Matian Haor (near Tangua Haor, north-east)
 17 Mawa (Padma, central)
 18 Meda Beel (Kalamakando, Netrakona, central)
 * Meghna River (north-east/east-centre)
 19 Modhupur Forest (central)
 9 Moulvi Bazar (north-east)
 12 Moulvi Char (Hatiya, east-centre)
 26 Muchoni (Teknaf, south-east)
 * Mymensingh (central)
 16 New Samanbagh Tea Estate (Dhakshinbagh, north-east)
 20 Nijumdip (east-centre)
 Nilkamal (*Sundarbans*, south-west)
 21 Noakhali Coast (east-centre)
 Nurjahan Tea Estate (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 * Pabna (north-west)
 * Padma River (central)
 Palangkhali (45 km south-east of *Cox's Bazar*, south-east)
 25 Pana Beel (south of Tangua Haor, north-east)
 Panerchara (*Cox's Bazar*, south-east)
 25 Pasua Beel (Gurmar Haor, north-east)
 Patenga (*Chittagong*, south-east)
 11 Pingla Beel (Hakaluki Haor, north-east)
 13 Rajkandi Forest (Kamalgonj, north-east)
 15 Rajnagar Tea Estate (Moulvi Bazar, north-east)
 * Rajshahi (north-west)
 5 Rathura (Bhawal National Park, central)
 25 Raur Beel (Tangua Haor, north-east)
 25 Sanir Haor (east of Pasua Beel, north-east)
 27 Satcheri Reserve Forest (Telcpara, north-east)
 27 Satgao Reservoir (near Satcheri, north-east)
 13 Shamsnagar Tea Estate (Kamalgonj, north-east)
 26 Shilkhali (Teknaf, south-east)
 14 Sitapchar Reserve Forest (Kaptai, south-east)
 8 Someswari River (near Durgapur, Mymensingh, central)
 22 Sonargaon Town (central)
 12 Sonar Char (near Monpara and Hatiya, east-centre)
 South Halishahar (*Chittagong*, south-east)
 * Srimangal (north-east)
 23 St Martin's Island (south-east)
 24 Sunamganj (north-east)
 * Sundarbans (south-west)
 * Sylhet (north-east)
 25 Tangua Haor (north-east)
 26 Teknaf (south-east)
 27 Telcpara (north-east)
 28 Thakurgaon (north-west)
 Tiger Point (*Sundarbans*, south-west)
 29 Urir Char (east-centre)
 West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (*Srimangal*, north-east)
 26 Whykeong (Teknaf, south-east)

Figure 1. Bangladesh showing locations mentioned in text.

Locations shown by name are indicated with a *; locations given a number are indicated by that number; remaining locations are near or within the italicised named location.



because in many cases previous lists, for example Rashid (1967), included species which were assumed to occur but for which specimens or documented observations were not available. Hence even some species not noted here as new for Bangladesh may be the first fully documented records.

The information reported is derived largely from an updating of Harvey's list by J.D.W. in 1992, and from subsequent observations. It reflects the dedication of a small but growing band of birdwatchers active in Bangladesh. The records reported here are all sight records, but are by reliable observers, and where possible field notes have been collated and are stored with W.G.H., D.L.J. and P.M.T. The appendix provides a key to observer's initials. Records are related to regions of Bangladesh in the following list; this is a revised version of the regions in Harvey (1990) and the boundaries are shown in Figure 1, along with the locations of the 107 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.

NEW SPECIES AND NOTABLE RECORDS

RAIN QUAIL *Coturnix coromandelica* A rare or local resident. Although first recorded from Faridpur by Cripps (1878) and subsequently included in a number of lists, there is only one recent record - a pair in scrub close to forest at Malumghat between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar in the south-east on 26 November 1989 (D.L.J.).

BLUE-BREASTED QUAIL *Coturnix chinensis* Presumably a rare resident, first recorded near Dhaka in the 19th century (Simson 1882). There are only two recent records: a pair were flushed several times in a field of legumes by the Padma near Mawa, south of Dhaka, on 28 February 1986 (D.A.S.); and a pair were flushed from marshy grassland at Chatla Beel, Hakaluki Haor in the north-east on 30 April 1992 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.).

RUFOUS-THROATED PARTRIDGE *Arborophila rufogularis* Presumably a rare resident. Weston (1914) gave the first records from the Sylhet (north-east) region. The only recent record is of two birds (photographed) which had been trapped by hunters in Rajkandi Forest (north-east) in January 1991 (S.M.A.R.).

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus* Presumed now extinct. Although first recorded from north of Mymensingh (central) in the 19th century (Godwin-Austen 1870), the last and only recent record is of one heard calling on the night of 18-19 March 1986 at Rathura, west of Bhawal National Park (central) (S.M.A.R.).

****GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons* Vagrant. One on a char in the Brahmaputra south of Aricha in December 1982 (A.M.K.)

is the only record for Bangladesh of a species which is a rare winter visitor to India, but has been recorded in Assam (Ali and Ripley 1987).

FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata* Scarce winter visitor. Since the first - one shot in greater Sylhet District (Savage 1970) - it appeared that this species was very rare in Bangladesh. One was shot on the Padma River (central) in 1980 and one was at Sathgao Reservoir in the north-east in 1987 (A.M.K.); a male was at Pana Beel, Tangua Haor in Sunamganj district in the north-east on 2 March 1992 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.); and a male was in a mixed flock of about 70 wintering ducks on a char in the Brahmaputra just off the Bahadurabad railhead (central) on 7 March 1992 (D.L.J., R.H.). However, following three at Tangua Haor on 3 December 1992 and six there on 3 January 1993 (S.M.A.R.), an unprecedented 39 were found at the same site on 27 January 1993 (P.M.T., R.A.); three were also seen at Chatla Beel (north-east) on 1 February 1993 (S.M.A.R.). This species is listed as a rare winter visitor in Assam, but is regular in small numbers further west in India (Ali and Ripley 1987) and appears to also be a regular visitor in Bangladesh.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* Local winter visitor. Although Harvey (1990) only admitted a record by R.K. (Khan 1982), there are a number of historic records, of which the first is by Cripps (1878). However, recent observations have shown it to be much more numerous than was previously thought. After one was shot on the Meghna river (east-centre) on 30 November 1986 (A.M.K.), this species has been reported by several observers in recent winter wildfowl counts. In the north-east the first records were from four sites in the Tangua Haor complex on 2 March 1992, with a total of 87 birds (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.). Other sites in the region that winter were: Someswari River (one male on 22 April 1992) and Pasua Beel (two pairs on 24 April 1992) (D.A.S.). However, in winter 1992-1993 unprecedented totals were recorded at four sites, only peak counts are given: 300 at Pana Beel on 3 December 1992 (S.M.A.R.), 4002 at Pasua Beel on 3 December 1992 (S.M.A.R., A.K.), 300 at Haorkhal on 21 December 1992 (S.M.A.R.), and 875 at Tangua Haor on 27 January 1993 (P.M.T., R.A.). In the central region the only record is of four males and 10 females 6 km north of Bahadurabad on the Brahmaputra on 7 March 1992 (D.L.J., R.H.).

BAER'S POCHARD *Aythya baeri* Winter visitor. First listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), and subsequently recorded in small numbers by several observers during mid-winter wildfowl counts (for example, a male on Dhaka Zoo lake in early 1988, W.G.H.). However, it was only during the winters of 1991-92 and 1992-93 that internationally important numbers of this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) were discovered wintering in the north-east of Bangladesh. In February-March 1992 a total of 697 was recorded, the majority (660) being on Pana Beel, Tangua Haor; but with 27 others at four sites within the Tangua-Pasua complex and 10 at two sites in Hakaluki Haor (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.). In January-February 1993 a total of

1712 was recorded, all from sites where they had been recorded in the previous winter: 700 at Chatla and Pingla Beels (Hakaluki Haor), 600 at Pasua Beel, 300 at Haorkhal (Hakaluki Haor), and 112 at Tangua Haor (S.M.A.R., P.M.T., A.K.).

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila* Rare winter visitor. The only recent records are of three males and two females with a flock of Tufted Ducks *Aythya fuligula* at Pana Beel, Tangua Haor in the north-east on 2 March 1992 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.), one male at the same site on 27 January 1993 (P.M.T.), and one male at Pasua Beel also on 27 January 1993 (S.M.A.R.). This scarce winter visitor to the Indian sub-continent may have been overlooked in the past; Ripley (1982) noted it as occurring in Bangladesh.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* Vagrant. Weston (1914) shot one in the winter of 1913-1914, a record that was overlooked by Harvey (1990).

COMMON MERGANSER (GOOSANDER) *Mergus merganser* Rare winter visitor. Harvey (1990) noted that this species had not been recorded since a 19th century record from Sylhet District (Hume, 1888). However, a pair were observed at Bahadurabad railhead on the Brahmaputra (central) on 7 March 1992 (D.L.J., R.H.). There are virtually no large fast flowing rivers in Bangladesh which this species might favour.

****MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata* Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh was of a male seen among a flock of about 200,000 duck at Pasua Beel (north-east) on 27 January 1993 (S.M.A.R., A.K.). Previous records of this species from the Indian Sub-continent are specimens from Assam and Manipur (Ali and Ripley 1987); and one on the lower Arun in Nepal (Gardiner, 1991).

YELLOW-LEGGED BUTTONQUAIL *Turnix tanki* Possibly a rare resident or vagrant. Although listed for Chittagong by Blanford (1898) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record. One was closely observed when it flew onto the lawn of a bungalow at Baroorah Tea Estate, Srimangal (north-east), on 12 April 1987 (D.J.M.).

GREY-CAPPED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos canicapillus* and **BROWN-CAPPED WOODPECKER** *D. nanus* The status of these two species, particularly *D. nanus*, in Bangladesh requires clarification and further critical study. Harvey (1990) lists *D. canicapillus* as the common small woodpecker in Bangladesh, including in mangroves, and notes *D. moluccensis (nanus)* as a rare? resident or visitor, with only one confirmed record - in the remnants of Tarap Hill Reserve Forest (north-east) on 18 January 1985 (D.J.M.). However, *D. nanus* is widespread in the lowlands and plains of the Indian sub-continent (Ali and Ripley 1987), whereas *D. canicapillus* is primarily found in hill forests such as the Himalayan foothills; this status was implied in Ali and Ripley (1987) for Bangladesh. These two small woodpeckers do not appear to be common in Bangladesh. Recent observations suggest that

D. nanus may be present in the Sundarbans: two pairs thought to be of this species were noted in mangroves at Katka and a pair at Nilkamal all in February 1987 (D.A.S.), but detailed notes were not taken. However, a male *D. canicapillus* was closely observed near Katka on 16 December 1988 (W.G.H., D.J.M.). A number of detailed observations in Modhupur forest (central), including nesting in February 1989, indicate that *D. canicapillus* is relatively common there in mixed sal and evergreen forest (W.G.H., D.L.J., P.M.T.), and this species has also been recorded several times from West Bhanugach Reserve Forest and nearby tea estates in the north-east (W.G.H., D.L.J., P.M.T.).

PALE-HEADED WOODPECKER *Gecimulus grantia* Rare resident. First listed by Rashid (1967), and recorded from the Chittagong Hilltracts (Husain 1968; Husain and Haque 1976). The only recent record is of one in primary evergreen forest, which has since been cleared, at Kamarchera, Rajkandi (north-east) on 22 February 1985 (D.L.J.).

HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Hemicircus canente* Vagrant? Although listed for Bangladesh in Rashid (1967), and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record: one on shade trees near the Tea Research Institute, Srimangal (north-east) in May 1984 (S.M.A.R.).

GREAT HORNBILL *Buceros bicornis* Vagrant. Although included in several lists for Bangladesh since Rashid (1967), the only recent record is of one flying over West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) in February 1990 (F.S., P.D.A.).

BLYTH'S KINGFISHER *Alcedo hercules* Vagrant. Although noted for Sylhet by Ripley (1982) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record of this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988). One was observed at Hail Haor (north-east) on 22 February 1985 (D.J.M.), and there was also a probable record from a nearby tea estate at that time (P.L.W.). It seems likely that this bird had wandered from the nearby hill states.

RUDDY KINGFISHER *Halcyon coromanda* Status uncertain: rare resident or winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Ripley (1982) and Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent record is of one well seen perched along a narrow creek in freshwater mangrove forest near Dhangmari in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 16 December 1990 (D.A.S.).

***LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO** *Cuculus sparverioides* A rare winter visitor (and possibly passage migrant), not noted for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987) or Ripley (1982). The only records are from West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal) in the north-east where singles were seen on: 13 March 1985 (D.L.J., D.J.M., M.S., P.L.W.), 14 February 1986 (D.J.M., P.M.T.), 16 January 1987, 15 January 1988 and 4 March 1988 (all D.J.M.); and from the nearby Kamalgonj Tea Estate on 26 December 1992 (D.L.J., J.O'M., P.M.T.). A common summer visitor to the Himalayas, this species may be overlooked in forests at lower altitudes in winter.

HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO *Cuculus fugax* Vagrant? Although reported as occurring in Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Ali and Ripley (1987) and Ripley (1982), the only documented record is of one in a suburban Dhaka garden on 15-18 October 1987 (W.G.H.).

***ORIENTAL CUCKOO** *Cuculus saturatus* A rare migrant which may occur more often but identification has only been attempted when birds were calling. Although included in Rashid (1967), the only record for Bangladesh is of one watched calling repeatedly in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 26 March 1981 (D.L.J.).

***LESSER CUCKOO** *Cuculus poliocephalus* A rare migrant which may occur more often. Although included in Rashid (1967), the only confirmed records are: one calling in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 23 March 1984 (D.L.J.), one watched closely near Hail Haor, Srimangal on 22 October 1988 (W.G.H.), and one calling at south Patenga (Chittagong, south-east) on 21 April 1990 (D.L.J.).

VIOLET CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* Rare resident or migrant? Although listed by Rashid (1967), the only confirmed records appear to be: a sub-adult male in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 27 March 1986 (D.L.J., N.B., R.H.); a male at the same site on 9 January 1987 (D.J.M.), a pair and a single male at the same site in May 1989 (W.G.H.); and a male in Satcheri Reserve Forest (north-east) on 4 May 1992 (D.A.S.).

***HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET** *Collocalia brevirostris* A rare winter visitor from higher altitudes. First recorded in October 1985 at Baroorah Tea Estate, Srimangal, north-east (DJM), where it was observed with Asian Palm-Swifts *Cypsiurus balasiensis*; subsequently there was one in January 1986 and two on 7 November 1988 at the same site (D.J.M.). Other records are of 'several' over the River Meghna at Ashuganj (north-east) on 4 November 1988 (D.J.M.), one hawking for insects at Nilkamal in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 23 March 1991 (D.A.S.), and two over stubble fields near Khagra, east of Sylhet (north-east) on 25 January 1993 (P.M.T.).

***FORK-TAILED SWIFT** *Apus pacificus* An irregular winter visitor or passage migrant. The first record is of one hawking insects with Asian Palm-Swifts *Cypsiurus balasiensis* near the beach at Cox's Bazar, south-east, on 12 August 1981 (D.L.J.). Subsequent records are: a large flock over Rangamati (south-east) in December 1986 (V.Z.); about 3,000 on 27 April 1988 over Cox's Bazar (P.M.T.); a heavy movement to the north and east over Srimangal (north-east) on 19 November 1988 (D.J.M.); one over the Botanical Gardens, Dhaka after a cyclone on 1 December 1988 (W.G.H.); 100+ over forest at Malumghat (near Chittagong) moving north on 27 November 1989 (D.L.J.); and 100+ over Patenga, Chittagong, on 7 December 1991 (D.L.J., P.M.T.). Several of the observations appear to be associated with storms or cyclones.

CRESTED TREESWIFT *Hemiprocne coronata* Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Khan (1982), there are only two recent records of this species, which is widely distributed in India. A flock of at least 30 were watched at Bhawal National Park on 1 April 1979 (D.L.J.), and one was observed at Madhya Nhila near Teknaf (south-east) in November 1983 (S.M.A.R.).

[ROCK EAGLE-OWL *Bubo bengalensis* Status uncertain, listed by Rashid (1967) but no confirmed record. The record given in Harvey (1990) of one heard in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal) on 30 March 1987 is now regarded as probable only.]

DUSKY EAGLE-OWL *Bubo coromandus* A rare resident. Since the 19th and early 20th centuries (Tytler 1854, Bates 1935) there appear to have been only five records of this species in Bangladesh, although it is widespread in wooded areas of the Indian sub-continent. Apart from one in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal) on 18 November 1989 (D.L.J.), it is only known from Modhupur Forest (central). At the latter site one was found on 27 April 1990, a pair were closely observed and tape-recorded on 15 December 1990 (D.L.J., N.B.), a pair were observed copulating on 6 November 1992 (D.L.J., R.H., N.B., A.W.), and a pair were observed at the same location on 22 January 1993 (D.L.J., P.M.T.).

TAWNY FISH-OWL *Ketupa flavipes* Rare resident? Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982) for the hills of Bangladesh, the only recent records are of one in woodland near New Samanbagh Tea Estate (north-east) on 17 January 1990 (D.L.J.), and one closely observed for about 30 minutes while it bathed in a small pool and then dried out in Modhupur Forest (central) on 8 December 1992 (J. & S.O'M.).

***BROWN WOOD-OWL** *Strix leptogrammica* A rare resident. Only recorded in Modhupur Forest (sal forest). Following unconfirmed reports from 1976 (per R.K.), one was found to be resident near Joloi resthouse during 1987 and 1988 (C.S.), and subsequently the only records are of: two found roosting in the crown of a sal tree on 6 January 1990 (D.L.J., N.B., R.H.); one watched eating a rat and calling (tape-recorded) on 22 January 1993 (D.L.J., P.M.T.); and one calling on 9 April 1993 (D.L.J.).

GREAT EARED-NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus macrotis* A rare or localised resident. Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982) for Bangladesh, the only confirmed records are from Modhupur Forest (central) where they were in display flight/song in February 1989 (W.G.H.), and from New Samanbagh Tea Estate (north-east) on 11 and 12 November 1990 when up to 20 were observed leaving forest and hawking for insects over tea plantations and paddyfields (D.L.J.).

PALE-CAPPED PIGEON *Columba punicea* Rare, status uncertain. First listed for what is now Bangladesh by Blanford (1898). However, the only recent records are of 2-3 perched high in trees in the evening on three dates:

14 May 1988, 22 October 1988, and 20 February 1989; all in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Srimangal in the north-east (W.G.H.). It seems likely that this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) had wandered from the nearby hill states where it is known from Assam and Manipur (Ali and Ripley 1987).

****PIN-TAILED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron apicauda* Rare, possibly a nomad from neighbouring hills. Although not listed by Harvey (1990), this species was listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Husain (1979), Khan (1982), and Ali and Ripley (1987). However, the only documented record is of a party of six watched closely feeding in the canopy in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 21 February 1992 (D.A.S., A.K.). It seems unlikely that this species might be resident, since this is the best watched forest in Bangladesh; but it is partly nomadic depending on food supplies and is known from the nearby hill ranges of Assam (Khasi, Cachar), Nagaland and Manipur (Ali and Ripley 1987).

****WEDGE-TAILED GREEN-PIGEON** *Treron sphenura* Rare, possibly a nomad from neighbouring hills. Although not listed by Harvey (1990), this species was listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Khan (1982), and Ali and Ripley (1987). The only documented record is of a party of six feeding in the canopy of a tall fruiting tree in Satcheri Reserve Forest, Telepara (north-east) on 10 March 1992 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.). It seems likely that these had wandered from higher altitudes because, like *T. apicauda*, this species occurs through the Himalayan foothills and is known from Nagaland and the hills of Assam (Ali and Ripley 1987).

SARUS CRANE *Grus antigone* Former resident?. Although first recorded from the Dhaka area in the 19th century (Simson 1882), the only recent records are: reports of a pair in Thakurgaon (north-west) up to 1989 (per S.M.A.R.); one shot at an unknown location in the north-east in 1990 (specimen in Bangladesh National Museum); and a captive bird of the eastern subspecies *G. a. sharpii* at Teknaf (south-east) on 11 February 1991 (S.M.A.R.). The last bird may well have come from Myanmar.

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Grus virgo* Rare winter visitor or vagrant. Although included in Husain (1979) and a number of other lists, the only confirmed record appears to be one associating with egrets *Egretta* in fields near Bhatigaon, south-west of Sunamganj (north-east) in January 1986 (S.M.A.R.).

MASKED FINFOOT *Heliopais personata* Rare visitor or resident? Although listed by Rashid (1967) and subsequent authors for the Sundarbans, there have been only four recent records. One was seen in a small channel near Tiger Point in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 29 January 1984 (D.L.J.); the remaining three records are all from Katka Khal in Kochikhali Tiger Reserve in the Sundarbans: two in March 1984 (S.M.A.R.), four in May 1986 (S.M.A.R.), and one on 8 February 1987 (S.M.A.R., D.A.S.).

****LITTLE CRAKE** *Porzana parva* Vagrant. There are only two previous records of this species from the Indian subcontinent (Ali and Ripley 1987). On 25 December 1991 a male and female were closely watched swimming and walking among emergent vegetation in the middle of Hail Haor in the north-east (P.M.T., D.L.J.).

WOOD SNIPE *Gallinago nemoricola* Rare winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record of this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988). One was flushed at close range from a stream in dense forest in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Srimangal (north-east), on 22 December 1992 (D.L.J.). This species is an altitudinal migrant from the Himalayas, but there is limited suitable forest habitat in Bangladesh.

****SWINHOE'S SNIPE** *Gallinago megala* Scarce winter visitor? The only record is of two found with both Common and Pintail Snipe (*G. gallinago* and *G. stenura*) at Hail Haor (north-east) on 23 February 1992 (D.A.S.). They were identified from *G. stenura* on the basis of larger size, heavier flight, longer bills, more conspicuous white in the outer tail, and call. Rashid (1967) assumed that this species would occur in Bangladesh, and it has been recorded from neighbouring Assam, Manipur and West Bengal (Ali and Ripley 1987). The difficulties of field identification mean that it has probably been overlooked.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* Scarce winter visitor. First recorded from Faridpur (south-central) by Cripps (1878) and from Sylhet by Eden (1881). The only recent records of this species are of one shot at Hail Haor (Srimangal, north-east) in March 1990, and subsequently one wintering along a stream in a tea estate at Srimangal and a few others wintering at Hail Haor. It would appear to be a regular but scarce and local winter visitor to the north-east, where it has been recorded from 27 September in all months through to March during 1990-91 (all records J.D.W.).

***BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* A scarce winter visitor, previously overlooked but regular in small numbers in coastal areas. The first record was a total of 19 from the area around Hatiya (east-centre) during mid-winter wildfowl counts in January 1989 (Bakewell and Howes 1989, Scott and Rose 1989). Subsequently recorded in each January wildfowl and wader count in the east-centre (14 in 1990, 31 in 1991, 1 in 1992, and 6 in 1993; M.A.B., A.K., S.M.A.R., P.M.T.). At Patenga (south-east) it has been recorded in August, September, December, January and March, usually as single birds, but with a maximum of 14 on 11 January 1990 (D.L.J., W.G.H.). There is only one record away from the coastal zone: two near Hail Haor (north-east) on 2 February 1993 (S.M.A.R.).

***FAR EASTERN CURLEW** *Numenius madagascariensis* The only record, and first for the Indian subcontinent is of one on 27 November 1988 at Cox's Bazar, south-east (H. & C.L.). The closest previous records of this long-

distance migrant from east Asia are from Malaysia and Thailand where it is a rare passage migrant (King *et al.* 1975, Boonsong and Round 1991).

****SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* Although Rashid (1967) anticipated that it was a winter visitor to much of Bangladesh, this species was not listed by Harvey (1990). First recorded by Mountfort and Poore (1968), who recorded 13 in the Sundarbans on 24 and 26 November 1967. Subsequently few claims (Husain *et al.* 1983, van der Ven 1988) until one in the north-east in January 1990 (P.D.A. and F.S.). Records during 1991-2 indicate that there may have been an influx that winter and that it is a not uncommon winter visitor. Most have been recorded from the north-east: one at Hail Haor on 25 December 1991 (P.M.T., D.L.J.); 15 on flooded fields near Hakaluki Haor on 27 December 1991 (P.M.T., D.L.J.); a total of 135 during surveys in February-March 1992 (D.A.S.) - these were concentrated at Pasua Beel (55), Haorkhal (30), and Majherbanda Beel (30); and 18 during a repeat survey in April-May 1992 with 13 at Pingla Beel (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.). Away from the haors of the north-east, 22 were on Sonar Char near Hatiya (east-centre) on 18 January 1992 (P.M.T., A.K., A.W.A.), and about 30 were along the Brahmaputra north of Aricha also on 18 January 1992 (D.L.J.).

NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK *Tringa guttifer* Scarce winter visitor. Although noted as a rare winter visitor by Husain (1979) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there are few confirmed records of this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988). Apart from an exceptional 300 at Nijumdip, Hatiya (east-centre) in January 1988 (S.M.A.R.), in subsequent mid-January wildfowl and wader counts there are totals of only three, one and two respectively in 1989, 1990 and 1991 from the eastern delta (A.W.A., D.B., J.H., S.M.A.R.). This species has also been recorded in small numbers from Patenga (Chittagong, south-east): a total of eight sightings - probably fewer birds - during two weeks in January 1988 (V.Z.); and two in January 1990, one on 8 March 1990, and two on 3 January 1991 (all D.L.J.). Away from the coast a flock of 25 was reported from Chatla Beel (Hakaluki Haor, north-east) during a cold spell on 2 December 1992 (S.M.A.R.).

***GREY-TAILED TATTLER** *Tringa brevipes* Vagrant. The first record for the Indian Sub-continent, and Bangladesh, was of two at Patenga near Chittagong (south-east) on 18 May 1989 (D.L.J.). They were closely observed both on the mudflats and in flight, with the following characters noted: sandplover sized with long straight dark bills and yellowish legs, plain grey uppersides with white eye-stripe, white belly and barred or scaly neck, breast and flanks. In flight uppersides all grey with rump and tail paler grey, double-noted call with each note inflected upward at the end. The closest previous records are from Thailand where it is a rare passage migrant (Boonsong and Round 1991).

***GREAT KNOT** *Calidris tenuirostris* A scarce or irregular passage migrant and winter visitor. Although listed by Rashid (1967), the first confirmed record was of up to 100 at Patenga (Chittagong, south-east) in October 1987 (V.Z.), this has since proved to be the main site so far discovered for the species in Bangladesh. Subsequently recorded at Patenga on 15 occasions between peak counts of 50+ on 27 October 1988 (W.G.H.) and over 120 on 29 August 1992 (D.L.J., P.M.T.). However, none was recorded there during visits between September 1990 and May 1992 (D.L.J.). Away from this site it has only been rarely recorded: one at South Haliahar beach (Chittagong) on 26 May 1988 (DJM); singles in 1989 and 1992 during January wildfowl counts on islands in the eastern delta; 15 at Egg Island on the edge of the Sundarbans on 5 February 1990 (D.L.J.); and five at Urir Char (east-centre) on 13 January 1993 (P.M.T., S.M.A.R., A.K.).

***RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus* A rare winter visitor only recorded in 1989. The 'first record' from Hatiya Island (east-centre) in January 1989 (Bakewell and Howes 1989; Scott and Rose 1989), has since been found to be an error (D. Bakewell pers. comm. to D.A.S.). The only records, therefore, are all from Patenga (Chittagong, south-east) and all in 1989; it seems likely that the same group of birds were involved: 20 on 10 April (W.G.H.), 5 on 20 April (D.L.J.), four in breeding plumage on 18 May (W.G.H.), and 13 on 1 December (D.L.J.).

SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* Despite being first recorded from Chittagong, south-east, (three specimens) in the mid 19th century (Blyth 1857), it was only in 1989 that it was discovered that this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) is a regular winter visitor and that Bangladesh is probably the main wintering ground for this species. Totals during January counts carried out as part of the coordinated Asian Mid-winter Wildfowl counts have been: three in 1988, 257 in 1989, 45 in 1991, about 100 in 1992, and two in 1993 (A.W.A., D.B., M.A.B., J.H., A.K., S.M.A.R., P.M.T.). The main sites for this species are in the eastern side of the delta (east-centre) particularly Hatiya Island, Urir Char and the Noakhali Coast, and Dhal Char on the outer edge of the delta. In addition it has been regularly recorded in small numbers at Patenga (south-east): no more than three have been recorded at one time, but a total of 18 'bird-days' have been recorded on 12 occasions between October 1987 and September 1992 covering seven months: August through to November, January, April and May (W.G.H., D.L.J., P.M.T., V.Z.). There is also one record from Egg Island on the edge of the Sundarbans: 4 on 24 February 1992 (D.L.J.). The coastal chars are a dynamic system and so the sites suitable for this species (which prefers a substrata of mixed sand and mud) can change within the space of a year. There may well be other suitable sites and the pattern of migration is unknown.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Vagrant? Although Stanford (1937, 1954) reported a breeding occurrence of this species in the Sundarbans (south-west), there are only two recent records: one at Nilbaria north-east of Dubla island on the edge of the Sundarbans in March 1984 (S.M.A.R.), and two at the same site on 9 February 1987 (S.M.A.R., D.A.S.).

LONG-BILLED PLOVER *Charadrius placidus* Vagrant. Although first listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) there are only two traceable records. Two were found at a coastal site on Nijumdip (east-centre) on 19 January 1991 (M.A.B.); and one was watched on ploughed fields near Hail Haor, Srimangal, on 1 January 1991 (J.D.W.). The record given in Harvey (1990) from May 1978 is now regarded as probable only.

*CRAB PLOVER *Dromas ardeola* Vagrant. The only record is of six at Kamilar Char, Nijumdip in the east-central coastal area on 18 January 1988 (S.M.A.R.). The closest locations where it has been regularly recorded are in Peninsular Thailand (Boonsong and Round 1991) and western India and Sri Lanka (Ali and Ripley 1987).

*PARASITIC JAEGER (ARCTIC SKUA) *Stercorarius parasiticus* Vagrant. The only record is of one on 20 January 1981 in the Swatch of No Ground off the Sundarbans in Bangladesh Territorial Waters - R.K. (Harvey, 1990). The nearest previous records are in the Arabian Sea (Ali and Ripley 1987) and coastal Thailand (Boonsong and Round 1991).

*BLACK-NAPED TERN *Sterna sumatrana* Vagrant. The only record is of one in November 1986 towards Moheshkhali island, north of Cox's Bazar, south-east (V.Z.). The nearest part of its regular range is the Andaman Islands (Ali and Ripley 1987).

*EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* Vagrant. Although included in Husain (1979), the only confirmed record is of one over Char Khiderpur near Rajshahi (north-west) on 10 April 1984 (S.M.A.R.).

**EURASIAN GRIFFON *Gyps fulvus* Vagrant. Two immatures feeding on a carcass with White-rumped and Long-billed Vultures (*Gyps bengalensis* and *G. indicus*) east of Bhairab Bazar in the north-east on 18 February 1992 appear to be the first confirmed record. They were readily distinguished on size and plumage from the accompanying species. Despite a number of references to this species in papers on the birds of Bangladesh, for example Rashid (1967), Mountfort and Poore (1968) and Husain (1979), there is no specific reference to its occurrence in Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987) and the species was not listed by Harvey (1990). This species is, however, an occasional non-breeding visitor to the plains of northern India east to Assam and south to 20°N (Ali and Ripley 1987), hence its occurrence in Bangladesh is not unexpected.

*CINERBOUS VULTURE *Aegyptius monachus* Vagrant. Although listed in Khan (1982), the only documented record is of one in Comilla zoo (east-

centre) in 1987 which had reportedly been captured locally (Harvey 1990). SHORT-TOED SNAKE-EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* Rare winter visitor. Although first listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) there are only three recent records: one over Modhupur Forest (Joloi resthouse) in November 1986 (C.S.), two over Himchari, Cox's Bazar (south-east) on 23 November 1988 (H. & C.L.); and two over Dhaka golf course on 12 December 1992 (D.L.J.).

NORTHERN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Rare winter visitor. Although Bates (1935) recorded this species from the Chittagong area, it was not listed in Ripley (1982). There have been several recent records: a male at Baroorah Tea Estate (near Srimangal) on 16 February 1987 (D.J.M.); a male near Srimangal in February 1988 (V.Z.); a male on Egg Island in the south-eastern Sundarbans on 4 February 1990 (D.L.J.); single males recorded at Hail Haor in the north-east on 18 January and 30 November 1991 (J.D.W.); a male on Moulvi Char, Hatiya Island, (east-centre) on 15 January 1992 (P.M.T.); a male at Hail Haor in December 1992 (D.L.J., J. & S.O'M.); and a male at Erali Beel (north-east) on 29 January 1993 (S.M.A.R.).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* Vagrant. This species was listed for Faridpur District by Cripps (1878), which may be the source for inclusion in subsequent lists. There is only one recent record: a male was seen flying over cultivated fields in Harikhola valley at Whykeong (near Teknaf, south-east) in December 1983 (S.M.A.R.).

*NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* Vagrant. Although listed by Khan (1982) there are only two documented records: one was watched flying over a hilltop close to Teknaf (south-east) on 9 December 1983 (S.M.A.R.); and one was watched for about 10 minutes flying over Dhaka zoo on 23 October 1987 (P.M.T.).

*LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* A scarce winter visitor. Although listed by Khan (1982), the first documented record is of one near Pabna (north-west) on 30 January 1982 (D.L.J., N.B., R.H., G.F.). Subsequent records are of: one at Cox's Bazar (south-east) in November 1987 (H. & C.L.), one flying over the Dhaleswari river near Dhaka on 31 January 1992 (D.L.J., A.M.K., P.M.T., J.D.W.), and one near Bahadurabad railhead on the Brahmaputra (central) on 5 December 1992 (D.L.J., R.N., A.W., N.B.). This species appears to favour sandbanks in the main rivers.

IMPERIAL EAGLE *Aquila heliaca* Rare winter visitor. Although listed in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent records are: a second year at Uttara, Dhaka on 4 March 1978, one at Dhaka airport on 16 December 1979, one at Pabna on 30 January 1982 (all D.L.J.), two immatures at Teknaf (south-east) on 3 December 1988 (H. & C.L.), and one 6 km north of Bahadurabad railhead perched on a char in the Brahmaputra (central) on 5 December 1992 (D.L.J., R.N., A.W., N.B.).

****BONELLI'S EAGLE** *Hieraaetus fasciatus* Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Khan (1982) possibly on the basis of a claim by Husain *et al.* (1974), the only confirmed record appears to be of one over Satcheri Reserve Forest, Telepara (north-east) in March 1990 (F.S., P.D.A.). This was presumably a vagrant from the Himalayas.

***BOOTED EAGLE** *Hieraaetus pennatus* A scarce winter visitor or passage migrant, Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987) presumed that it occurred but gave no specific records. The first record was a light phase bird over Kaliakoir (50 km north of Dhaka) on 22 October 1978 (D.L.J.). Subsequent records are: one 50 km north of Joydepur (central) on 28 April 1979 (D.L.J.); a light phase at Modhupur Forest (central) on 15 April 1987 (W.G.H.); a light phase roosting at Dhaka Zoo on 7 November 1987 (W.G.H.); three at Dhaka Zoo (two dark phase and one light phase) on 12 May 1988 (W.G.H., D.J.M., J.D.W.); a light phase near Mymensingh (central) and another near Sylhet (north-east) in February 1989 (W.G.H.); one over a grass fire south of Srimangal in February 1990 (J.D.W.); and one at Patenga (Chittagong) on 5 April 1990 (D.L.J.).

****SAKER FALCON** *Falco cherrug* Presumably a vagrant, the closest area where it is regularly recorded, as a scarce winter visitor, is in central Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The only record is of one well watched resting and flying in a grassy area near Modhupur Forest (central) on 18 April 1992 (D.L.J., J. & S.O'M.).

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Local winter visitor. Harvey (1990) reported no recent records, although this species has appeared in many past bird lists for Bangladesh (Rashid, 1967) and the oldest record is that of Lister (1951). However, surveys in 1992/93 revealed that it is still a winter visitor in moderate numbers to the deeper beels of the Haor Basin in the north-east, and to the northern reaches of the Brahmaputra River. In the north-east 54 were recorded from 11 sites in February-March 1992, but only one was recorded in a survey of the same areas in April-May 1992 (S.M.A.R., D.A.S.). In winter 1992-1993 higher numbers were recorded in the same region, peaks for the most important sites were: 45 at Pana Beel 27 January 1993 (A.K., S.M.A.R., P.M.T.), 130 at Pasua Beel in November 1992 (S.M.A.R.), and 95 at Sanir Haor on 4 November 1992 (S.M.A.R.); the majority of records are from the Tangua, Matian and Gurmar Haor complexes. In addition three pairs were found along 6 km of the Brahmaputra river north of Bahadurabad railhead on 7 March 1992 (D.L.J., R.H.), and a total of 32 in two flocks at the same site on 5 December 1992 (D.L.J., R.N., A.W., N.B.).

***PACIFIC REEF-EGRET** *Egretta sacra* Vagrant. There appear to be three records for Bangladesh, but the species has not been recorded elsewhere on the mainland Indian subcontinent (Ali and Ripley 1987). Khan (1985) reported it from St Martin's Island in the extreme south-east but full details

were not included. Rashid and Khan (1987) likewise reported it from Teknaf: apparently a number of dark phase birds were seen on mudflats near Teknaf (south-east) in December 1983 (S.M.A.R., A.K.). Most recently, a white phase bird was seen on several occasions at Patenga, Chittagong in January and February 1989 (W.G.H., D.L.J., Harvey 1990). This species occurs on the Andaman Islands (Ali and Ripley 1987), and along the Arakan coast of Myanmar which is adjacent to the Teknaf-St Martin's region (Smythies 1986).

GOLIATH HERON *Ardea goliath* Vagrant. This primarily Afrotropical species was first recorded in Bangladesh in Khulna District in the south-west (Prater 1926); the specimen is held by the Bombay Natural History Society (Abdulali 1968). There are only two recent records: one flying north at Himchari Beach, Cox's Bazar (south-east) on 23 November 1988 (H. & C.L.), and one well seen while flying over Dhaka Zoo on 20 December 1992 (J. & S.O'M.). It is unknown whether these are recent long distance vagrants or have been surviving within the region for some time.

WHITE-BELLIED HERON *Ardea insignis* Vagrant? This globally threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) was reported to occur in Bangladesh by Ali and Ripley (1987) and Ripley (1982), but there is only one well documented or recent observation. A pair were flushed twice from the forest-lined shore of Madhabpore lake, near Srimangal, on 25 March 1988, good views were obtained of both birds in flight (D.J.M.). This species may have wandered from one of the Indian hillstates.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* Rare winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), there are only three recent records. One was watched flying over Baroorah Tea Estate, Srimangal (north-east) in September 1984 (D.J.M.); one flying over marshes at Khakra Kuri Beel, Balai Haor in the north-east on 6 March 1992 (D.A.S.), and one flushed from paddy fields at Haorkhal (north-east) on 30 January 1993 (S.M.A.R.).

****BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra* Rare winter visitor. The first three records for Bangladesh are given, although the species was listed as potentially occurring by Rashid (1967). One was at Palangkhal on the Naf river south-east of Cox's Bazar (south-east), in December 1983 (S.M.A.R.). Two were closely observed for eight hours on a low muddy char (sandbank) in the Brahmaputra River about 3 km north of Aricha (central region) on 18 January 1992, mostly feeding alone but also associating with a flock of 40 Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* (D.L.J., R.H., A.W.). One on a char in the Brahmaputra 6 km north of Bahadurabad railhead on 5 December 1992 (D.L.J., R.N., A.W., N.B.). This species winters sparsely in the Indian subcontinent so its occurrence is not surprising, although Ripley (1982) noted it to be absent south of Assam.

BLUE PITTA *Pitta cyanea* A rare summer visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and others, the only recent record is from West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Srimangal (north-east), in May-June 1988, where breeding was suspected (Harvey 1990).

NORTHERN SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Rare winter visitor. Although first recorded from Lalmai, Comilla in the east-centre (Collins 1948), the only recent record is of one at Ranikong, Durgapur, north of Mymensingh (central) on 14 February 1984 (S.M.A.R.).

RED-BILLED MAGPIE *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* Rare winter visitor. Although included in Rashid (1967), the only recent records are: two at Muchoni near Teknaf (south-east) in October 1983 (S.M.A.R.) and one in flight in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) in November 1985 (D.J.M., E.F.G.).

SCALY THRUSH *Zosterops dauma* Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh in Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), there is only one recent record. One was seen in Modhupur Forest (central) on 15 December 1990 (D.L.J.).

DARK-SIDED THRUSH *Zosterops marginata* Vagrant. Although listed in Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record of one watched down to 1.5 m around a walkway and clump of bamboos on the Bangladesh Agricultural University campus, Mymensingh (central) on 10 November 1988 (W.G.H.).

TICKELL'S THRUSH *Turdus unicolor* Vagrant. Although noted from Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Mountfort and Poore (1968), there are only three recent records. A male was by a homestead wood and pond in a village between Gopalganj and Barisal (south-centre) on 25 February 1979 (D.L.J.); one was in Bhawal National Park (central) on 27 February 1986 (D.A.S.); and two were seen separately feeding in Modhupur Forest (central) on 10 February 1989 (W.G.H.).

***WHITE-COLLARED BLACKBIRD** *Turdus albocinctus* Vagrant. A male in song in Modhupur Forest (central) on 10 February 1989 (W.G.H.) during a cold spell is the only record, much below its normal altitudinal range. However, Ali and Ripley (1987) give nearby Meghalaya and Cachar (Assam) as part of the wintering range.

****GREY-WINGED BLACKBIRD** *Turdus boulboul* Vagrant. There are only two, previously unpublished, records. A male was seen in thick scrub in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 25 March 1978, and a female was seen at the same site on 13 March 1985 (both records D.L.J.). The closest part of the wintering range given by Ali and Ripley (1987) is Cachar in Assam.

****EURASIAN BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* Vagrant. The only record is of a male in Modhupur Forest (central) during a cold spell in January 1982 (S.M.A.R.). Although Ali and Ripley (1987) note it as a winter visitor to the plains of India, there appears to have been no previous record in Bangladesh.

EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* A rare passage migrant. Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there are only two recent records: one in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 14 March 1986 (D.J.M.), and one in coastal woodland at Patenga (south-east) on 7 April 1990 (D.L.J.).

***DUSKY THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni* Vagrant. Although listed by Rashid (1967), the only confirmed record is of a male closely observed in a belt of *Casuarina* trees along the coast at Cox's Bazar (south-east) on 25 March 1989 (D.L.J.). Ali and Ripley (1987) give this species as a passage migrant in the north-eastern hillstates.

***LESSER SHORTWING** *Brachypteryx leucophrys* A rare winter visitor. The first record for Bangladesh was a female caught in a mist-net in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 20 February 1986 (D.L.J.). The only other records are from the same site: at least two which were closely observed on 20 November 1987 (D.J.M.), and one on 20 February 1989 (W.G.H.). These were presumably altitudinal migrants from the north-east Indian hillstates, Ali and Ripley (1987) give a lowest altitude of 1500 m.

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa sibirica* Rare passage migrant. Although listed in Rashid (1967), the only recent records of this hill species are of: one in Modhupur Forest (north-centre) on 5 November 1986 (S.M.A.R.), two adults and an immature closely observed in Modhupur Forest on 9 November 1991 (D.L.J., N.B.), and one in homestead trees near Erali Beel east of Sylhet (north-east) on 27 April 1992 (D.A.S.).

RUFOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula strophziata* Rare winter visitor. Although listed as a winter visitor in the Chittagong region (Ali and Ripley 1987), the only recent record is of one in Modhupur Forest (central) in December 1988 (C.S.).

***SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hyperythra* Rare winter visitor. The only confirmed records of this species are of a female feeding in dense cover near the ground in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 23 February 1985 (D.L.J.), and a pair in undergrowth at the same site on 20 and 21 February 1987 (D.J.M.). Ali and Ripley (1987) give a lowest altitude of 300 m and list it for the nearby hillstates.

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER *Ficedula superciliiaris* Rare winter visitor. Although listed by Rashid (1967), the only recent record is of one on the edge of forest in Sitapchar forest near Kaptai (south-east) during winter 1987-88 (V.Z.).

***SAPPHIRE FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula sapphira* Vagrant?. The only record is of a sub-adult male in the understorey of West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 21 February 1986 (D.L.J., D.J.M.). At about 35 m above sea level this is much lower than the range given by Ali and Ripley (1987) who state that it occurs in the nearby hillstates seasonally down to 800 m.

*SMALL NILTAVA *Niltava macgrigoriae* Vagrant. The only confirmed record of this species is of a female closely observed while feeding in the understorey of West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 23 February 1985 (D.L.J., N.B.). This species might be expected to be more frequent since Ali and Ripley (1987) note that it breeds in the Garo and Khasi hills of Meghalaya and winters in the foothills and plains of the Brahmaputra valley.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA *Niltava sundara* Rare winter visitor. Ali and Ripley (1987) list it for the Chittagong Hilltracts, but the only recent records of this skulking species are of one in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) in October 1987 (C.S.) and a male at Madhapkhundo waterfall, New Samanbagh Tea Estate (north-east) on 17 January 1990 (D.L.J.).

**FIRETHROAT *Luscinia pectardens* Vagrant. A male in full breeding plumage was found in dense woodland at Pasua Beel, Gurmar Haor (north-east) on 24 April 1992 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.), the bird was inquisitive, giving excellent views, and on several occasions it uttered short bursts of sub-song. This constitutes the first record for Bangladesh and only the second for the Indian subcontinent; the first being in January 1950 from the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, adjacent to Bangladesh (Koelz 1954, Ali and Ripley 1987). Soon after the Bangladesh record, on 21 June 1992, a pair was seen in the Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh (Katti 1992). This species is apparently mainly resident in China, breeding from south-east Tibet north through Sichuan to south-west Kansu and Shensi (Meyer de Schauensee 1984).

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN *Luscinia brunnea* A rare winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent record is of a female in undergrowth in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 28 February 1991 (P.M.T.). This species is a regular altitudinal migrant with part of the population migrating to southern India in the winter.

*RUFIOUS-BREASTED BUSH-ROBIN *Tarsiger hyperythrus* Vagrant. First record: a female watched down to 1 m feeding on leaf mould in dense forest in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 21 October 1988 (W.G.H.). A scarce Himalayan species which makes seasonal altitudinal movements, and is noted from the Indian hill states in winter (Ali and Ripley 1987).

BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART *Phoenicurus frontalis* Vagrant from the Himalayas. Although listed for Bangladesh in Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there is only one recent record of one at Sonargaon town (central) on 29 December 1984 (S.M.A.R.).

*WHITE-CAPPED WATER-REDSTART (RIVER CHAT) *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* A rare winter visitor normally found at higher altitudes. Apart from an undated record in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (C.S.), this

species has only been recorded from Madhapkhundo waterfall in New Samanbagh Tea Estate (north-east) where it was first recorded on 31 January 1986 (D.J.M.); subsequently it has been recorded there in most years from November to February (D.L.J., D.J.M., J.D.W., P.M.T., J. & S.O'M.). It would appear to be a regular winter visitor to this location at about 100 m above sea level.

*WHITE-TAILED ROBIN *Cinclidium leucurum* A rare breeding resident. Not listed for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987) or Ripley (1982). First recorded on 25 March 1978 (D.L.J.). All records are from West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) where it is regularly recorded (many observers) during winter (November to March). However, on 17 June 1988 a recently fledged juvenile (dark brown with heavy pinkish spotting and the same tail pattern as an adult) was found (D.J.M., J.D.W.). At 35 m above sea level this record is much lower than its normal breeding range of above 1200 m (Ali and Ripley, 1987).

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL *Enicurus schistaceus* Rare visitor? Although noted for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ali and Ripley (1987), there are only two recent records: one in Alinagar Tea Estate (north-east) on 3 May 1985 (D.J.M., P.L.W.), and a pair at Madhapkhundo Waterfall (New Samanbagh Tea Estate, north-east) on 24 December 1992 (D.L.J., J. & S.O'M.).

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL *Enicurus leschenaulti* Rare visitor? Although noted for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987) the only recent record is of two along a stream in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 8 December 1989 (J.D.W.).

**PURPLE COCHOA *Cochoa purpurea* Vagrant. Although included in Rashid (1967), the only confirmed record is of an adult male closely watched at Dhaka Golf Course, at low altitude (under 5 m) and out of its normal forest habitat, on 2 November 1990 (D.L.J., J.D.W.). This most unlikely of records was presumably a vagrant from Meghalaya or another of the nearby hill states, where its altitudinal range is given as 1000-3000 m (Ali and Ripley 1987). The chances of it being an escape seem very low, and in any case most cage birds in Bangladesh are caught locally.

WHITE-TAILED STONECHAT *Saxicola leucura* Vagrant? Although first recorded in the 19th century from the Garo hills (central-north-east) in what is now Bangladesh (Godwin-Austen 1870), there is only one recent record of a male in paddyfields by the road to Banderban (south-east) on 20 April 1990 (D.L.J.).

JERDON'S BUSHCHAT *Saxicola jerdoni* Rare winter visitor. Although first recorded in the 19th century from the Garo hills (central-north-east) in what is now Bangladesh (Godwin-Austen 1870), there are only three recent records. A male was present at Baroorah Tea Estate (Srimangal, north-east)

during February 1985 (D.J.M., E.F.G.), a female was present at exactly the same place during February 1986 (D.J.M., P.M.T.); and a male was in extensive grassland at Bara Haor (north-east) on 4 December 1992 (S.M.A.R., A.K.).

***DESERT WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe deserti* Vagrant or rare winter visitor. There are only two records, both from Patenga, Chittagong (south-east): one in December 1987 (V.Z.), and a male on the seawall on 7 December 1991 (P.M.T., D.L.J.). The closest area where the species is regularly recorded is in north-central Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Rare winter visitor. Although listed by Rashid (1967), there are only two recent records: one at Patenga, Chittagong (south-east) in January 1988 (V.Z.), and three (including an adult in good plumage) in homestead trees east of Kawadighi Haor, near Moulvi Bazar (north-east) on 22 February 1992 (D.A.S.).

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Rare winter visitor. Although listed by Rashid (1967), there are only three recent records, all from Patenga, Chittagong (south-east): three in December 1987 (V.Z.), 12 on 11 January 1990 (D.L.J.), and at least 20 in recently harvested fields on 7 December 1991 (D.L.J., P.M.T.).

[BEAUTIFUL NUTHATCH *Sitta formosa* Possible vagrant, listed by Rashid (1967) but no other records. The record given in Harvey (1990) is now regarded as probable only.]

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW *Hirundo smithii* Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and others, the only recent record is of two over the Agricultural University campus at Mymensingh (central) in October 1988 (Harvey 1990).

STRIATED SWALLOW *Hirundo striolata* Resident? Although listed by Husain (1979), the only confirmed records appear to be from near Srimangal (north-east) in November 1988 and March 1989 (W.G.H.). This species has probably been overlooked in the past among Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo daurica*.

****STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW** *Hirundo fluvicola* Vagrant. The only record for Bangladesh is of one, watched closely with Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* for comparison, over a small pond in the East Wildlife Sanctuary near Katka in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 17 December 1990 (D.A.S.). According to Ali and Ripley (1987) this species has not previously been recorded from Bangladesh, Bengal, or Assam; however, northern populations are migratory so a vagrant in Bangladesh is not unexpected.

****ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon dasypus* Rare winter visitor? Although listed by Rashid (1967), the only confirmed record for Bangladesh is of a flock of about 50-100 hawking for insects, with Barn Swallows and Red-rumped Swallows (*Hirundo rustica* and *H. daurica*), over marshland, stubble

fields and fires near Khagra, east of Sylhet (north-east) on 25 January 1993 (P.M.T.). Close views were obtained of several and identification was based on the pale greyish underparts, dark underwing coverts, and scarcely forked tail. The closest breeding areas for this species are in Nepal but it has also been recorded from lowlands in north-east India (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

FLAVESCENT BULBUL *Pycnonotus flavescens* Vagrant or former local resident. There is only one recent record: one seen in primary evergreen forest at Kamarchera, Rajkandi (north-east) on 22 February 1985 (D.L.J.). This forest has since been felled. As with a number of species from the hill areas its status in the Chittagong Hilltracts is unknown because access is restricted.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA *Prinia flaviventris* Rare resident. Although first recorded from the north-east by Godwin-Austen (1870), there have been only five recent records. In the Sundarbans (south-west) one was singing at Hiron Point on 29 January 1984 (D.L.J.); about ten were in a small marsh at Nilkamal on 10 February 1987 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.); and six were at the same site in March 1991 (D.A.S.). Elsewhere three were on a grassy hillside in Nurjahan Tea Estate (Srimangal, north-east) on 25 June 1988 (D.J.M., P.M.T.); and two were singing between Chittagong and Rangamati (south-east) on 22 April 1989 (D.L.J.).

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA *Tesia castaneocoronata* Vagrant. Although listed for the Chittagong Hilltracts in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent record is of one in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 24 March 1978 (D.L.J.).

****SLATY-BELLIED TESIA** *Tesia olivea* Vagrant. The only record is of one watched for 15 minutes at Madhapkhundo Waterfall (New Samanbagh Tea Estate, north-east) on 24 December 1992 (D.L.J., J. & S.O'M.). Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* is a relatively common winter visitor in the area, but this bird was distinguished by the whole of the cap being bright yellowish, and by a call which was similar but less harsh or sharp than that of *T. cyaniventer*. *T. olivea* is listed for the nearby hillstates by Ali and Ripley (1987), and may be a scarce altitudinal migrant to Bangladesh.

BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH-WARBLER *Cettia fortipes* Rare winter visitor? Although listed by Rashid (1967), and noted as breeding in the hills of Meghalaya and wintering in the plains of north Bengal (Ali and Ripley 1987), there appears to be only one record. One was seen in Modhupur Forest (central) in November 1986 (S.M.A.R.).

SPOTTED BUSH-WARBLER *Bradypterus thoracicus* Rare winter visitor? First recorded from Sylhet (north-east) in the 19th century (Godwin-Austen, 1872). The only recent record is of one seen well in dense vegetation by Pasua Beel, Gurmar Haor (north-east) on 24 April 1992 (D.A.S.).

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata* Rare winter visitor?

Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), the only recent record is of one seen well in herbaceous vegetation at Pasua Beel, Gurmar Haor (north-east) on 4 March 1992 (D.A.S.).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Rare winter visitor? Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), the only recent record is of one seen well among crops by the Padma near Mawa south of Dhaka on 28 February 1986 (D.A.S.).

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Locustella certhiola* Possibly an uncommon passage migrant, easily overlooked. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), the only recent records are: one in a small marsh at Nilkamal, Sundarbans (south-west) on 10 February 1987 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.), one in riverside scrub at Hail Haor (north-east) in April 1987 (W.G.H.), at least five in dense vegetation near Arabiakona Beel, Tangua Haor (north-east) on 23 April 1992 (D.A.S.), and two in a dense thicket at Pasua Beel (north-east) on 24 April 1992 (D.A.S.).

****BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Local winter visitor and passage migrant, possibly overlooked previously. The first record was of one in herbaceous vegetation with *A. concinens/agricola* for comparison at Rauar Beel (Tangua Haor, north-east) on 3 March 1992 (D.A.S.). Subsequent records are of at least four singing in a large area of rushes at Hail Haor (north-east) on 2 May 1992 (D.A.S.), and one in the company of *A. concinens/agricola* in dense vegetation at Pasua Beel (north-east) on 26 January 1993 (P.M.T.). This species (which breeds in north-east Asia) has been recorded as a winter visitor to West Bengal (regularly), eastern Assam, and Manipur (Ali and Ripley 1987), so it is not unexpected in Bangladesh.

PADDYFIELD WARBLER *Acrocephalus agricola*/BLUNT-WINGED WARBLER *A. concinens* Local winter visitor/passage migrant. *A. agricola* has been collected in Bangladesh (Godwin-Austen 1870) and Ripley (1982) listed *A. concinens* from Bangladesh. Harvey (1990) attributed all records of these two species to *A. agricola*, but D.A.S. considered that, out of the hundreds observed on passage through the wetlands of the north-east in late April and early May 1992 (many of which were in song), those closely observed were likely to be *A. concinens*. *A. concinens stevensi* breeds in Assam and has been recorded in Bangladesh (Ali and Ripley 1987), but is difficult to distinguish in the field from *A. agricola*; further research is needed in Bangladesh.

***SMOKY WARBLER** *Phylloscopus fuligiventer* Vagrant? The only confirmed records of this species which winters in the Himalayan foothills are: one in Modhupur Forest (central) on 26 November 1986 (C.S., S.M.A.R.), and one in waterside scrub in the Botanical Gardens, Dhaka on 18 February 1989 (W.G.H.).

***RADDE'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Vagrant/rare winter visitor. The first record, and apparently the fifth for the Indian subcontinent - the others being from Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and India (Jepson 1987) - was of three feeding low down in a clump of bougainvillea in Gulshan, Dhaka on 15-20 December 1986 (W.G.H.). There are two subsequent records: two in the Botanical Gardens, Dhaka on 20 December 1988 (W.G.H.); and one in mangrove forest at Tiger Point in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 24 February 1992 (D.L.J.).

PALE-RUMPED WARBLER *Phylloscopus chloronotus* A rare winter visitor. Although noted for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987), there are only two recent records, both from the Botanical Gardens, Dhaka: one on 1 December 1988, and one on 18 February 1989 (both W.G.H.).

***YELLOWISH-BREASTED WARBLER (GREEN WARBLER)** *Phylloscopus trochiloides nitidus* A rare passage migrant, not specifically mentioned for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987), although included in Rashid (1967). The first confirmed record was of one closely watched at Baroorah Tea Estate (Srimangal, north-east) in September 1986 (D.J.M.), the only subsequent record is of one in the Botanical Gardens Dhaka on 26 October 1991 (D.L.J.). Although difficult to identify, in both cases the birds were similar to but much brighter than accompanying Greenish Warblers *P. trochiloides trochiloides/viridanus*, showing yellower underparts. This subspecies has been recorded from Nepal in spring (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); and Ali and Ripley (1987) regarded it as only a spring migrant through the Eastern Himalayas.

***WESTERN CROWNED-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus occipitalis* A regular winter visitor, not noted for Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987). The first record was from West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 26 November 1985 (D.J.M.). Subsequently it has been frequently recorded from October to March in forests and tea estates in the north-east and central regions (W.G.H., D.L.J., D.J.M., C.S., P.M.T., J.D.W.).

***GREY-HOODED WARBLER** *Seicercus xanthoschistos* Rare passage migrant? Although listed by Rashid (1967) there are only three confirmed records. The first record was from Shamshernagar Tea Estate (north-east) in April 1986 (D.J.M.), subsequently single birds were seen in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Srimangal (north-east) in March and April 1987 (W.G.H., J.D.W.).

YELLOW-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax galbanus* Rare resident? Although listed by Ali and Ripley (1987) for the Chittagong Hilltracts, the only recent record is of four bathing in a hill stream at Muchoni near Teknaf (south-east) on 8 November 1983 (S.M.A.R.).

RUFIOUS-VENTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax gularis* Rare resident? Although listed from Bangladesh in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only

recent record is of one feeding on the ground by a stream in coastal scrub jungle 5 km south of Cox's Bazar (south-east) on 27 April 1988 (P.M.T.).
SPOT-THROATED BABBLER *Pellorneum albiventre* Rare resident. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), there are few confirmed records. In West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) one was closely observed in November 1985 (D.J.M., E.F.G.), and two were seen in June 1989 (W.G.H.).

MARSH BABBLER *Pellorneum palustre* Rare resident? Although recorded from Sylhet in Hume (1888), and presumed to be a resident in marshy tree jungle in Bangladesh (Ali and Ripley 1987) this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) has only been recorded once in recent years. Two were seen in damp forest scrub in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Srimangal (north-east) on 21 February 1989 (W.G.H.).

LARGE SCIMITAR-BABBLER *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* Rare resident. Although listed by Rashid (1967), there are only four recent records. One in Satcheri Reserve Forest, Telepara (north-east) on 4 February 1982 (D.L.J.), one at Panerchara near Cox's Bazar (south-east) in November 1983 (S.M.A.R.), two in dense bamboo in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 24 June 1991 (P.M.T.), and two calling persistently and attracted to tape playback at the same site on 15 May 1993 (N.B., R.H., D.L.J., J. & S.O'M., P.M.T.).

SPOT-BREASTED SCIMITAR-BABBLER *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis* Rare resident. Although listed for the Chittagong Hilltracts in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent record is of one in coastal scrub jungle south of Cox's Bazar (south-east) on 28 April 1988 (P.M.T.).

***LONG-TAILED SIBIA** *Heterophasia picaoides* Vagrant. The only confirmed records are of at least four in a mixed species feeding flock in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (north-east) on 20 February 1989 (W.G.H.), and one in Rajnagar Tea Estate between Moulvi Bazar and Kalaura (north-east) on 30 April 1992 (S.M.A.R.). These were presumably altitudinal migrants, as this species is known from the nearby Indian hill states (Ali and Ripley 1987).

RUFIOUS-HEADED PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis ruficeps* Vagrant? First collected from south Sylhet by Primrose (1901), also a specimen from the Rema Tea Estate, Luskarpore Valley near Habiganj (north-east) is held in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society (Abdulali 1982). However, the only recent records of this threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) are of a flock of at least five in dense bamboo in Nurjahan Tea Estate (north-east) on 23 February 1985, and again several in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal) in an area adjacent to Nurjahan Tea Estate on 19 April 1985 (both D.J.M.); possibly the same birds were involved.

****LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* Vagrant. The only record, considered to show characters of the race *S. c. blythi*, is of one in song for two

days in a tea estate at Srimangal (north-east) on 10 and 11 March 1990 (P.D.A., F.S., J.D.W.). This species is a common winter visitor to north-west India (Ali and Ripley 1987) and has even been recorded as far east as Thailand (Boonsong and Round, 1991).

****ORPHEAN WARBLER** *Sylvia hortensis* Vagrant. The only record is of a male closely watched in coastal trees at Patenga (Chittagong, south-east) on 7 December 1991 (P.M.T., D.L.J.). This species was previously known to winter as far east as south Bihar (Ali and Ripley 1987) and the Kosi area in eastern Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum agile* Rare resident?. Although first recorded by Lister (1951), there are only five recent records. One was associating with a mixed species feeding flock at Shilkhali near Teknaf (south-east) on 20 August 1983 (S.M.A.R.). The remainder were all seen in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east): one on 15 April 1987 (D.J.M.), one on 26 November 1987 (P.M.T.), one on 2 December 1988 (D.J.M.), and one in May 1989 (W.G.H.).

***YELLOW-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* Vagrant. The only record is of a pair observed twice in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 23 February 1985 (D.L.J., N.B.). These were presumably vagrants from higher altitudes in the Himalayas; Ali and Ripley (1987) give a lowest altitude of 1400 m so this sighting at about 35 m is notable.

[**OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** *Nectarinia jugularis* Vagrant? The record from Sitapchar Reserve Forest, Kaptai (south-east), listed in Harvey (1990), would have been the first for the Indian subcontinent outside of the Andaman Islands, but is now regarded as only probable.]

GOULD'S SUNBIRD *Aethopyga gouldiae* Vagrant or rare passage migrant?. First mentioned by Oates (1890), who noted that Hume recorded this species from Chittagong, but that there were no specimens in his collection from there. This is normally a species of higher altitudes than Bangladesh and the only recent records are of a pair at Kuderm Cave, Harikhola (Teknaf, south-east) on 6 March 1983 (S.M.A.R.), and a male closely observed in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 13 March 1985 (D.L.J.).

GREEN-TAILED SUNBIRD *Aethopyga nipalensis* Status uncertain. Although listed for the Chittagong Hilltracts and at altitudes down to 300 m in Ali and Ripley (1987), the only recent record is of a male in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (Srimangal, north-east) on 22 February 1990 (P.D.A., F.S.).

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Rare resident. The only recent record is of a pair watched copulating on a garden wall in the western suburbs of Sylhet (north-east) on 20 April 1992 (D.A.S.). Although Harvey

(1990) gives the only past locality in Bangladesh as the Chittagong Hilltracts, *P. m. malaccensis* is a common resident in Assam and Meghalaya (Cachar, Khasi and Garo Hills) (Ali and Ripley 1987), and can be expected in the adjoining north-east of Bangladesh.

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewskii* A rare passage migrant?. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), the only definite records of this species, which may have been overlooked in the past, are: at least 12 in Dhaka Zoo on 23 April 1988 (W.G.H., P.M.T.); 20+ by the river at Srimangal (north-east) on 14 May 1988; four at Dhaka Zoo on 29 October 1988; and at least two on the Ganges sandflats at Rajshahi (north-west) in February 1989 (all W.G.H.).

****RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus* Probably a scarce winter visitor to wetlands in the north-east. Although Rashid (1967) assumed that it would occur, the first records for Bangladesh are of at least eight individuals recorded during wetland surveys in the north-east in February-March 1992. Two were near Hakaluki Haor on 19 February, four were in wet paddy fields near Puala Beel (Hakaluki Haor) on 20 February, and at Kawadighi Haor there was one on 22 February and two on 8 March (all D.A.S., latter also S.M.A.R.). It seems likely that this species has been overlooked in the past. Although this species is regular in winter in Pakistan and on passage in Nepal, there are few records from elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent. The closest records are from Manipur and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Ali and Ripley 1987).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* Rare winter visitor. Although first recorded from Dhaka area by Tytler (1854), there are only three recent records. A male was at Sitakunda Hills, Chittagong (south-east) on 12 December 1987 (N.B., R.H.); 3-4 were feeding in scrub at Katka in the Sundarbans (south-west) on 16 December 1988 (W.G.H.); and a male was in the Port Authority compound at Nilkamal (Sundarbans, south-west) on 24 March 1991 (D.A.S., S.M.A.R.).

CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata* Locally common winter visitor. Although listed by Ali and Ripley (1987) as a winter visitor to most of Bangladesh, Harvey (1990) gave no recent records. The first recent record is of two in crops by the Padma near Mawa, south of Dhaka, on 28 February 1986 (D.A.S.). Subsequently D.A.S. and S.M.A.R., in surveys of wetlands in the north-east, found this species to be fairly common between 5 March and 2 May 1992 with a total of 31 bird days from seven sites: Dubrair Haor (maximum count of at least 20 on 5 March 1992), Meda Beel, Dekhar Haor, Arabiakona Beel, Maijeil Haor, Chatla Beel (Hakaluki Haor), and Hail Haor. Four were found at Medkol Beel, Bara Haor (also north-east) on 29 January 1993 (S.M.A.R.). This is a rather secretive species which would appear to have been overlooked in Bangladesh in the past.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* Rare winter visitor. First recorded from Sylhet by Hume (1888), Ali and Ripley (1987) list it as a migrant to the Chittagong Hilltracts, but there are only three recent records. Two flocks totalling about 10 birds were on a hillside freshly prepared for planting tea near Srimangal (north-east) on 14 February 1986 (P.M.T.); one was by a track leading to Hail Haor (Srimangal) on 9 December 1988 (D.J.M., J.D.W.); and one was in a plantation at Bogi on the eastern edge of the Sundarbans (south-west) on 18 March 1991 (D.A.S.).

DISCUSSION

The above 147 species fall into three categories. Long distance migrants which occur as vagrants or which are regular visitors, and which were overlooked in the past (waders such as Spotted Redshank and some migrant warblers and buntings). Altitudinal or local migrants which breed within the sub-continent and which may be regular in small numbers or are vagrants from the Himalayas and adjacent hill states. Finally, species which may be rare residents since they do not make regular movements (Table 1). Recent fieldwork has been concentrated in the wetlands and forest areas. A number of the species recorded from 'other' habitats (Table 1) make use of either wetlands or forest, but are also found in open country or homestead woodland. During the 1980s attention focused on the coastal mudflats, while in 1992-1993 regular surveys of the major wetlands in the north-east have revealed much new information.

It is remarkable that of the 147 species discussed in this paper no less than 60 have been recorded from a small area around Srimangal town in the north-east; an area comprising the wetlands of Hail Haor, tea estates, and West

Habitat/ origin	New species not in Harvey (1990)		New species in Harvey (1990)		Other species		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Habitat								
Coastal wetland	0	0	9	24	5	6	14	10
Inland wetland	9	41	2	5	22	25	33	22
Forest	5	23	14	38	35	39	54	37
Other	8	36	12	33	26	30	46	31
Origin								
Long distance	12	55	14	38	28	32	54	36
Short distance	10	45	21	57	33	37	64	44
Resident	0	0	2	5	27	31	29	20
Total	22	15	37	26	88	59	147	100

Table 1 Habitat, origin and status of recent notable birds in Bangladesh.

Bhanugach Reserve Forest. Moreover 36 of the species discussed in this paper have been recorded in West Bhanugach Reserve Forest (including 15 which are new for Bangladesh since 1978). This small area must be regarded as the best and most accessible area of evergreen forest (a mixture of natural forest and old teak plantations) remaining in Bangladesh, but it is under constant human pressure for bamboo and timber. Unfortunately several other forests, and parts of West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, have been cleared in recent years, they have at best been replanted with monocultures of quick growing trees which are of negligible ornithological interest.

There are about 100 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, mostly from the Chittagong Hilltracts. There have also been 59 new species for Bangladesh since 1978. Hence there is still much scope for new discoveries in this ornithologically diverse but understudied country, so long as the remaining small patches of relatively natural forests and wetlands can be preserved.

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APPENDIX 1

LIST OF INITIALS AND CONTRIBUTORS OF NOTABLE RECORDS

R.A.	Raguibuddin Ahmed
A.W.A.	A. Wahab Akonda
P.D.A.	Peyo D'Andurian
D.B.	David Bakewell
M.A.B.	Mark A. Barter
N.B.	Nalini Bayen
G.F.	Graham Frazer
E.F.G.	E.F. Grimes
J.H.	John Howes
R.H.	Ronnie Halder
W.G.H.	W.G. Harvey
D.L.J.	David L. Johnson
A.M.K.	Altamash Kabir
A.K.	Anisuzzaman Khan
R.K.	Reza Khan
H. & C.L.	HansHans and Christina Lamosse
D.J.M.	David J. Millin
J. & S.O'M	John and Sue O'Malley
S.M.A.R.	S.M.A. Rashid
F.S.	François Sargot
D.A.S.	Derek A. Scott
M.S.	Murray Smith
C.S.	Craig Stanford
P.M.T.	Paul M. Thompson
A.W.	Ann Wheeler
P.L.W.	P.L. White
J.D.W.	John D. Woolner
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Birds recorded in the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh, India

ANTHONY J. GASTON, PETER J. GARSON and SANJEEVA PANDEY

Recent information on the avifauna of the Great Himalayan National Park in the Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh, India is provided. Most observations were obtained from the Himachal Wildlife Project, a series of forest wildlife surveys conducted mainly in spring and autumn during 1980-91. So far, 183 species of birds, including 132 passerines, have been recorded in the Park and on its western approaches. These data provide evidence of sympatric populations of Dark-grey Tit *Parus rufonuchalis* and Rufous-vented Tit *P. rubidiventris*, and a substantial range extension for Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*. Two sightings of White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* are thought to be the first in the western Himalaya.

A great deal of information has been accumulated in the past two decades on the birds of the Nepal Himalaya, about which little was known prior to the 1970s (Inskipp 1989, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). By contrast the Indian Himalaya, so well visited during the British period, has received much less attention since Indian independence. Kashmir and Ladakh have remained popular destinations for ornithologists (e.g. Williams and Delaney 1986, Holmes 1986, Mallon 1987), but there has been very little published on birds in Himachal Pradesh, which represents the heart of the western Himalaya (Schaller 1977). In this paper we describe recent observations on birds in the Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh, which lies in this region and contains a complete suite of the temperate and subalpine forest types characteristic of front ranges in this part of India.

The Great Himalayan National Park is situated in Seraj Tehsil of Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh. It was created in 1984, following recommendations provided by the Himachal Wildlife Project, a joint U.K., U.S.A. and Indian project to assess the status of wildlife and wildlife habitats in Himachal Pradesh (Gaston *et al.* 1981, 1983). The Park covers 620 km², over an altitude range of 1,700-5,800 m (Singh *et al.* 1990), and comprises the headwaters of three left bank tributaries of the River Beas: the Jiwa, Sainj, and Tirthan (Figure 1).

The climate of the Park is typical of the front ranges of the western Himalaya. Precipitation is moderate over most of the year and abundant during the monsoon season in June-August. In winter snow falls throughout the park, although it generally does not lie long at the lowest altitudes. Above 3,000 m snow generally persists from November to March.