



DAANGEER

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A Quarterly Analysis of Pakistan's Birds

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COVERS:

Front featuring a dazzling male Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* on a banana blossom, taken in December 2017 at Islamabad by Riaz Khan.

Backcover features an adult Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* from Khairpur Mir, Sindh, photographed in February 2021 by Raza Jallalani.



White-winged Redstart
Phoenicurus erythrogastrus in yellow blooms, captured at Koksil, Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan in 2024.
(© Imran Shah)

Introduction

Daangeer: A Quarterly Analysis of Pakistan's Birds is a platform dedicated to celebrating the avian diversity of Pakistan. We invite submissions from all bird enthusiasts, researchers, and writers who wish to share their insights, observations, and experiences related to birds and birdwatching in Pakistan. Here are some basic guidelines for submitting your work:

- **Scope:** *Daangeer* accepts any writing related to birds and birdwatching in Pakistan.
- **Format:** Email submissions to rewildingindusmanagement@gmail.com with "Submission: [Title]" in the subject line. Attach your submission as a Word document and send in relevant figures and photographs separately.
- **Review Process:** Our editorial team will review submissions for quality and adherence to guidelines.
- **Publication:** Accepted submissions will be featured in *Daangeer*. Contributors will be credited.
- **Copyright:** Contributors retain the copyright to their work but permit us to publish it.

Editors Note:

The *Daangeer* Team strives for the best quality of data and information published. However, given the extent of the experience of the editorial board, some discrepancies may be expected. If our readers come across any inaccuracies, we motivate them to get in touch with us so we may aspire to identify, address and learn accordingly.

Pakistan Rarities & Distribution Committee (PRDC)

Guidelines for submissions to PRDC

Rare bird assessment is an initial step to establishing a record; evidence must be submitted to PRDC. Here are our essential guidelines for explorers; we would expect you to follow them strictly. We understand that it may not be possible to follow all of the guidelines in every situation. However, if most of the key requirements are not met, the record will be marked as pending until additional evidence is provided, or it may be independently declined. We still encourage you to submit any record you think is rare to PRDC.

Ideally, we would like to receive reports/sightings that include the following:

1. Enable GPS tagging or Location Data settings in your camera (EXIF data), or use eBird Mobile App (live track mode) for accurate location recording.
2. Include complete date (DD/MM/YYYY), exact location (preferably coordinates), and full observer name(s).
3. Provide documentation (photos/videos) of habitat and surroundings.
4. Clearly state species identification basis (personal observation, expert verification, online forums discussions); PRDC will further review critically.
5. Avoid disturbing breeding birds (e.g., active nests, playbacks during breeding season) and discourage others from doing so.
6. Submit high-quality photos/videos from various angles and sound recordings if possible.
7. Include supporting evidence from co-observers, if any (they may be contacted independently).
8. Submit in English (preferred), Urdu, or major provincial languages; published records will be in English.

Supporting evidence (such as photos, videos, or recordings) is used solely for record evaluation and potential inclusion in the newsletter, unless the contributor has given explicit permission for other uses. Please note that we can not guarantee publication of all or any submitted photographs in the newsletter. Historical data (books, articles, field notes, museum specimens) are valuable for verification. Lack of digital proof does not invalidate past records in usual cases. For submissions or queries, email iazankhan4@gmail.com.

Rarities Review

1 January - 31 March 2025

Azan Karam

These notable records have been accepted based on their adherence to most of the Pakistan Rarities & Distribution Committee (PRDC) guidelines. However, all records remain open to critical review following publication. Should any record be deemed weak or questionable upon further scrutiny, and if compelling counter-evidence is submitted to PRDC, it will be addressed and corrected as an erratum in a subsequent issue. Records marked with a (Δ) symbol indicate that supporting digital media was submitted to PRDC.

In the last three months, at least eleven notable observations were made by Pakistan's growing birding community, including a previously unreported species for the country and an interesting case of hybridisation. Besides, at least one belated record was brought to our attention outside the three-month latest rarities reporting period.

New year began with a Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolopus* (Δ) sighting from Haveli, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, on 1 January (MY). Followed by a Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* (Δ), continuing its presence at Karachi Zoo, Sindh, throughout the period. A single bird was seen on 4 January (AT), followed by another on 16 February (MB, ZAS & TAA), two individuals on 21 February (ZAS, RA, MSB, SB), and one again on 7 March (RA).

Country's first Blue-and-White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* (Δ) was recorded on 11 January at Mehrano Wildlife Sanctuary, Sindh (MART, MGAT, HT & ZT). Two Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (Δ) were recorded at a large freshwater lake in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on 19 January, and an individual grebe was resighted on 24 January, making it the 8th national record. Along with the grebes, a female Smew *Mergellus albellus* (Δ) was recorded on 19 January, followed by an observation of two more females and a male from the same locality on 24 January (MAR).



Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*

© Muhammad Babar



Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolopus*

© Muhammad Younas

An Asian Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* (Δ) was recorded in Rann of Kutch, Sindh on 20 January (YP), an uncommon straggler to the province. Between 1–2 January, a group of 12 Indian Vultures *Gyps indicus* (Δ) was reported from Nagarparkar, Sindh (MB & TAA, PNA & ZAS). A Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* (Δ) was first noted on 29 December 2024 and re-sighted on 2 February and 23 March, possibly the same individual lingering around the WWF site at Hawksbay, Karachi, Sindh (AB, AA, MB, PNA, RA, SB, TAA, ZAS).

© Azan Karam



Yellowhammer x Pine Bunting *Emberiza citrinella* ×
Emberiza leucocephalos

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

A 3rd national and first provincial case of a hybrid Yellowhammer x Pine Bunting *Emberiza citrinella* × *Emberiza leucocephalos* (Δ) was reported from Kanju, Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 15 February (AK & TK). Up to 80 Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* (Δ) were reported from the outskirts of Jhimpir, Sindh on 22 February. A single bird was again noted at the same location on 15 March (SB & MSB). A Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (Δ) was trapped by locals at Sardaryab, Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 2 March (MTK).

BELATED

A belated record of White-browed Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus* came from Jhimpir, Sindh in February 2024 (HAP).

CONTRIBUTORS

Adair Bock (AB), Arif Amin (AA), Atif Taj (AT), Azan Karam (AK), Haroon Ahmed Palari (HAP), Mir Ali Raza Talpur (MART), Hussain Talpur (HT), Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur (MGAT), Muhammad Ali Rajput (MAR), Muhammad Babar (MB), Muhammad Sadiq Baloch (MSB), Muhammad Tahir Khan (MTK), Muhammad Younas (MY), Pharaohnaz Naveed Ashraf (PNA), Rashid Asgher (RA), Salman Baloch (SB), Tahir Abbas Awan (TAA), Taimur Khan (TK), Yasir Pechuho (YP), Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh (ZAS) and Zulfikar Talpur (ZT).

Hotspot Review:

Deva Vatala National Park

March 2025

Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh

Deva Vatala National Park, established in 1998, is a small protected area located in the Bhimber District of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir administrative region, near the border with the Indian administrative region of Jammu and Kashmir. Covering approximately 2,993 hectares (about 29 km²), the park is part of the Lower Himalayan Range, featuring hilly terrain that rises to a maximum elevation of 536 m above sea level. The park's landscape is characterized by tropical thorn forests, predominantly composed of *Acacia* species such as *Vachellia nilotica* and *Acacia modesta* (Akrim et al. 2016), along with various evergreen trees.



© Muhammad Akram Awan

A view of the forested habitat along a hillside in the park

The park's diverse habitats and seasonal variations make it a significant site for birdwatching and wildlife observation throughout the year, especially since this blend of forest near the Line of Control (LoC) offers some protection to the park. The presence of the Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* is particularly noteworthy, as Deva Vatala National Park (Subhani et al. 2010 and Anwar et al. 2016) is the only reliable location in Pakistan where this species can be observed. Deva Vatala National Park's unique combination of geographical features, diverse flora and fauna, and seasonal dynamics underscores its importance as a conservation area and a destination for nature enthusiasts. Recent excursions in the park have revealed other noteworthy sightings, such as the Brown-headed Barbet *Psilopogon zeylanicus* and the Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* (Mehmood & Awan 2024 pers. comm.). Additionally, Indian Peacock *Pavo crsitatus* is another species of considerable importance that occurs here (Anwar et al.

2015). A comprehensive study conducted from June 2017 to May 2018 recorded 52 bird species (Umar et al. 2021). Based on the study's findings, the highest species richness and diversity were documented in September, while the lowest occurred in November.

In addition to its avian diversity, Deva Vatala National Park provides habitat for various mammal species, such as the Indian Leopard *Panthera pardus fusca*, Golden Jackal *Canis aureus indica*, Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*, Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*, and Hog Deer *Axis porcinus*.



Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*



Brown-headed Barbet *Psilopogon zeylanicus*

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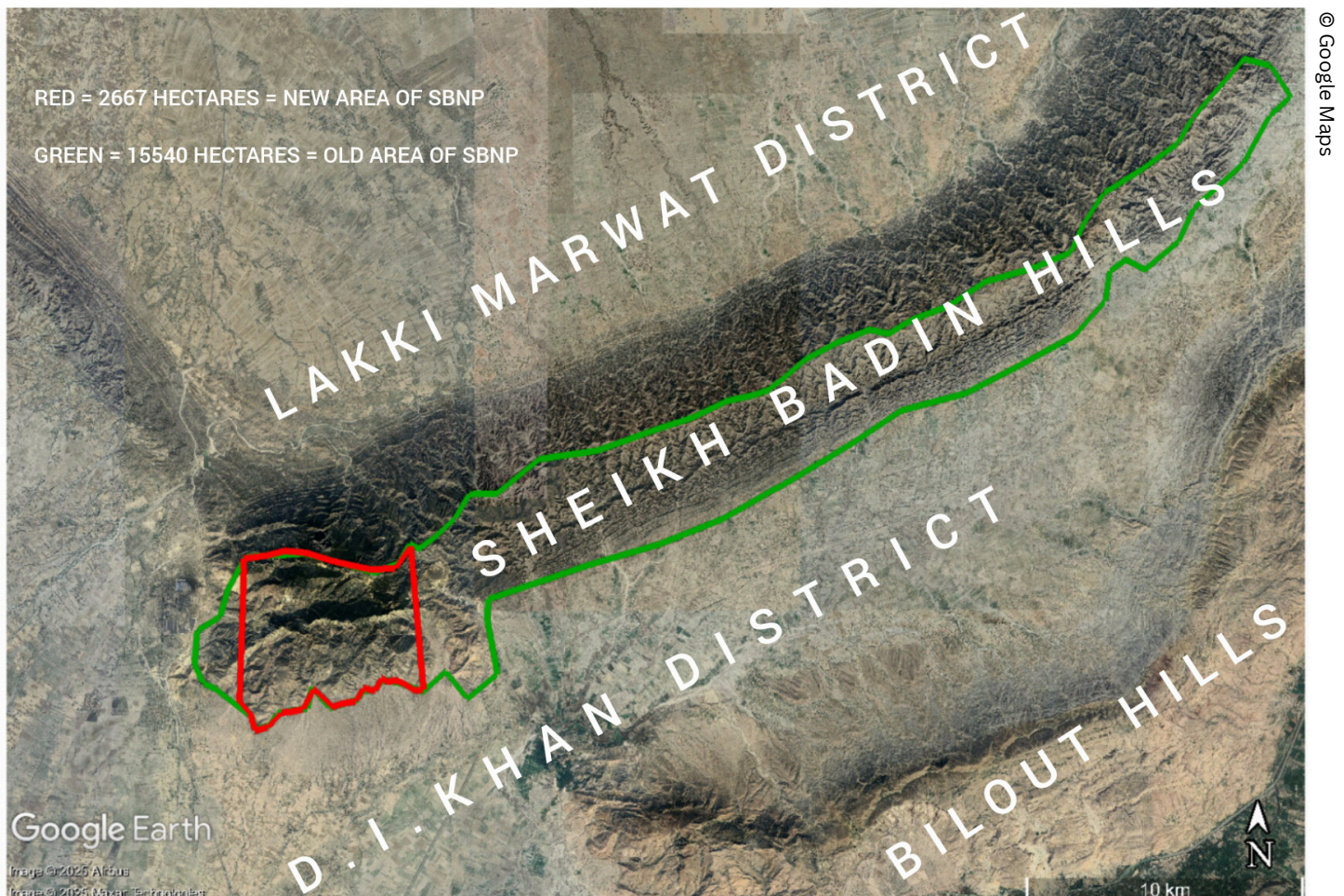
The Birds of Sheikh Badin National Park

Muhammad Ali Rajput

Introduction, Geological Context and Surroundings

Sheikh Badin National Park (SBNP) is located near the town of Pezu on the border between Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The park's area ranges from 2,667 to 15,540 hectares (reports vary). The park's elevation rises from around 330 meters at the base to about 1,370 meters at the summit. Sheikh Badin National Park is a water-scarce place with no permanent water sources. The main water supply comes from a few man-made ponds scattered across the park.

Sheikh Badin itself is predominantly a limestone mountain that forms the western end of a clay and sandstone mountain chain called the Sheikh Badin Hills/Range. These hills stretch for about 60 kilometers from Sheikh Badin (the highest point) in the west to the Kurram River gorge in the northeast (at Darra Tang). This 60-kilometer-long range is part of the larger Neela Koh (Blue Mountains) range. To the south of Sheikh Badin Hills runs a parallel mountain range—Ratta Koh (Red Mountains), Bilout Hills, or Khaisore Range—which extends from Paniala town (near Sheikh Badin) eastward to the Indus River.



Approximate map of SBNP based on credible reports, showing old area (Green:15,540 ha) & new area (Red: 2,667 ha)

To the north of Sheikh Badin lie the plains of Lakki Marwat, to the south the plains of Dera Ismail Khan, and to the west the plains of Tank. On all sides of Sheikh Badin National Park lie plains and hills whose elevations are significantly lower than Sheikh Badin's, making it appear as an almost isolated hill.

Ecological Significance

Sheikh Badin National Park holds unique ecological importance as the only relatively intact forested mountain ecosystem within a radius of over 50 km. It serves as an ecological oasis in the surrounding arid landscape. Its isolated habitat provides excellent breeding grounds for resident birds and serves as a vital stopover for migratory birds, as well as other flora and fauna.



© Muhammad Ali Rajput

Lush green heart of Sheikh Badin National Park

Climate

The climate of Sheikh Badin National Park ranges from arid to semi-arid. While no official rainfall or weather records were available to the author, one source indicates an annual rainfall of 200–280 mm, with most precipitation occurring during the monsoon season (typically July–August). Winter temperatures average between 4.2°C (minimum) and 20.3°C (maximum), contrasting with summer temperatures of 25°C (minimum) to 30°C (maximum). Light snowfall occurs some years at the summit. The park's climate is notably cooler than the surrounding areas, where summer temperatures can reach nearly 50°C.

Habitat

The habitat includes dry, barren lower slopes, with vegetation increasing with the elevation. Lower elevations have drought-resistant thorny shrubs and hardy plants adapted to arid conditions, while higher elevations transition to broad-leaved evergreen vegetation. Rocky terrain and seasonal streams define the landscape. These streams can carry massive amounts of water during rains. The flora of the park generally exhibits xerophytic adaptations.



One of the rarely visited valleys, a few hours hike from the top



The barren lower hills provide a beauty of their own



A view of the Sheikh Badin Hills as seen from the top



General increase in vegetation with elevation can be observed

Getting There

To visit Sheikh Badin National Park, you first have to travel to the town of Pezu, which serves as the starting point. The mountain base is just a short distance from the town - this is where you should purchase all necessary water, snacks and supplies before ascending. While some local homes at the summit may sell basic items, these shops may not always be open, so it is better to bring everything you'll need from Pezu. For transportation, you can hire local vehicles from the town, if needed. The 10-14 km uphill route from the base is rough and only passable by sturdy off-road vehicles or bikes (taking about 2 hours at a leisurely pace). A round trip can be completed in a single day by vehicle, though it is recommended to start early to allow for a more thorough visit. At the top, you'll find a small seasonal village of a few dozen households, mainly occupied in summer. For those preferring to hike, options include following the vehicle road or taking an 8 km trail beginning near the mountain base (close to Paniala town), along with other trails.

Status of Sheikh Badin over the Years

Sheikh Badin holds a deep-rooted history tied to Sufi saints. Following this era, the British revived this region for colonial administration, leaving behind architectural remnants that still dot the landscape today.

1860 – Chosen as a summer camp by the British.

1880 – Declared a headquarters for administrative purposes, used during summer seasons.

1952 – Declared a Reserve Forest.

1972 – Declared a Game Sanctuary.

1993 – Declared a National Park (covering 15,540 hectares).

2002 – A notification redefined its boundaries, apparently reducing the area to 2,667 hectares only.

Table 1. Author's visits to Sheikh Badin National Park

No.	Date of visit	Time period spent in the National Park
1	16 December 2018	11:00 AM to 04:15 PM
2	7 April 2019	09:30 AM to 02:40 PM
3	18 July 2019	06:20 AM to 01:30 PM
4	20 August 2019	06:00 AM to 01:40 PM
5	8-10 September 2019	01:20 PM of 8th Sept to 01:30 PM of 10th Sept
6	17 December 2020	09:30 AM to 03:30 PM
7	5 April 2021	08:20 AM to 02:30 PM
8	23-24 June 2022	08:20 AM of 23rd of June to 05:20 PM of 24th of June
9	30 April - 2 May 2023	01:45 PM of 30th of April to 04:40 PM of 2nd of May
10	7 June 2023	08:30 AM to 09:50 AM

Note

Most of the author's visits to Sheikh Badin National Park were as a tourist, not dedicated birding trips (see Table 1). Because of this, many bird species in the park may have been overlooked and are missing from the author's list. Moreover, on the first visits, not all the birds seen by the author were photographed/noted down. Some of the photographed/observed birds could not be identified with certainty by the author and thus have not been included in this list (see Table 2). Future researchers may record more species through proper birding surveys. However, since Sheikh Badin is a dry, arid region, bird diversity may be surprisingly low, especially in summer.

Table 2. List of the Birds recorded by the Author in Sheikh Badin National Park

No.	Common Names	Scientific Names	Remarks
1	Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>	Usually calls are heard in the lower valleys.
2	See-see Partridge	<i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i>	Scarcely seen at the lower barren slopes.
3	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Seen at the top. Usually in good numbers.
4	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Usually seen at lower slopes. Numbers vary. Can be absent on some visits while flocks can be seen on other visits. As per some locals, it has been severely hunted in the past and perhaps still too, in the surrounding hills.
5	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	A single sighting in the lower hills in summer.
6	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Seen throughout the National Park.
7	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	A single singing bird in a valley in summer.
8	Eurasian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Seems to be a summer breeding visitor though seen in autumn too. In summer, good numbers seen in evening flying low over buildings at the top.
9	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	Present on two visits.
10	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Usually seen near the lower barren slopes.
11	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Occasionally seen. In September 2019, flock seen flying at the top.
12	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	A single sighting of 3 birds in winter.
13	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	At least 5+ birds (adults and juveniles) were present in a flock on one visit. Occasionally juvenile seen on other visits.
14	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Occasionally seen. This species strangely seems to be more uncommon than the Himalayan Griffon. Though identification can be an issue.
15	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1-2 birds present on multiple visits.
16	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga hastata</i>	A single bird was seen, assuming adult plumage, in July 2019.
17	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Seen on two visits only (winter and spring).
18	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	A single sighting in August, 2019.
19	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Constant presence in the National Park.
20	Shikra	<i>Tachypiza badia</i>	Present on almost every visit.
21	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Scarce. With 1-2 sightings.
22	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A single bird at the top in winter.

No.	Common Names	Scientific Names	Remarks
23	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	An immature bird seen once in August, 2019.
24	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Occasionally seen, though never in good numbers.
25	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Seen on two visits only (winter and spring). Dark and light morphs seen.
26	Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Some birds usually present in summer months at lower elevations. Also seen in autumn.
27	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	Present on a single visit in summer.
28	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Present in Summer-Autumn months, usually at lower elevations. Should be breeding in the lower hills.
29	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	A single bird among larger trees at the top.
30	Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>	A single bird among larger trees at the top.
31	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Constant presence. Some birds even present in summer.
32	Peregrine Falcon/Red-naped Shaheen	<i>Falco peregrinus/F. p. babylonicus</i>	Recorded twice on autumn and winter visits. One bird was a confirmed Red-naped Shaheen. The other couldn't be identified with certainty at subspecies level.
33	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Observed on only a few visits.
34	Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	2 sightings of adult white-morph males in lower valleys. This species should breed here.
35	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Present at the top in good numbers as a summer breeder.
36	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	A single sighting.
37	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	A few birds seen in summer and autumn.
38	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen on a single visit in summer.
39	Himalayan Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>	Present throughout the National Park with strong presence in upper forested areas.
40	Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>	Some birds present in April-May.
41	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Presence certain but exact information unclear. Either this or Pale Crag Martin has also been observed nesting among the settlement at the top.
42	Pale Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	Presence certain but more information unclear due to resemblance with Eurasian Crag-Martin.

No.	Common Names	Scientific Names	Remarks
43	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Observed on a few visits.
44	European/Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula/daurica</i>	Likely to be European Red-rumped Swallow. Seen on one autumn visit only.
45	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Regularly present but in fewer numbers than White-eared Bulbul.
46	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	Present in good numbers.
47	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few birds seen. Overlooked species.
48	Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>	A single sighting of at least 2 birds in the lower barren slopes.
49	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	Some birds present on winter and spring visits.
50	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	A few birds were present on a single visit in Autumn.
51	Common Babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>	Present throughout the National Park.
52	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A few birds present on an autumn visit.
53	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>	Scarcely seen.
54	Rufous-backed Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	A few birds present in winter. Both males and females. Sticking to the forested parts.
55	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Recorded on a few visits.
56	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Present in very good numbers on one autumn visit only
57	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Seen twice on spring visits.
58	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	Recorded on a single visit in autumn.
59	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Recorded on a single visit in autumn.
60	Brown Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe fusca</i>	Only a few birds seen, at the top.
61	Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	Seen on a few visits. <i>Picata</i> and <i>opistholeuca</i> forms observed.
62	Hume's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>	Status unclear. A few birds did resemble this species but separating from Variable Wheatear a challenge.
63	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Present in good numbers in summer.
64	Black-throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogularis</i>	A few sightings in forested region at the top in winter.
65	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	A single sighting in autumn in the vicinity of a natural pond.
66	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	Good population of this species is present throughout the National Park.

No.	Common Names	Scientific Names	Remarks
67	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Seen on a single visit in spring.
68	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Present in winter and spring visits. Mostly seen at the top.
69	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	One sighting of a single bird in winter.
70	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Occasionally seen, in valleys and at the top.
71	White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	A few birds seen in autumn-winter.
72	Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	Few birds present in a valley in autumn
73	Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>	Single sighting in a valley in autumn

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Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Scally-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus*

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani*

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

© Muhammad Ali Rajput



Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*

Red-naped Shaheen *Falco peregrinus babylonicus*White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Juha Kylänpää in his work “Birds of Dera Ismail Khan District of North West Frontier Province in Pakistan” specifically mentions the presence of European Roller *Coracias garrulus*, Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*, Pallid Scops-Owl *Otus brucei*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Bonelli’s Eagle *Aquila fasciata*, Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and Fire-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* from Sheikh Badin. Timeframe of his work is from 1988 to 1998. The Gazetteer of Dera Ismail Khan District 1883-1884 mentions about Sheikh Badin: “one or two sorts of eagles are occasionally seen” and “lammergeir is a constant resident, and has increased in numbers of late years”. The Gazetteer mentions a much better diversity of mammals here at that time.

Threats to Sheikh Badin National Park

Urgent comprehensive ecological studies are required to assess current threats to the Sheikh Badin National Park. Comparing present conditions with historical data would clarify the severity of environmental challenges and provide guidance for future. The following points are only based on personal observations of the author or credible reports:

(i) Industrial Impacts: The most significant threat appears to be nearby industrial activities, which raise concerns about pollution and potential resource extraction near park boundaries. To the west of the park lies the massive Lakki Cement Factory, while local companies extract materials from the surrounding hills to the east and other sides. The exact impact of these industries requires evaluation.

(ii) Other Human Activities: Though much of the human activities have been controlled, in the past, logging has been reported. The author has observed tree stumps, even in remote valleys. Additional pressures include reported honey and other harvesting by residents from surrounding districts. The author observed the presence of gun shells in the park, indicating either recreational shooting or illegal hunting activities. Fires have also erupted on the hills in the past, either naturally or through arson.

(iii) Wildlife Decline: Iconic species such as the Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Sulaiman Markhor *Capra falconeri jerdoni*, and Urial *Ovis vignei* have now disappeared, causing a vacuum in the food chain. Many once-resident birds and mammals now appear only occasionally.

(iv) Tourism Development Pressures: Ongoing infrastructure projects, such as road construction (Paniala and Pezu routes), will improve accessibility, but the National Park will be under more stress due to disturbance, pollution, arson, etc. Unmanaged visitor influx could further stress this fragile ecosystem.

(v) Boundary and Resource Conflicts: Ambiguities in park boundaries and land-use priorities are affecting conservation efforts. Collaborative efforts among stakeholders are needed to in safeguarding the park's biodiversity.

© Muhammad Suifyan



A watercolor painting by a local artist of a British-era building, showcasing the historical and cultural importance of Sheikh Badin.

A Word of Caution

Given the current security situation, visits to the region, particularly this mountain chain, should be planned with extreme caution. While I personally encountered no issues during my visits and found any person I met to be kind and helpful, the area has been known to host individuals who may pose risks to visitors. It is essential to stay informed and travel with proper precautions.

Conclusion

Sheikh Badin National Park serves as a critical ecological oasis in an arid landscape, supporting a diverse array of flora and fauna. The role of Sheikh Badin National Park as a migratory corridor specially underscores its regional ecological value. Despite water scarcity and harsh climatic conditions, the park hosts resident and migratory birds, including locally and globally threatened species. The author's casual visits have recorded 73 bird species. Gaps in data due to non-systematic surveys and habitat pressures suggest the need for comprehensive biodiversity studies and conservation strategies to safeguard this unique ecosystem. Urgent ecological studies are needed to assess threats, enforce boundaries, and prioritize conservation over tourism. In this article, the author did not purposefully address much of the historical importance, cultural significance, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or flora of Sheikh Badin National Park. However, for enthusiasts, these aspects still offer much to explore.

© Muhammad Ali Raiput



A view of the Sheikh Badin Hills as seen from the top of Sheikh Badin National Park

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to my younger brother, Muhammad Taha, for joining me on many trips to Sheikh Badin National Park and helping with bird identification. I'm also grateful to Muhammad Sufyan for his support during my visits, and to Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh for his guidance in species identification.

First Blue-and-White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* from Pakistan

Mir Ali Raza Talpur, Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, Zulfiqar Talpur,
Hussain Talpur

Introduction

The Blue and White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* is a passerine bird native to East Asia, primarily inhabiting forests in Japan, Korea, and parts of China. Known for its distinctive blue upperparts and white underparts, this species is a representative member of the Muscicapidae family. Despite its striking appearance, there has been limited research on the Blue-and-White Flycatcher compared to other avian species in the same family (Chen et al., 2020).

Sighting

On 11 January 2025, we were birdwatching in Mehrano Sanctuary which is located in Kotdiji, District Khairpur, Sindh. This reserved habitat was created in 1790 by Mir Ali Murad Talpur to safeguard existing native wildlife and create a *Shikargah*.

After a visit to the duck blinds in Mehrano that yielded no notable sightings, the return journey began with a sense of dissatisfaction due to the absence of noteworthy observations. However, the day soon took an unexpected turn when an unfamiliar blue songbird was spotted by team along the exit of the reserve. As the vehicle approached the exit, a bird resembling a flycatcher was

observed by the principal author through the window. Initially identified as a possible Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*, further observation and photography revealed an unusual coloration that led to uncertainty regarding its identification. The bird remained visible for approximately ten minutes, actively feeding on insects—while permitting documentation from multiple angles. This unforeseen encounter became the most significant observation of the trip.



The team at Mehrano getting glimpses of the rare flycatcher.

© Zulfiqar Talpur

Subsequent analysis using a bird identification application suggested that the individual in question was a Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*. Initially, this identification was dismissed due to the absence of any prior records of the species in Pakistan (Grimmett et al., 2008). However, lingering doubts prompted consultation with regional bird experts. Upon review, the identification was confirmed: the bird was a first-winter male Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* based on the vivid blue coloration on the tail, greater coverts, rump, and back, along with a dusky-brown head and the typical dark, broad bill of Flycatchers. This marked the first verified record of the species in Pakistan. It is a known vagrant to the coastal areas of the Middle East and southeastern parts of India (eBird).

©Mir Ali Raza Talpur



Blue color covers the tail, rump, wings up till the mantle



Side view of the bird showing blue wings and tail.

©Hussain Talpur



Bird was noted feeding actively on small insects.

©Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur

Acknowledgments:

We would like to thank Gurpartap Singh, James Eaton and Ashwin Viswanathan for their help in the identification of this bird.

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From Carlsbad to Islamabad

Adair Bock

Firstly, I need to make mention of all of the people who helped make my trip safe and enjoyable. Culturally, Pakistan was very different from anything I have experienced in the United States. For example, the streets of Karachi and Lahore make the streets of Chicago tame in terms of driving chaos. An entire article could be written on the culture I experienced throughout Pakistan. However, this article is meant to be more focused on the birds Pakistan has to offer.

According to eBird, Pakistan has recorded 662 bird species throughout its history. This alone already surpasses nations with far more naturalists, like Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan. White-cheeked Tit *Aegithalos leucogenys* and Sind Woodpecker *Dendrocopos assimilis* represent two near-endemic species which are chiefly found in Pakistan. Habitats range widely from sand dunes and seashores to temperate forests and snow-covered mountain ranges. For a birder, is Pakistan worth visiting? Yes, absolutely!

Our trip kicked off in Karachi in Sindh province. It became clear that Black Kite *Milvus migrans* and House Crow *Corvus splendens* were the most numerous of all the birds in Karachi. Clifton Lagoon might have been the most enjoyable birding hotspot for the entire trip. Greater Flamingo *Phoeniconaias roseus*, different tern species, and various shorebirds were plentiful throughout the lagoon. Past Clifton Lagoon is the Arabian Sea, which provides its own unique bird life. The mangroves and mud flats of Port Qasim also provided a wide variety of birds like Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*, Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, and many more.



Sand Lark *Alaudala raytal*



Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

However, there were some familiar species that occur in North America which were present like Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* and Great Egret *Ardea alba*. West of Karachi, there are many arid habitats which provide even more bird species. Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor*, Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*, and Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* inhabited the arid environments we visited.

The second province we visited was Punjab. The Head Marala wetlands provided Brown Crake *Zapornia akool*, Ruddy-breasted Crake *Zapornia fusca*, Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*, and Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* to name a few species. The Bagh-e-Jinnah park in Lahore proved to be a fantastic city park. Hornbills are a famous group of birds that possess legendary status across the world. Getting to see Indian Gray Hornbill *Ocyeros birostris* up close was a great treat. The experience only became better due to observing Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* and an Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*.

The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provided a phenomenal introduction to the foothills of the Himalayas. The pine trees began to appear more frequently the higher we went, exactly like the mountain ranges in the Americas. This edition of the trip displayed a more rural feel compared to Karachi, Lahore, and even Islamabad.

There were previously mentioned species like Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, and Great Egret *Ardea alba* which can be found in Pakistan and North America. The flip side of this are the birds like hornbills, which have no counterparts in North America. Then there are species that have similar relatives spread out across the world. For example, the Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* is a bird in North America that breeds in boreal forests and western mountains with similar habitat conditions. The Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* we observed in the Himalayas of Pakistan is essentially living the same way as the Brown Creeper. Other species of note in the highlands are White-cheeked Tit *Aegithalos leucogenys*, Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*, Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*, and Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*.

Having laid out the broad details of the habitat and species we saw, I want to mention something else I noticed. Overall, Pakistan does not have many birders or naturalists. This is especially noticeable as someone who lives in the United States, where websites like eBird and iNaturalist are used frequently. However, the birders and naturalists I met throughout Pakistan are highly passionate.

They fully realize the importance of observing and documenting the various wildlife they encounter. The importance of conservation is fully recognized as well. After all, the illegal pet trade and destruction of phenomenal wildlife habitats are very real issues facing Pakistan. It was truly wonderful to experience Pakistan, and even better to meet the passionate birders and naturalists along the way.



© Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh

Observing Cream-colored Coursers *Cursorius cursor* alongside Jhimpir Railway line, Thatta district, Sindh Province

Fostering Urban Biodiversity: Celebrating World Sparrow Day 2025

Editorial Team

On 20 March 2025, the global community observed World Sparrow Day, an annual event originally initiated in India, dedicated to raising awareness about the alarming decline of sparrow populations and promoting conservation efforts to protect these vital components of urban ecosystems. To mark the occasion, a locally coordinated effort was launched in Swat Valley, where 23 artificial nest boxes were installed in Mingora, Saidu Sharif, and Panr, with the support of Rewilding Indus through the Pakistan Nest Box Program.



Children holding customized wooden nest boxes for sparrows, which were installed on the fronts of their houses.

World Sparrow Day serves as a platform to highlight the challenges faced by House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and other cavity-nesting birds due to rapid urbanization, habitat loss, and changing architectural practices. In response to these concerns, the Pakistan Nest Box Program aims to promote alternative nesting opportunities by installing artificial nest structures in urban and semi-urban areas.

As part of this initiative, 23 nest boxes were distributed among local children and members of the community. Each participant was encouraged to personalize their nest box by inscribing their name on it—a gesture that not only fostered a sense of ownership but also strengthened community engagement in biodiversity conservation. This effort marks the initial phase of a broader campaign that will extend to other cities in the near future. The program envisions the deployment of nest boxes for a variety of bird species, tailored to local ecological conditions and species-specific requirements.

By integrating conservation education with practical involvement, initiatives such as these are instrumental in bridging the gap between urban communities and avian biodiversity. They encourage a culture of coexistence and environmental stewardship that is crucial for the sustainable protection of urban bird populations



© Azan Karam

A male House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* perching on a shelf of an artificial nestbox.

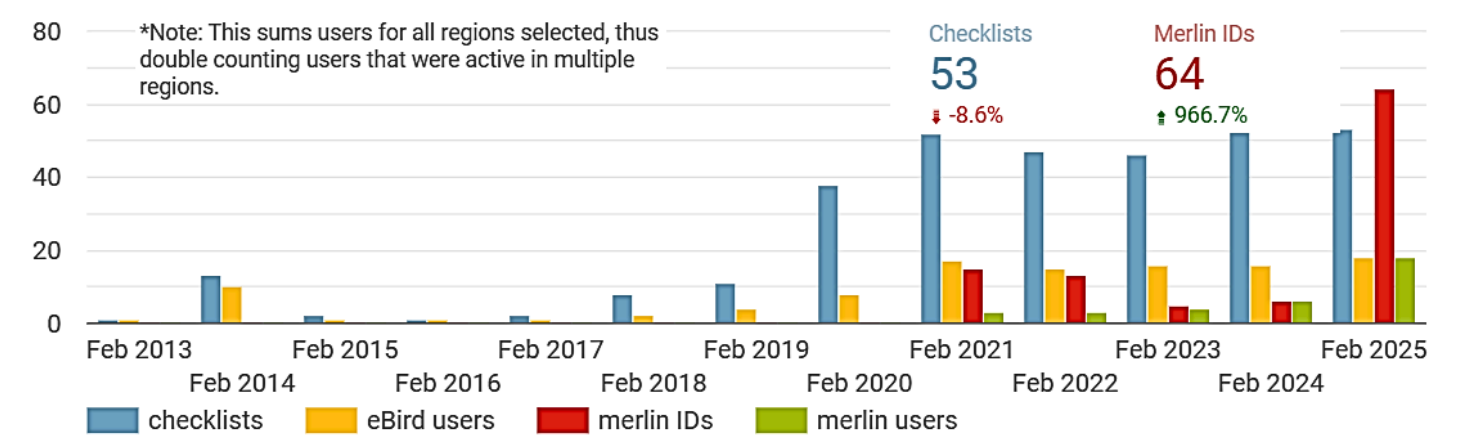
Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2025

Editorial Team

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual, free event that spans four days, where birdwatchers from around the world count birds in their backyards or local areas and report their sightings. This citizen science initiative helps researchers monitor and protect bird populations. The event is held each year in mid-February and is a collaboration between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada.

Participants are asked to watch birds for at least 15 minutes during the event and report all species seen or heard to eBird. The data collected provides valuable insights into bird populations, migration patterns, and the effects of environmental changes. The event is open to all, from beginners to seasoned birdwatchers. For more details and participation instructions, visit the GBBC website.

Figure 1: A graph showing trends of participants contributions from Pakistan in GBBC (2013-2025)



This year's results were nothing short of remarkable! Amid global uncertainties, birdwatchers united for a common cause, collectively reporting sightings of 8,078 species—158 more than in 2024. Hundreds of thousands of people across the globe took part in those four days of birding. In this participatory science project, Pakistan reported 177 bird species through 53 checklists submitted by 18 observers, securing a global rank of 77th out of 217 countries and subregions (see Fig. 1). Participants in Pakistan submitted 327 photographs and 7 sound recordings of birds.

The next GBBC will take place from **February 13-16, 2026**

Forgotten Birds:

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

M. Akram Awan

Named after Elizabeth Gould, a British ornithological illustrator, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* is the rarest of the three sunbird species recorded in Pakistan (the other 2 species are Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* and Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*). It is distributed in Southeast Asia and the Himalayas at 1800-3300m altitudes, from Northeast Indian states to Jammu and Kashmir (India) and the Margallas of Islamabad (Pakistan) in the foothills of the Western Himalayas. It has not been reported elsewhere in Pakistan, except for the following 3 sight records from Islamabad (see Table 1).

Table 1: Summarizes the known observations of Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* in Pakistan.

Sr. No.	Locations	Date/Month of Observation	References	Notes
1	Nurpur Shahan	30 December 1972 to 1 January 1973	Roberts, 1992	2 males were sighted by TJR at 490 m.
2	In a garden (Islamabad)	Winters of 1989-1990	Roberts, 1992	2 immatures were sighted
3	In the same garden (Islamabad)	November 1991	Roberts, 1992	One adult male was reported by M. A. Rashid

As the above table shows, the last recorded sighting of Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* in the country was 34 years ago. Since then, there have been no observations, suggesting that the species is either an extremely rare straggler or an irregular winter visitor to the capital between November and January. This sunbird species inhabits mountainous evergreen scrub jungles, as well as coniferous and oak forests, where it moves restlessly from the ground to low bushes and flits among treetops in search of nectar (especially mistletoes *Loranthus* sp.) and insects.

Currently, 4 subspecies have been recognized, among which the nominate subspecies (yellow-breasted group) occurs in Pakistan. It can be distinguished from the sympatric Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* by the yellow rump patch present in both sexes. Males are easy to spot with their shiny purplish-blue crown, throat, ear-coverts and tail, crimson back and bright yellow underparts, making them one of the most colorful birds in the region. Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* has not been seen in the country for over three decades, and all past records have been observed only with no follow-up photos. Through the collective passion of birdwatchers and a stroke of luck, we expect to soon achieve its first photographic record in Pakistan!



An adult male of the nominate subspecies of Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* from West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh, India - 6 May 2024.

Acknowledgment

With sincere gratitude, the editorial team acknowledge the generous permission granted by Ayuwat Jearwattanakanok for the use of his photograph in this article. His contribution is deeply appreciated.

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Bird Artist Feature

Hiba Moeen

I completed my MBA from SZABIST over a decade ago, majoring in Marketing. Since then, I have worked in various organizations as a PR professional and am currently part of the PR and Communications Department of a power utility. Art comes naturally to me and has always been a deep passion. Looking back, I often find myself questioning why I did not pursue art academically or professionally—because that’s truly what I am: an artist. But all is well that is going well. In my personal time, I see myself as both an artist and a wildlife photographer, though I do have quite a few photographs still waiting to be edited.



Author sketching a kingfisher, one of her favorite bird groups

My interest in art spans as far back as I can remember. I began with watercolours, then gradually moved on to oil painting and pen-and-ink drawings when I could afford to explore further. This passion for art and photography has always been a part of me. I have always been fascinated by wildlife photography, and like many others, I found inspiration in National Geographic. Initially, I focused on painting landscapes and seascapes, but when I began experimenting with pen and ink, I found myself sketching birds I had photographed—and especially my own parrots. I am, quite proudly, a “crazy parrot lady,” and I genuinely feel there is a void in life without them. Their presence is not just a comfort but a connection that reflects strongly in my work.

Over the years, I have participated in several group art exhibitions in Karachi. These include the 2018 Group Art Exhibition On the Rise at VM Art Gallery, and in 2022, the Rising Art show at the same venue. In 2021, I took part in multiple exhibitions at ArtOne 62, including Rane-e-Fiza, Yaum-e-Pakistan, and the Super Art Show. My work has also been featured twice in the local art magazine, “Nigaah”, which has been an encouraging milestone. To those who are drawn to wildlife-themed art, my advice is simple: follow your heart and your passion. Everything else will eventually fall into place. First, try to discover who you truly are.

If art feels like your true calling, do not suppress it—pursue it with all your strength. At the same time, it is important to recognize that art remains a niche in our society, and wildlife art even more so. Ensure that you have a reliable income stream to support yourself while continuing to nurture your creative spirit. It is a balance, but one worth maintaining.



Grey Francolins - Oil on canvas 24" x 36". Painted from a reference photograph by Jamal Leghari

There are several local and international artists to look up to for inspiration. Within Pakistan, I admire the Qureshi brothers from Abbottabad—Dr. Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi—for their phenomenal wildlife paintings, and Ghulam Abbas Khaskheli, who paints wildlife on eggshells. Internationally, artists like Carla Grace, John Banovich, Natalie Obergart, Vicki Elder, Joris De Raedt, Sally Edmonds, and Don Oelze offer a wealth of learning and admiration. To be honest, my full-time job occupies a major part of my life at the moment, and that has been the case for some time. But gradually, I intend to reclaim my time and space so I can dedicate myself to art once more. When I do, my work will continue to reflect my love for birds and seascapes—perhaps with mammals joining the mix as well.

For those interested in purchasing my art, I can be contacted through my Instagram account, Bird Whisperer, or via email at moeen.hiba@gmail.com. I also take on commissioned paintings and drawings when time permits. One of my recent pieces was a pen drawing of a markhor, created for a wildlife enthusiast.



A pen illustration of Common Kingfisher



A watercolour illustration of Black-rumped Flameback



Alexandrine Parakeets - Oil on Canvas

Bird Count Initiatives

Editorial Team

Global Big Day 2025

Mark your calendars! **10 May 2025** is Global Big Day, a worldwide celebration of birds and the people who love them. Organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this special event invites birders of all experience levels—from backyard beginners to seasoned field researchers—to come together for one shared mission: to record as many bird species as possible in a single day.

Last year, thousands of birders submitted more than 156,000 checklists, creating one of the largest snapshots of global bird diversity ever assembled. Whether you're scanning wetlands, trekking through forests, or simply sipping tea in your garden while watching the feeders, your observations matter.

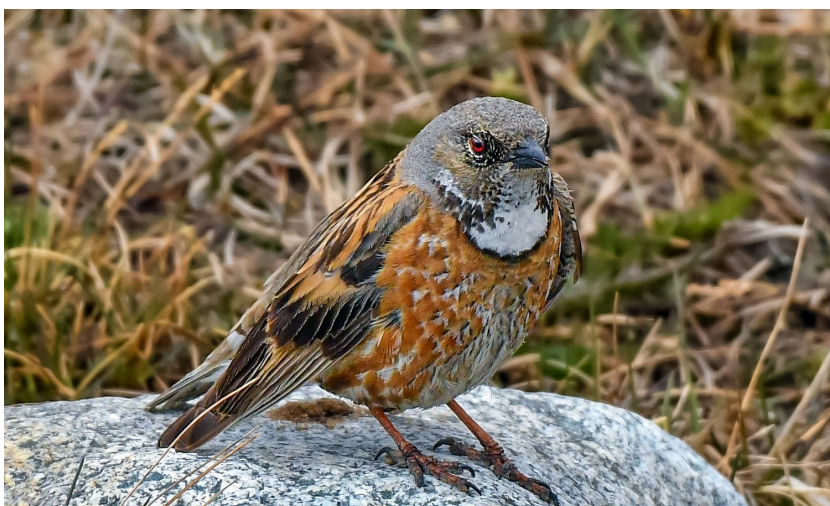
How to participate:

- Go birding on 10 May 2025
- Record your sightings on eBird (via app or website).
- Share your photos, sounds, and stories with the birding community.

This is more than just a bird count—it's a global movement. Your data helps researchers track migration, monitor populations, and inform conservation efforts.

Let's show the world the beauty and richness of our local birds—and stand united with fellow birders across the globe.

For further information, visit <http://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-10-may-2025>



© Muhammad Babar/ Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana* from Khunjerab National Park, Gilgit-Baltistan

Winter Bunting Count 2024-25

The Winter Bunting Count—commonly referred to as the Bunting Count—is a collaborative citizen science effort led by the Japan Bird Research Association and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS), with backing from numerous organizations across East, Southeast, and South Asia.

Now approaching its third edition, the initiative has been successfully conducted for two consecutive years. The 2022–23 survey involved birders from seven countries, and in its second year, three more countries joined, expanding participation to ten nations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam. Notably, Pakistan has recently joined this important project, a country with 18 recorded species of buntings, including the Critically Endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*, listed by the IUCN. The ongoing 3rd Winter Bunting Count presents a valuable opportunity for Pakistan to contribute vital data on this often-overlooked group of birds. A few days are left to share your bunting-containing checklists from the mentioned period.

How to Participate:

1. Create an eBird account using the eBird mobile app.
2. Record any bunting species you observe (along with any other bird species) on your checklists.
3. Share your eBird checklists with the handle: *HKBWS Landbird*
4. Survey Period: **1 October 2024 to 30 April 2025**



Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* from Sialkot, Punjab - November 2017

© Tahir Abbas Awan

Events Section

Editorial Team

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition 2025

On the evening of January 24 2025, birders, wildlife enthusiasts, and photographers gathered for the inaugural ceremony of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, hosted for the first time in Pakistan. Organized annually by the Natural History Museum, London, this prestigious international exhibition was brought to Karachi and Lahore through the efforts of the British Council Pakistan, with special thanks to the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Martin Dawson.

The event featured a remarkable display of wildlife photography from contributors across the globe, capturing nature in its most intimate and powerful moments. Attendees had the opportunity to appreciate the technical brilliance and storytelling of each photograph in a professionally curated setting. It was noted, however, that there was only one participant representing Pakistan among the showcased works. Organizers and attendees expressed hope that this exhibition's local debut would raise awareness and inspire greater participation from Pakistani photographers in future editions of the competition.

The exhibition remained open to the public from January 25-31, 2025, offering a rare chance for local audiences to engage with world-class wildlife photography and deepen their appreciation for global biodiversity.



© Zeenat Bayat

Local group of birdwatchers at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition 2025 in Karachi

Comic Section

Shibil Alizada



THE RINGED
FALCON WHO WENT
FROM KARACHI TO NALSAROVAR.

S. Alizada.



We are pleased to announce a collaborative partnership between Rewilding Indus and Stichting NICHE, aimed at advancing avian research and biodiversity monitoring through the integration of cutting-edge bioacoustic technologies. This initiative leverages devices such as Haikubox and AudioMoth, enables passive acoustic monitoring of bird species across diverse habitats.

Thanks to this collaboration, Asia's first Haikubox has been installed in Karachi, yielding incredible results.

By combining Rewilding Indus's field-based conservation expertise with NICHE's commitment to ecological innovation, this collaboration will enhance long-term data collection, support species detection in remote and undersurveyed regions, and contribute to a deeper understanding of avian diversity and behavior.

Together, both organizations reaffirm their commitment to science-driven conservation and the development of open-access data for global bird monitoring efforts.



New to Bird-watching in Pakistan? **Start Here!**

Below are some relevant links for you if you are interested in learning more about birds and the birdwatching scene in Pakistan:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/672890519498797>

X/Formerly Twitter:

@OrnithoPakistan

eBird:

<https://ebird.org/region/PK>

Rewilding Indus Library:

<https://rewildinginduslibrary.org/archives/>

Daangeer: A Quarterly Analysis of Pakistan's Birds

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Rewilding Indus (RI) is a body of like minded individuals concerned with the crippling loss of biodiversity in Pakistan. This young initiative is a collective effort towards making a dent in Wildlife Research and Conservation in Pakistan. This Bulletin has been made possible through RI's technical support.