



# DAANGEER

Issue 1 • Spring 2024



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Events  
Birdman  
Research  
Explorations

A Quarterly Analysis of Pakistan's Birds

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**FRONT COVER:**  
Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus*, Ravi River, Lahore, Punjab - 17 July 2023. Photo by Imran Bhutto.



**BACK COVER:**  
Featuring Pakistan's first confirmed and documented record of Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Blind Lake, Shigar, Gilgit-Baltistan - 5 June 2023. Photo by Usama Tabani.

<b>1. Introduction</b> Editorial Team	2
<b>2. Rarities Review</b> Azan Karam	3
<b>3. Hotspot Review</b> Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh	4
<b>4. Bristled Grassbird and its Status in Pakistan</b> Imran Bhutto & Azan Karam	5
<b>5. Birds of South Waziristan - The First Step</b> Muhammad Ali Rajput	6-8
<b>6. Where the Bluethroat Flickers</b> Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh	9
<b>7. Demarcated &amp; Deal: Case of a Vanishing Urban Hotspot</b> Nusrat Ali	10
<b>8. Last Refuge of Lesser Whistling-Ducks in Lahore</b> Ali Usman Baig	11
<b>9. Pakistan Rarities &amp; Distribution Committee (PRDC)</b> Editorial	11
<b>10. Bird Movement Alert</b> Editorial	12
<b>11. Forgotten Birds: Yellow-rumped Honeyguide</b> Ackram Awan	12
<b>12. Crakes on Rooftops</b> Zohaib Ahmed	13
<b>13. Guidelines for Contributions</b> Editorial	13
<b>14. Event Section</b> Heba Moeen	14
<b>15. Comic Section</b> Shibil Alizada	15



Fire-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* with food in beak, ready to welcome spring blossoms in Aliabad, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan - 22 March 2023. (Photo used with permission to signify our Spring Issue).

# Introduction

Pakistan, a country that lies on the crossroads of Oriental, Palearctic, and Saharo-Arabian Zoogeographic zones is blessed with a diversity of ecosystems and rich biodiversity, from the Orange Bullfinch in the North-East to the White-cheeked Bushtit in the North-West, from Long-billed Vultures of the South-East to the Eastern Rock Nuthatches of the South-West, the region is home to an astonishing diversity of avian life. Birdwatching has long been a cherished pursuit for enthusiasts and experts alike across the world. Yet, amidst the cacophony of avian life that fills the skies and landscapes, there has been a notable lack of efforts in Pakistan—a consistent, accessible resource dedicated to fostering this passion. This absence is the void that Daangeer aims to fill.

Welcome to Daangeer, the Newsletter for Birds of Pakistan. This is an online, open-access newsletter that serves as the vanguard in establishing a robust foundation for birds and the birdwatching scene in Pakistan. Our mission is clear: to provide a platform where enthusiasts from all walks of life can converge to celebrate, learn about, and champion the diverse bird species that call Pakistan home.

Central to our initiative is the Western Tragopan, a majestic flagship species emblematic of Pakistan's unique and varied avifauna. By placing this charismatic bird at the forefront, we seek to not only showcase its beauty but also to shine a light on the broader conservation challenges facing our feathered companions and their habitats. Daangeer is the local Pahari language name for this exquisite Pheasant species in the Hill region of Kashmir, which means “a spotted body”.

We would like to clarify that Daangeer, in its current shape, is not to be seen as a targeted scientific journal or a beginner's guide to birdwatching, it aspires to be something far more inclusive—a comprehensive resource catering to everyone with an interest in birds. Whether you're a seasoned ornithologist, a novice birdwatcher eager to learn, or simply someone who finds in the diversity of what this country showcases, Daangeer welcomes you. Our journey is just beginning, and we humbly acknowledge that there is much to learn and achieve along the way. Therefore, we extend an open invitation to fellow enthusiasts, experts, and supporters alike, inviting their contributions and collaboration as we strive to realize our vision for Pakistan's avian treasures.

As we embark on this illustrious initiative, we invite you to join us in making Daangeer not just a success, but a beacon of inspiration, a push for research, and a trigger for conservation initiatives for generations to come.

— Editorial Team —

# Rarities Review

February to December 2023

Azan Karam

The following observations are open to critical questioning after publication. If any record was found weak, it will be re-published as erratum in the proceeding issue. The symbol ( $\Delta$ ) with a record shows that supporting digital media was shared with PRDC.

Pakistan's bird diversity is increasing with the discovery of a new species and a subspecies, thanks to heightened bird observations nationwide. These important sightings by a hardworking community of birders and photographers enrich our understanding of avian vagrancies and expand the known ranges of various species.

Pakistan's fifth European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* ( $\Delta$ ), a belated record, was documented in Parona Village, Sangar, Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in October 2020. The specific subspecies visiting Pakistan remains uncertain, but hypothetically the vagrants in Baluchistan may belong to the "byrcanus" subspecies, prevalent in SE Azerbaijan and N Iran. Conversely, the vagrant birds in the Hindukush-Himalayas region could be of the "tataricus" subspecies, known to inhabit Urals and SW Siberia, wintering in SW Asia. Both subspecies do vertical migrations, therefore, accurate confirmation of their origins awaits ringing recoveries or the tracking of tagged birds.

On February 19, 2023, a Coal Tit of the nominate subspecies *Periparus ater ater* ( $\Delta$ ) was spotted for the first time in Pakistan, at Haveli, Azad Kashmir (MMD). Previously, the Black-crested Tit *Periparus ater melanolophus* had been the only recognized subspecies of Coal Tit in Pakistan. This discovery coincides with a year of notable movements of Coal Tits across northern Europe, with a count of 69,000 migrating birds in a single day at Hanko Bird Observatory, Finland. Similar irruptive movements were reported in China during the autumn, suggesting a possible connection to potential Siberian invasions.

Pakistan's 10th and 11th Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* ( $\Delta$ ) came from DHA, Phase-8, Karachi, Sindh in April and 19 December, respectively (AA and ZAS). All records are mainly restricted to coastal Sindh, generally from September to January. April's sighting is notably late. Migratory routes of Brown Shrike are poorly known, but the nominate subspecies "cristatus", breeds in Russia to northern Mongolia and winters in central and south India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Malay Peninsula. Occasional records from Pakistan and coastal Iran indicate a gradual non-breeding range expansion.

The 4th national record of the uncommon Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* ( $\Delta$ ) came from Hussaini, Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan on 17 April (IS). The first documented sighting of the Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* ( $\Delta$ ) in Pakistan occurred at Blind Lake in the Shigar Valley, Gilgit-Baltistan. Initially spotted on June 1 (MS) and subsequently on June 5 (JL, UT, IS), this species was long anticipated in the country.



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A nominate Coal Tit (Continental) *Periparus ater ater*



© Imran Shah

An adult male Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Followed by observations from Karoonjhar, Nagarparkar, Sindh on 3 December, interesting records of four White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* ( $\Delta$ ), a species historically known from Kirthar Hills (Ticehurst, Ibis, 1922) and a single Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* ( $\Delta$ ), perhaps a passage-migrant, also made a valuable addition to avifaunal diversity of Sindh, which also happens to be the southernmost record of this leaf-warbler for Pakistan.

Another notable record from last month of the year was a (possible 10th) national record of Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* ( $\Delta$ ), came from Borith, Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan on 4 December (IS).



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Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

A noteworthy occurrence: the first documented case of the Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* ( $\Delta$ ) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was reported from Dera Ismail Khan on June 9 (MAR) and the northernmost occurrence of Grey-headed Swampphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* ( $\Delta$ ) Pakistan was documented on 25 September at Katpanah, Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan (IS).

In Punjab, Lahore's outskirts, take center stage as the 6th national record of the VU Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus* ( $\Delta$ ) is documented on July 7th (IB). Followed by just the second national record of Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* ( $\Delta$ ), recorded on 26 November at Sialkot (SS). Provincial first documentation of three Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* ( $\Delta$ ) sharing a puddle with group of Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis* via video footage occurred in the Chiltan Mountains, Baluchistan, on December 1st (YAB and ZB). Previous records of this vagrant species were limited to Gilgit-Baltistan. These birds likely belong to the northern population (one of the three main populations), wintering from S Spain to NC Iran. Regular sightings in Pakistan over the next few years will further validate assumptions about their wintering range expansion.

In Sindh, (YP) documented a series of intriguing species, some in estimated healthy numbers, with one species being a provincial first. Notable observations include a VU single White-browed Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus* ( $\Delta$ ) November 29, followed by two Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* ( $\Delta$ ) on December 1, both at Rann Kutch — a significant record for Sindh after a prolonged period. Bar-headed Geese, historically abundant in Manchar Lake until 1926, ceased sightings thereafter. However, a few individuals were reported in headponds above Guddu Barrage, Sindh (T.J Roberts, 1991). The frequent wintering population in SW India suggests regular visits to the waterbodies bordering Rann Kuch. Additionally, seven Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* ( $\Delta$ ), approximately a thousand Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* ( $\Delta$ ), and an equal number of Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* ( $\Delta$ ) were documented on the same day. Furthermore, around fifty Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* ( $\Delta$ ) and an exceptionally large group of Greater White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* ( $\Delta$ ) were filmed at the same site.

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# Hotspot Review

January 2024

Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh

Located in Jhimpir town, Thatta district, Sindh province (Figure 1), the Community Reserve Zone Jhimpir has become a hotspot for birdwatchers across southern Pakistan and beyond. This unique reserve is an amalgamation of nine villages, boasting an estimated population of 4000 residents who have come together to establish a No-hunting Zone within this stunning and diverse landscape, nestled on the backwaters of one of the country's largest water bodies: Keenjhar *dhand* (Sindhi for lake or a waterbody).

The area predominantly features dry and semi-arid terrain, adorned with sparse desertic vegetation that includes iconic flora such as multiple *Acacia* species. As the landscape wedges into Keenjhar Lake, it gives rise to expansive and productive wetlands, serving as vital habitats for numerous avian species. These wetlands not only support a rich diversity of birdlife but also provide sustenance to the many fishing communities residing in the vicinity. Additionally, agriculture plays a significant role in the local economy and does mineral extraction.

The avifaunal diversity of the habitat mirrors that of much of the Indus plains, boasting a plethora of Oriental residents and Palearctic winter visitors and migrants. Within the village centers and towns, one can frequently encounter year-round residents such as Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*, Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*, and the striking displays of Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* perched on telephone wires. Summers bring scorching temperatures and dusty conditions, welcoming the arrival of the region's specialty, Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*, in small flocks.

During this time, other notable species include Yellow *Ixobrychus sinensis*, Cinnamon *I. cinnamomeus*, and Black Bitterns *I. flavicollis*, Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*, Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*, Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*, Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*, Red-collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*, and Pied Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, which breed abundantly. Moreover, this period marks the commencement of copulation for other area specialities, such as Indian Stone-curlew *Burbinus indicus* and Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*. Notably, the community has successfully reintroduced the “Karo Titar” (Black Francolin), which can be heard calling regally amidst the keekar scrub, rarely straying far from the water channels interspersing the village tracts.



Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*



Common Crane *Grus grus*

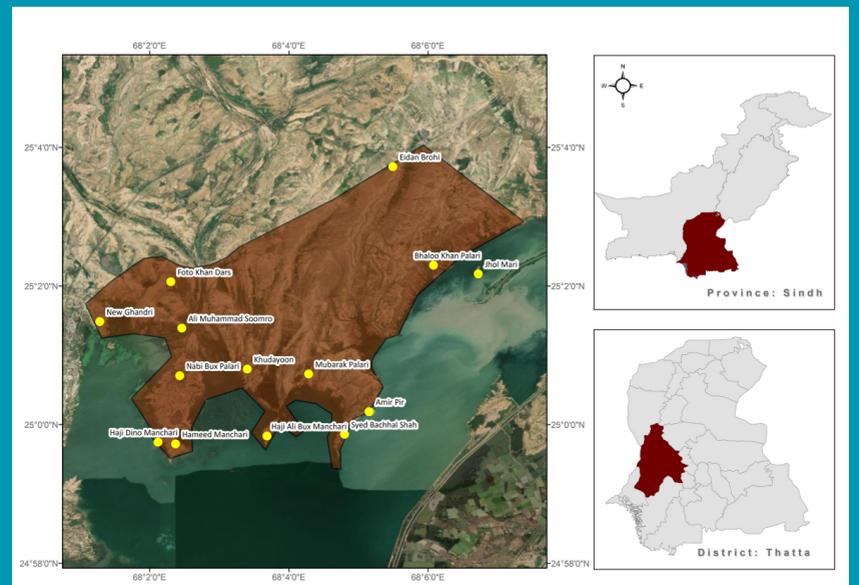


Figure 1. Location of Community Reserve Zone Jhimpir



Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*

The presence of resident raptors including Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*, and Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* adds to the allure of the region. However, breeding populations of the latter are predominantly found in the ravines of the Kohistan region of Thano Bula Khan, while Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* also grace the skies as residents. Additionally, Rock Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis*, though rare, inhabits the deeper ravines and hillsides within the area.

As the monsoon season arrives towards the end of July and August, the landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation, with lush green grasslands emerging, heralding the arrival of Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Yellow-legged Buttonquail *Turnix tanki*, Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*, Red-backed *Lanius collurio* and Red-tailed Shrikes *L. phoenicuroides*, and scores of European Roller *Coracias garrulus*.

By the end of autumn and onwards into winter, the reserve becomes a hub of Raptor activity, with migratory species such as the Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Pallid Harrier *C. macrourus*, Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*, Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, Imperial Eagle *A. beliaca*, Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga* and Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*, gracing the skies. Additionally, Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*, Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, and Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* winter in small numbers, occasionally forming large flocks over carrion.

However, the presence of multiple wind farms poses a significant threat to bird populations, resulting in unfortunate fatalities and collisions, particularly for species such as Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and Common Crane *Grus grus*. Despite the efforts of the community to establish a no-hunting zone, hunting, falconry, and trapping remain widespread threats outside the reserve limits.

In terms of rarities, the area has recently recorded sightings of vagrants such as Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*, Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, and White-browed Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus* just outside the reserve zone. Such sightings underscore the importance of the reserve in providing a haven for both resident and migratory avian species, making it a sanctuary for birdwatchers and conservationists alike.

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# Bristled Grassbird and its status in Pakistan

Imran Bhutto & Azan Karam

As a wildlife photographer, the opportunity to capture rare and vulnerable species in their natural habitat is both a challenge and a privilege. Recently, I had the chance to photograph the Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus*, a Vulnerable (VU) species on the IUCN Red List. Ever since I learned about the potential existence of this species in the region, I have been on the lookout for an opportunity to photograph it.

This stout-billed songbird is endemic to Indian Subcontinent, where it is distributed in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and recently, in Nepal. The migratory movements of this species are poorly understood, but the birds that visits Pakistan are likely irregular summer breeders.

In Pakistan, it is historically known from three provinces (see Figure.1) and considered as “Vagrant” (Roberts, 1992). Initially found in mid-July 1914 in Lahore outskirts, precisely what is now known as Jallo Park (Punjab), when males were observed for its circular display flight and loud vocalizations. On 13th September, 1914 at the same site, a nest with young was found in a swampy habitat. Later in December, the birds had left the area (A. J Currie, 1915). Independent of this observation, another male was seen further north in Jhelum, assumingly at what is now Pakki Bailey on 30 July, 1914 (H. Whistlers, 1914).

South in Sindh, a bird assumed as this species was sighted in December 1919, at Karachi Sewage Farm. However, the observer was unable to obtain specimen to confirm the species (C.B. Ticehurst, 1922). Nearly six decades later, another bird was confidently sighted near Mohenjo-Dharo, west of Indus, Larkana, in 1976 (Dr. A.J. Gaston in litt. to T.J Roberts, June 1986).

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two birds singing by the Kabul River, Peshawar were observed in 1999. One singing on the 13th of July, two on the 18th of July, in a remnant grassland patch (Robson, C. 1999). This is the westernmost record of this species in the Indian Subcontinent.



Adult on Sorghum. Ravi, Lahore. 7th July 2023



Adult. Balloki, Kasur, Punjab. September 2016



Figure 1. Map showing known records of Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus* in Pakistan

Both for Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sightings ceased hereafter till now. But the species was surprisingly found on 25th September 2016, at Balloki, Punjab after more than a century of no sightings, despite rapid urbanization and destruction of its remnant habitat. This recent record of an actively singing bird was reminiscent of the historical record, which was mainly the motivation behind my pursuit of this enigmatic songbird

On an early hazy day on 7th July, I embarked on my bird photography trip in the outskirts of Lahore. Spotting birds were tough that day due to overcast weather in the changing habitat near the old riverbed of Ravi. Towards the end of my trip, I ventured into a patch of tall sorghum grass and was suddenly captivated by a new, unfamiliar call. For a wildlife photographer, these new sounds are always exciting, as they tease us with the chance of a lifer. As I followed the captivating sound, I spotted at a distance a noisy Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* and, to my surprise, a pair of supposed Bristled Grassbirds. One of them was busy pursuing insects, but my attention was drawn to the one perched on top of a tall grass, proudly showing off its sable black bristles, after which it is named.

Despite the unfavorable lighting conditions, I managed to snap a single shot. When I reviewed the photo, my suspicion was confirmed—it was indeed a Bristled Grassbird. A sense of relief swept over me as I realized that my two-year quest had finally paid off. This grassland specialist is one of the least known species in Pakistan, such that, since first-ever finding in mid-July 1914 in Lahore, my record would make its 6th occurrence as of writing this article. Besides grassland and wetlands habitat destruction, this species can be confused with the Striated Grassbird and Babblers, making it being overlooked. Encountering a pair of Bristled Grassbirds was truly uplifting. It highlighted the resilience of this vulnerable species and underscored the crucial need to safeguard its habitat. My wish is that the images I captured motivate others to join the cause of protecting vulnerable species and ensuring the preservation of their habitats.

## Acknowledgement:

We are thankful to Gurpartab Singh for helping us with historical literature about the Jhelum records.

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# Birdlife of South Waziristan - The First Step

Muhammad Ali Rajput

The South Waziristan Districts (Upper and Lower) are located southwest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) of Pakistan. This area is characterized by its mountains, quite barren at its lower and forested at higher slopes. This region is of special socio-political importance, providing one of the few Border Crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Though plagued by terrorism, poverty, tribal conflicts and other issues, there is great potential in this region, be it in eco-tourism, flora, or fauna. I felt welcomed at all places, people were kind and helpful.

Accompanied by a friend, I spent three days and two nights in the South Waziristan District from November 8 to 10, 2023. Waziristan and adjacent districts are one of the least birded areas throughout Pakistan, making this trip more adventurous. My short visit and notes will lay a bedrock of avian fauna of this remarkable area, which will hopefully attract birders from different corners of the country.

**8th November:** We travelled around 140 Km from Hathala, district Dera Ismail Khan towards the small town of Kaniguram, district South Waziristan. In a few hours, we rose from the ~ 200m.a.s.l elevation of barren plains of Dera Ismail Khan to ~ 2000m.a.s.l alpine evergreen forests of South Waziristan.

**9th November:** Stayed in Kaniguram, travelling only to Makin Bazaar, returning after Noon. It rained on and off into the night.

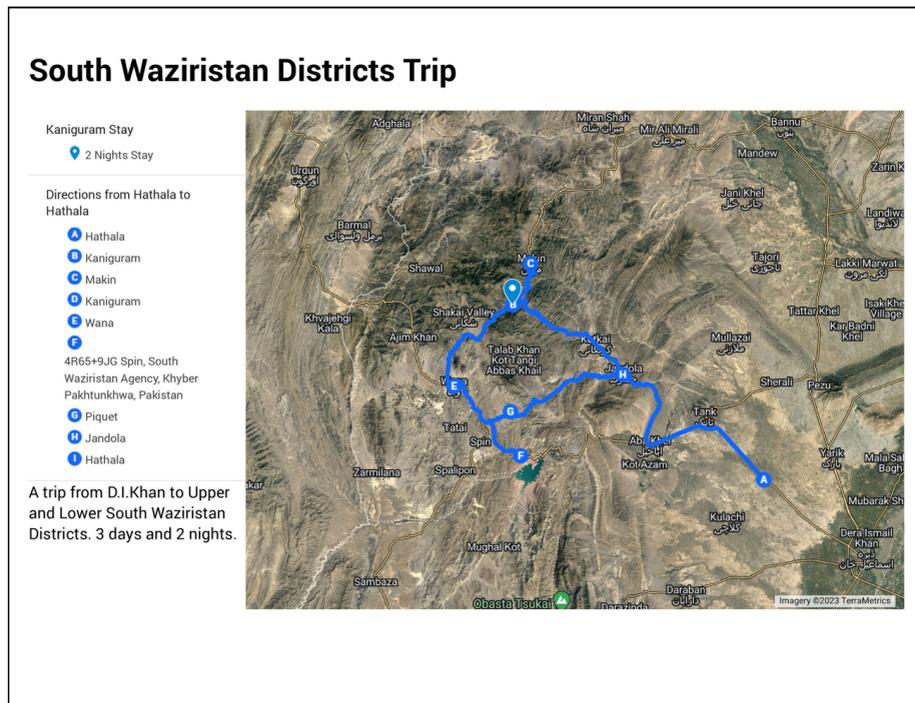


Figure 1. Track of journey across Waziristan



Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Just like other parts of the country poaching is a major issue here. Over the past decade, there has been surprising number of ringing recoveries from Waziristan than anywhere else in Pakistan. These includes tagged Demoiselle Cranes *Anthropoides virgo* from China to small songbirds, like Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*, Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis* and Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* from different European countries.



Figure 2. Location of Waziristan region

**10th November:** We travelled in the morning towards Wana. Then towards the mighty Gomal Zam Dam (stopping at Dargai Pal Dam on the way). After a brief stay at Gomal Zam, we travelled towards D.I.Khan, but bikes were not allowed to cross the Dam area. So we had to take Wana-Sarwaki-Jandola road and then finally towards D.I.Khan. The total journey from Kaniguram to my home was ~315 kilometers on bike.

It was just in 2020 that relevant wildlife departments were formally approved and established with physical presence in these recently merged tribal districts, including South Waziristan. There are also ongoing talks to declare 15% of the Ex-FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) as protected area for wildlife conservation. In light of these recent development, it will take a long time to popularize the concept of bird-watching and other forms of eco-tourism. Our birding community can help play their roles by visiting these areas more frequently to change the tides.



Gadwall *Mareca strepera* and Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Most of the recovered rings were obtained from hunted birds, in some cases hunted with catapults by schoolkids. This birdlife-rich region will require less law enforcement and more root-level education and community awareness in the next several years.

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	While travelling from D.I.Khan to Kaniguram, it only seemed to appear after Jandola, but it was common throughout the districts. Present at low altitudes on the other side at Wana and surroundings. Locally known as “ <i>Kojbai</i> ” in Waziristan.
2	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Started appearing after Jandola. Seen throughout the area at higher elevations in small flocks. But around Karama, flock of many hundred strong was seen. According to locals, it was winter visitor and not resident. Hunted by locals.
3	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Seen throughout the region.
4	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Only one was seen on a stream on Sarwakai-Jandola road. Elevation was low but area still hilly.
5	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Rarely seen. Would be common at low elevation towns.
6	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Seen regularly around Kaniguram.
7	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Flocks seen around buildings in Kaniguram.
8	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Common around Kaniguram.
9	Brandt's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>	At least one seen in Kaniguram.
10	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Flock seen on near Kaniguram.
11	Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>	Seen in good numbers in higher forested regions.
12	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater melanolophus</i>	One was seen in Kaniguram.
13	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Joined by se Black-throated Thrush in Kaniguram.
14	Black-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	Just a single bird was seen with Mistle Thrush in Kaniguram.
15	Blue Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Common enough on moderate to higher forested slopes.
16	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	At least one seen near Ladha.
17	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	One seen near Ladha in flight with Large-billed Crow.
18	Common/Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo/himalayensis</i>	One near Ladha.
19	Black-headed Jay	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>	Seen only on higher forested slopes from Kaniguram to Wana.
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	An individual seen on Dargai Pal Dam.
21	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	At least one seen on Dargai Pal Dam. Perhaps more at Gomal Zam Dam.
22	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	Flocks were seen resting on bushes around Gomal Zam Dam. But were not identified.
23	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	One bird on Dargai Pal Dam.
24	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	A few on Dargai Pal Dam.
25	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	A solo individual around Gomal Zam Dam.
26	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	Single bird seen near the hills around Gomal Zam Dam.
27	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Just one was seen on barren slopes of hills near Piquet.
28	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	One seen near Gomal Zam Dam.

Figure 3. List of species of birds seen and observed throughout the trip



© Muhammad Ali Rajput

The Chilgoza Pine *Pinus gerardiana* of Waziristan is an IUCN Red-listed “Near-Threatened” tree providing a unique habitat of ever-green belt on open, dry-zone and sunny slopes of intermediate mountains. This spectacular landscape was seen on wayback from Kaniguram to Wana. Its seed dispersion depends on wild birds, such as Kashmir Nutcracker *Nucifraga multipunctata*. This rare habitat is also home of the Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocytes auriceps*. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* breeds in summer in this zone. Kashmir Nuthatch *Sitta cashmirensis* is also a Chilgoza forest specialist in this part of the country. Other notable species in this zone are Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Black-headed Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus*, Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* and Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*.

Figure 4. Chilgoza forests, Waziristan



Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*



Common Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*



Himalayan/ Upland Buzzard *Buteo refectus/hemilasius*



Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*



Coal Tit (Black-crested Tit) *Periparus ater melanolophus*



Scally-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus*

#### Other Fauna Observations:

A dead Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* was seen on the road near Ladha (Elevation: ~ 1700m). Many butterflies were seen throughout the region, one Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Sphingidae*), Hornets (*Vespidae*) nests were observed on the hills, presence of Grey Wolf *Canis lupus*, Common Leopard *Panthera pardus tulliana*, (Makin area) and Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* throughout the forests was reported by the locals.

#### Conclusion:

This trip was in no way a proper birding trip. Most of the photography was done while travelling on road, many species weren't photographed. Frequent rain also restricted more exploration. The fact there is so much diversity on road tells me how much potential the deep, less explored areas of this region will have.

The dry-zone Chilghoza Pine forests is a breathtaking habitat ( figure 4.) which will require a good amount of time to explore. Overall, for me, this trip was the first attempt to get to know the location and observe suitable habitats. Proceeding visits will yield a refined picture of the birdlife thriving here.

A note of caution to readers, there is still an ongoing conflict in the region. Travel should be planned with great care and with local support and assistance, if possible. Photography should not be done around homes and security check posts. Keep national identification cards with you, as you will be stopped many times at security check points and asked about your origin, destination and purpose of travel.

#### Acknowledgement:

I earnestly thank Saad Gandapur for assisting me throughout the trip and making my journey less bumpy. My gratitude also goes to the people of Waziristan for hosting me with their gracious hospitality and for making me feel at home. Sincerely thankful to Nazrat Hayat, Hussain, Ijaz, Hidayat Barki, Asif Barki and Tariq.

# Where the Bluethroat flickers

Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh

It was the middle of summer break in the year 2017 when I stumbled upon the Facebook group, Birds of Pakistan, out of boredom. I was keen on learning about the birdlife of the country, but aside from the Checklist of Birds of Pakistan available on Wikipedia, I had no direction to go. The first few weeks of joining the group were spent in awe and wonder at the plethora of information, such as the abundance of Corvid species in the country or the identification of the loud peep-peep noise-maker in most Karachi gardens as a Tailorbird. It was a lot of new information that was welcome. There was so much to learn: a Passage? What does that mean? Molting, is that a disease? What does a Vagrant mean? I realized that the black and white birds running along the football field at my school were called White Wagtails. Soon, I learned how two species can look so similar and confusing, leading to issues of identification (ID in online lingo). I began investigating it all with a teeny monocular extension that I kept in my pocket at all times - no chances were to be missed.

On a fine July day, I saw a birdwatcher by the name of Mirza Naim Beg post an ID request for some shorebird he had a hunch was a Little Stint. Overly enthusiastic to help, I quickly googled and came up to the conclusion that Little Stints do not even occur in Pakistan (sigh).

Fast forward a few months, Sir Beg got in touch, and we came up with a plan to go birdwatching in Hawksbay, where my grandmother lives and where a nature-deprived city kid like me would find an escape to see the birds everyone on the forum would post about. He texted and asked what times worked for me. "Anytime after 2:30 PM is fine by me as I usually am busy with school till that time." "What subject do you teach?" he asked. "I am a student, sir, and I will be coming with my father." This still cracks me up sometimes. We met up at Hawksbay and found a Stonechat female, and I learned more from the man and his interests. I learned about his favorite bird that day: the Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. Take away the birds, the hobby; the man's enthusiasm was just admirable. He introduced me to more birdwatchers in the city and beyond. Sometime in early 2019, he invited me and my family to the "Birds of Sindh" exhibition and pressed on making it. This shy kid was not looking forward to it, but on top of that, we had to make it to the venue at exactly 11 AM sharp - I just did not understand that. Once we got there, Sir Beg welcomed us and introduced me to more birdwatchers.

While I coyly talked to adults who were decades older than me about birds they had seen recently: lifer is the term. After some murmur here and some taping up there, the team at Wildlife with Dream Merchants began fixing a red tape across the doorway of the room. Amma had an energetic smile on her face that meant something was up, and within minutes, I knew the reason behind it. Sir Beg and Aunty called me up to cut the ribbon, and in those next few minutes of smiles, raucous, and excitement, the young birdwatcher was introduced to the thought of having a 'mentor.' And then it took off; a month later, I received a gift of a camera that is still my companion through thick and thin. Over the next few years, I learned more about the man. His experience with banking in his yesteryears and hunting days; yes, you read that right, but that was all behind him now. He would host birdwatching tours and trips, which have been some of the most enjoyable times of my life. I have met some very fine people, some of whom I am lucky to call my friends, thanks to him.

My last physical meeting with him was on 30 July 2021 when we took an impromptu trip to the edge of the delta at Port Qasim, Eastern Karachi, for some birdwatching. The day started with great close views of Eurasian Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits, and more. We discussed my education, my new plans (I left for an exchange program immediately after), family, and the main agenda: how to differentiate between different subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Curlews, and Whimbrels in flight, and more. The day was overcast, and some of the dried-up and crust-laden mudflats were not to be trusted near the Mazar road, but we made a move anyway and got stuck. Luckily, some Mohannas saved the day and got us out. In between all this, we got lucky with a singular Sooty Gull *Ichthyaeetus hemprichii* in between a mixed flock in the distance. It was his lifer. Not often would one get the opportunity to find him a new bird. We ended the day with a discussion on all the initiatives we could plan with the Non-Profit he had under registration: it was something he was genuinely looking forward to. However, there were other plans set in place for his future.

His fascinating charisma was enough to get everyone together, and his eagerness to conserve what is around us was enough to sprout seeds in the hearts of others, and that got the ball rolling. Sir Beg was not just a driven birdwatcher and teacher but an outstanding human being and his unwavering support in my life will always be very much cherished.



My first official trip with the Wildlife With Dream Merchants gang on 2 September, 2019 when we found Pheasant-tailed Jacanas *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*.  
**From Left to Right:** Waqar Mursalin, Mirza Naim Beg, Zeenat Bayat, Hume Beg, Zafeer Shaikh, Yusuf Babar Khan, Saeed Jamal Tariq and Saad Aleem.

# Demarcated and Deal: Case of a vanishing Urban Hotspot

Nusrat Ali

In the year 2002, my wife and I embarked on a journey to explore a plot of land in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Phase VIII, Karachi, guided by a real estate agent who was hesitant about our curiosity to witness what he deemed as "barren land" on the maps. Despite his reservations, we ventured forth, eventually arriving at what is now famously known as Do-Darya. Little did I realize then that this seemingly undeveloped area would become one of my most cherished spots for bird photography in the years to come.

DHA Phase VIII was once a vast expanse of open land adorned with shrubs and dunes. Amidst the bustling real estate transactions and burgeoning infrastructure development, this area has remained a haven for a diverse array of bird species. It serves as a crucial resting point for migratory birds, offering them respite during their arduous journeys.

Central to the emergence of Phase VIII as a birding hotspot was the passion and dedication of one individual—Mirza Naim Beg. Recognizing the value of sharing knowledge, Beg Saheb tirelessly encouraged others to explore the area's avian treasures. His efforts ignited a passion for birding among many Karachiites, leading to remarkable discoveries and documentation of various bird species. Birds like Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* were photographed for the very first time on land in Pakistan and the first-ever photographic record of the Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* was also documented from here. Fittingly, Beg Saheb was involved in taking photos of both these birds (among others). A diverse variety of birds like Grey Francolin *Francoelinus pondicerianus*, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Owls *Strigidae.*, Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Buzzards *Buteo spp.*, Lapwings *Vanellus spp.*, Larks *Alaudidae*, Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* to name a few.

Most Karachiites (read Karachi-based birders), who are deprived of any nearby area to do birding or bird photography, jumped to cash in on this opportunity and frequent Phase VIII almost every weekend.



Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

©Mirza Naim Beg

However, the landscape of Phase VIII is rapidly changing. The once-abundant shrubs that provided nesting sites and shelter to birds are now being cleared to make way for housing developments. As avid birders, we lament the loss of these natural habitats and fear that we may be among the last to witness the marvels of nature in our backyard.

Yet, all hope is not lost. There is an opportunity for the DHA authorities to intervene and preserve the ecological integrity of Phase VIII. By designating certain areas as sanctuaries or "urban forests" and planting indigenous trees such as Mango *Mangifera indica*, Guava *Psidium guajava*, Jujube *Ziziphus mauritiana*, berries, and Java Plum *Syzygium cumini*, we can create vital habitats for birds while also providing recreational spaces for humans.

The time to act is now. By taking proactive measures to conserve and restore natural habitats within DHA Phase VIII, we can ensure the survival of our avian companions for generations to come. Let us seize this opportunity to protect and celebrate the rich biodiversity of Karachi.



Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

©Nusrat Ali



Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

©Zeenaat Bayat



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

©Nusrat Ali



Garganey *Spatula querquedula* and Shoveller *Spatula clypeata*

©Heba Moeen

# Last Refuge of Lesser Whistling-Ducks in Lahore

Ali Usman Baig

In Phase-8 of DHA Society Lahore, close to the buzzing BMW Motorrad centre, where the persistent roar of heavy bikers' engines fills the air all day long. In this very area, there once existed a pond, and its existence was miraculously spared after a disagreement over its purchase price arose between the neighbouring villages and the DHA authority. This pond stood as one of the last sanctuaries for the breeding of Lesser Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna javanica* within Lahore city. Witnessing these birds gracefully gliding over the pond each day was a breathtaking spectacle. I've also captured photographs of the Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, various Weavers *Ploceus spp.*, and Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* in this serene setting.

Situated at the core of DHA, this pond had eluded the attention of hunters until a tragic turn of events. Regrettably, one fateful day, a hunter stumbled upon the flock of Lesser Whistling-Ducks here and ruthlessly ended their lives. Subsequently, the once-thriving pond gradually dried up, potentially linked to a resolution between the DHA authority and the neighbouring villagers. This sad series of events has marked the end of the last refuge for Lesser Whistling-Ducks in Lahore, a habitat that existed until 2021 but exists no more.

The serene pond in Phase-8, DHA Lahore, once home to Lesser Whistling-Ducks, faced a tragic demise. Reflecting on DHA's construction over agricultural lands, there's an important realization that with better planning, we could have preserved the green spaces, trees, and habitats that were once there. Instead of erecting a concrete jungle, we could have created sanctuaries for the flourishing birdlife amidst the urban sprawl and ensure their survival amid human development.

This perching duck occupies a wide range, stretching from Pakistan, most of the Indian Subcontinent across Southeast Asia, and the Lesser Sunda Islands (Indonesia).



A flock of Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* circling above the pond

This is one of the 8 Anseriform species which breed in the Subcontinent. This Oriental species is a summer visitor to most of Pakistan, with some year-round resident populations in southern Sindh. The Lesser Whistling-Duck is absent from Balochistan while in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, it has only been recorded in Dera Ismail Khan district where it is a summer breeding visitor from May to August. In Punjab, it has been reported from Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Jhang, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Kasur and Lahore districts. The habitat of this waterfowl is seepage ponds, swamps, and lakes with a lot of reed cover. It is not fond of open water bodies or large rivers. It is also known as the Lesser Tree Duck because it frequently builds its nests and perches in trees far from water bodies.

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Trio of Lesser Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna javanica*

## Pakistan Rarities and 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 to explorers, we would expect you to follow them religiously. We understand not all of these guidelines can be followed in certain situations, but failing to fulfill most of the necessary guidelines will deem the record pending until more evidence is presented or rejected, independently. 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. We strongly advise photographers and birders to strictly avoid disturbing actively breeding birds, e.g. approaching a nest with eggs, nestlings or a parent, using loud playbacks in breeding season and stop others from doing so.
2. We recommend activating coordinates recording settings in your camera, which should be embedded in EXIF.
3. Observations must have a complete date (DD/MM/YY), specific location of observation (preferably coordinates) and observer (s) name.
4. Written or digital documentation of the events surrounding the observation, e.g. clear photos or videos of habitat and surroundings.
5. Identification of species in question with reasons, e.g. personal identification, taking help from online ID forums or an expert. It will go through critical scrutiny and review by PRDC.

6. We recommend good quality photographs from various angles, clips, and adding sound recordings (if necessary).
7. Supporting evidence from co-observers, if any. Co-observers can be contacted independently.
8. We advise birders to use the eBird Mobile App and turn on live locations when bird watching in the field.
9. English is a recommended language to submit observations, otherwise Urdu and major provincial languages are also accepted. The records, however, will be published solely in English.

Any supporting evidence in the form of photos, video clips, vocal recordings, are for the purpose of record evaluation and publication in the newsletter. They will not be used otherwise unless approved by the observer.

**Note:** We value published historical data (books, articles, personal notes) to cross-check validity of personal claims, such as "first record for Pakistan". We understand that most of the historical data is based on sightings, descriptions, sketches and museum specimens. Lack of digital documentation does not mean the old data is all wrong. Any relevant records of further queries can be emailed to iazankhan4@gmail.com

# Bird Movement Alert

## Northern & Western Highlands:

The Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* is expected in western Baluchistan and KP till March. Good chances of Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* in Gilgit-Baltistan down to Swat in same time period. Flocks > 100 individuals of Rook *Corvus frugilegus* are roosting in and around Peshawar. Black-throated thrush *Turdus atrogularis* flocks are to be met with in reasonable habitats. Flocks of Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* have passed through southern KP and will continue their return migration soon. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* have penetrated valleys, their numbers are expected to grow. Black *Dicrurus macrocercus* and Ashy Drongos *D. leucophaeus* will arrive in summers. The altitudinal migrants that follows the river route would be returning back to the northern streams and rivulets, including Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*.

## Indus Plains:

Anatidae family was well noted this season and returning migration is on its way with flocks of Common Cranes *Grus Grus* already on the move. Numerous sightings of White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (Sialkot, Dera Ismail Khan and Qambar Shadadkot) have occurred so far. Flocks of Knob-billed Ducks *Sarkidiornis melanotos* have been recorded in Headworks of Maralla, Sialkot with hopes of possible breeding. Pallas's Fish Eagles *Haliaeetus leucorhynchus* nestlings are almost ready to fledge across undisclosed sites in Thatta district. Spring arrival of Resident Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris minor* across plains at multiple locations has started. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* is expected close to the South-Eastern border area wetlands. Himalayan Griffons *Gyps himalayensis* have wintered in small numbers down till Karachi. Western Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava beema, feldegg and lutea* in good numbers are present at the riparian zone at Community Reserve Zone Jhimpir.

## Coastal & Off-shore:

Slender-billed Gull flocks *Chroicocephalus genei* have begun dispersing. Mixed flocks over thousands Great White *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus* have been sighted at wetlands in Tharparkar. Not a single Skua *Stercorariidae* or Petrel *Procellariidae* sightings this current season although a lot is expected since Pakistan's offshore birds remain the mostly understudied theme and birdwatchers, resident and visiting are highly encouraged to get involved and target this study. Rosy Starlings *Pastor roseus* in loose flocks are present in patches of coastal scrub along Karachi coast. Adequately numbered assemblages of Steppe Gulls *Larus fuscus barabensis*, Pallas's *Ichthyactes ichthyactes*, Black-headed *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and Brown-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* are still present. Great Crested *Thalasseus bergii* and Lesser Crested Terns *Thalasseus bengalensis* have wintered in good numbers at Sonehri beach. A notable decrease in Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* numbers this season along Karachi coastline.

## Forgotten Birds: Yellow-rumped Honeyguide Ackram Awan

### Introduction:

Honeyguides (Family Indicatoridae) belong to the order Piciformes (mostly tree-hole nesters, e.g. woodpeckers and barbets in Pakistan). These birds are named so because of two African species (Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* and Lesser Honeyguide *I. minor*) which guide humans to honeybee colonies to get their share in honeybee eggs, larvae and wax, their prime diet. All but two Asian species of honeyguide are found in Africa: The Malaysian Honeyguide *I. archipelagicus* occurs in the Malayan archipelago, and Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *I. xanthonotus* lives in the Indian subcontinent (Himalayas) from Murree hills (through Nepal and Bhutan) to northeast India and Myanmar (Burma). It has also been called Orange-rumped Honeyguide or Yellow-backed Honeyguide.

YRHG is an unmistakable sparrow-sized dusky-olive bird with a yellowish-pink finch-like bill and distinctive golden-yellow face and rump. The conservation status of this beautiful near-passerine is ranked 'Near-Threatened' by the IUCN. After 115 years of its last record from Pakistan, this bird may be rediscovered in the Murree hills range and Pakistani birdwatchers and bird photographers should look for it in the appropriate areas and at the right time of the year. This note will help them find out this unique Himalayan rarity in Pakistan.

### Where to find Honeyguide:

In Helm Field Guide (Grimmet *et al.* 2008) the YRHG has been included in the appendix of vagrants and extirpated species and they agreed with Roberts (1992) that the last record of YRHG from Pakistan was in 1908 and this bird might have gone extinct from the country. An account of all published records from present-day Pakistan is given in (Figure. 1) and associated Map (Figure. 2).

No.	Location	Reference	Date and Observer
1	Dunga Gali	Whistler, 1930	4th July 1873 (1 male seen by Stoliczka)
2	Kalabagh near Nathia Gali	Hume, 1870	2-3 individuals were shot in June 1876 (Col. Delme-Radcliffe)
3	Murree	Magrath, 1909; Whistler, 1930	Seen on 29 April and May 1908
4	Changla Gali	Magrath, 1909; Whistler, 1930	Observed multiple times by Colonel Buchanan
5	Dunga Gali	Magrath, 1909; Whistler, 1930	C.H.T. Whitehead in July 1908

Figure 1. Records of Yellow-rumped Honeyguide from Pakistan

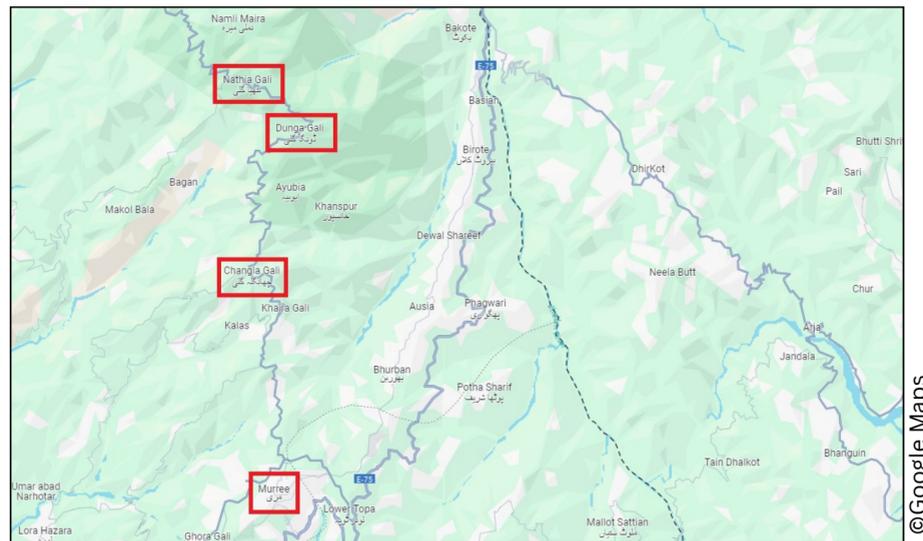


Figure 2. Map of records of Yellow-rumped Honeyguide in Pakistan



Adult on a Honey comb. Bhutan. April 2019. (Photo used with permission).

### How to find Honeyguide:

The YRHG is met with, in the Himalayas, from 1200 to 3500m altitude. It is usually seen near Himalayan Giant Honey-bee *Apis laboriosa* colonies on cliffs and adjacent mixed coniferous-deciduous and dry deciduous open forests in the western Himalayas, usually in proximity of water bodies, such as streams and rocky areas. As the table and map shows, it should be searched in the appropriate locality and habitat in the right time of the year. As the above mentioned records suggest, YRHG has been recorded in our region from April to July (apparently breeding season) but Roberts (1992) opined that in these summer months, owing to scarcity of honey-bee diet, non-breeding individuals of this bird disperse in search of other insects and some of them reach Murree-Galiyat area. In this case, stragglers from India may turn up in our territory any year. It may use woodpecker and barbet nest-holes to lay eggs. Its breeding habits are poorly known, assumingly brood parasite of unknown hosts.

### Acknowledgement:

We are sincerely thankful to Dhritiman Mukherjee, for granting us permission to use the photograph of YRHG in this short piece.

# Crakes on Rooftops

Zohaib Ahmed

On 14 November 2023, I received an urgent call from a fellow aviculturist regarding a bird that had unexpectedly landed on his rooftop in Buffer Zone, located in the bustling Karachi Central district. The area, characterized by its busy neighbourhood, lacks any significant canals or waterways within a 5-kilometer radius. Wasting no time, I hastened to the location and successfully retrieved the bird, identifying it as an adult Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*.

Upon securing the bird, I ensured it was kept under close observation and provided with a diet of thin millet and greens overnight. The bird exhibited promising signs of health and fitness, prompting plans for its safe release (see Figure 1).

However, amidst discussions with fellow birdwatchers regarding the release of this individual, I received another call two days later, regarding a potential second crake this time from North Nazimabad, which, upon further inspection, turned out to be another adult Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*. With no time to spare, a decision was swiftly made to release both birds near Deh Thano wetland, situated in District Malir within the Karachi region. This habitat comprises a blend of riverine wetlands adorned with expansive clumps of "Sarkanda" *Sacharum munja*, providing an ideal environment for the crakes to thrive.

To aid in future identification efforts, makeshift soft color rings bearing the code "PK" were securely fitted onto both birds. The release was conducted in collaboration with local birdwatchers Salman Baloch and Sadiq Baloch, ensuring a smooth transition for the crakes back into their natural habitat. This incident highlights the need for a proper baseline bird-ringing scheme for Pakistan.



Figure 1. First Rescuer

© Zohaib Ahmed



Figure 2. First Rescuer just after release

© Salman Baloch

## Guidelines for contributions:

*Daangeer* 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:

### 1. Scope:

Daangeer accepts any writing related to birds and birdwatching in Pakistan.

### 2. Format:

- Email submissions to [rewildingindusmanagement@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 3. Review Process:

- Our editorial team will review submissions for quality and adherence to guidelines.

### 4. Publication:

- Accepted submissions will be featured in Daangeer. Contributors will be credited.

### 5. Copyright:

- Contributors retain the copyright to their work but permit us to publish it.

# Events Section

## Heba Moeen

For 2023's Mirza Naim Beg Birder of the Year Award celebrated the remarkable achievements of Usama Tabani, a standout figure in the field of birdwatching and wildlife photography. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Tabani's passion and dedication shone through, earning him this prestigious recognition in a relatively short span. The award not only acknowledges individual accomplishments but also underscores the enduring influence of Mirza Naim Beg's legacy. Additionally, special recognition awards were bestowed upon Ahmer Ali Rizvi for his wildlife documentaries and Syed Khizar Sharif for his outstanding underwater photography, showcasing the diverse talents within the birding community.

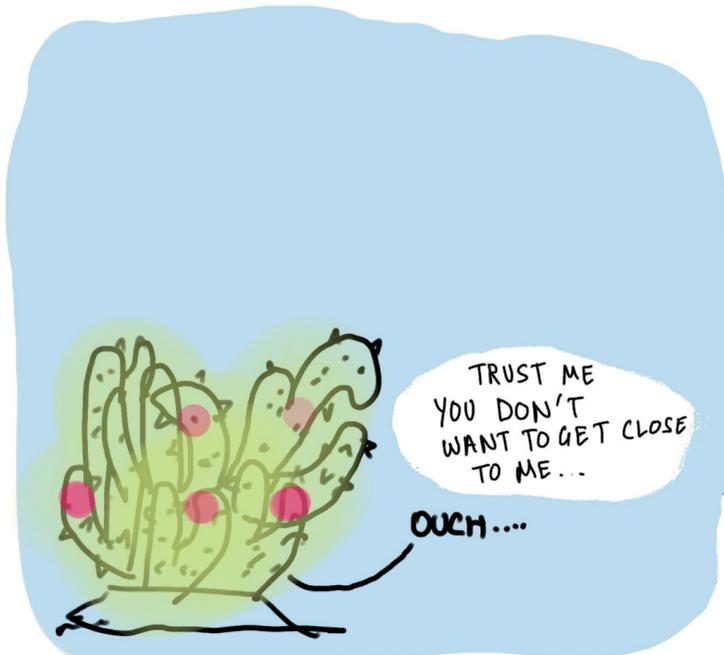
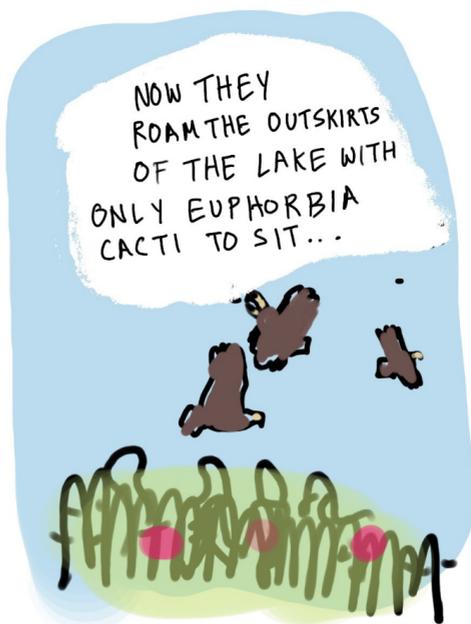


Excerpt taken: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2435027/the-bird-mans-legacy>

© Ayaz Wasay

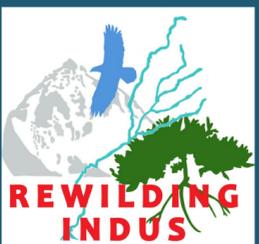
# Comic Section

## Shibil Alizada





© Usama Tabani



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. Daangeer has been made possible through RI's technical support.