

Birds of New Forest, Dehra Dun, India

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New Forest campus is situated in the Dehra Dun district of Uttar Pradesh province of India. The campus houses the internationally renowned Forest Research Institute and is regarded as one of the most beautiful campuses of India. It is located between 77°59' & 78°01'E and 30°20' & 30°21'N, and is 670 m above mean sea level. The campus, which receives over 200 cm of rainfall annually, is spread over an area of approximately 4.5 km². The temperature fluctuates between -1 and 43°C from winter to summer.

The campus is a mosaic of habitats varying from densely inhabited housing colonies to dense mixed moist deciduous natural forests. The northern boundary of the campus is a valley of a seasonal river called Tons which is connected to the Himalayan ranges. The river, which is a mere trickle in winter, has dry scrub jungle on its banks. The slopes leading to the valley are covered with mixed moist deciduous forests. The campus is dominated by a very large building some 75 years old which is surrounded by sprawling lawns. There are extensive old plantations of Chir Pine *Pinus roxburghii*, Teak *Tectona grandis* and many species of bamboo. Some mixed plantations, a large arboretum, experimental gardens (fairly open) and a botanical garden also occupy a sizeable area. The inhabited area has both widely spaced bungalows, surrounded by a lot of vegetation and densely crowded housing colonies. Such a variety of habitats as well as the influence of both the Himalayan and continental avifauna result in a very high diversity of birds in New Forest.

New Forest has a long history of birdwatching, with Osmaston (1935) and Wright (1949, 1950) publishing extensive notes on the avifauna of the campus. The most important contributions were made by George (1957, 1962), who listed 220 birds in the campus, with details of their habitat use and migration, after studying them for over a decade. I have been studying the birds of New Forest since 1983, adding another 41 species to the list (1993). Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*, which has only been recorded once from Western Himalayan foothills has been reported from the campus. Ten species of woodpeckers and 18 species of flycatchers are known from the campus.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

A total of 261 species belonging to 43 families has been recorded. 111 are migratory, 120 are residents and 30 are considered to be vagrants. A code following the scientific name gives the species's status in New Forest.

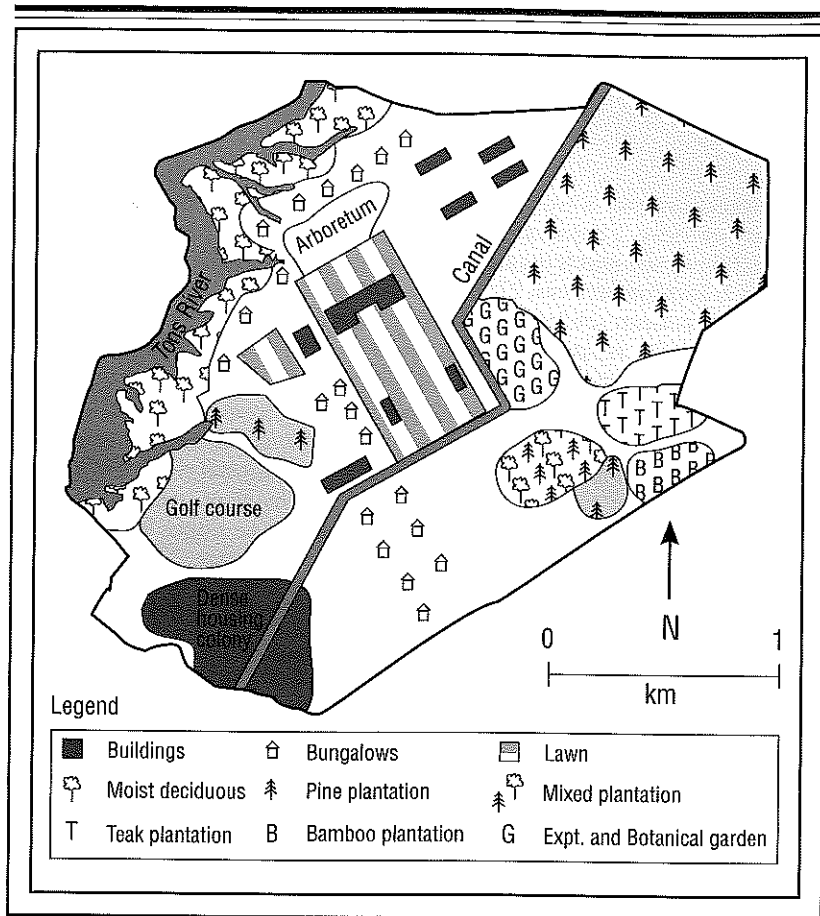


Figure 1. Map of New Forest, Dehra Dun

The codes used are : R: resident, W: winter visitor, S: summer visitor, M: monsoon visitor, P: passage migrant (autumn and spring), V: presumed vagrant; B: breeding confirmed, and PB: probably breeding.

The codes are followed by the abundance rating and the habitat preference of the species. A number of habitats has been identified in the campus: Tons river, irrigation canal, paddyfields, Tons valley forest (Moist deciduous), Champion block forest (Moist deciduous & plantations), Tons valley scrub jungle, experimental gardens, botanical gardens, arboretum, bungalows, lawns and fields, main building and housing colonies. The similar habitats have been combined together as follows:

- Water bodies: includes Tons river, irrigation canal and its distributories and the paddyfields.
- Well-wooded areas: includes densely forested areas, i.e. Tons valley forests, champion block forests & other old plantations of Pine & Teak.
- Open woods: includes open areas with scattered tree growth viz. parts of experimental gardens, botanical gardens, arboretum and bungalows.
- Wooded areas: includes both well wooded areas as well as open woods.
- Open areas: includes lawns and fields, parts of experimental gardens & housing colonies and Tons valley scrub jungle.

BLACK FRANCOLIN *Francolinus francolinus* R. PB. Occasional. Tons Valley scrub jungle.

GREY FRANCOLIN *Francolinus pondicerianus* R. PB. Occasional. Tons Valley scrub jungle.

KALIJ PHEASANT *Lophura leucomelanos* V. Sighted on 23 May 1954 & 31 May 1957 in Tons valley forest.

RED JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus gallus* R. B. Common. Well wooded areas.

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca* P. Rare. Seen only in flight.

SMALL BUTTONQUAIL *Turnix sylvatica* R. Rare. Tons valley scrub jungle.

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* W. Very rare. Tons valley scrub jungle.

SPECKLED PICULET *Picumnus innominatus* R. Very rare. Well wooded areas.

GREY-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos canicapillus* R. Rare. Wooded areas.

BROWN-FRONTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos auriceps* R. Very rare. Wooded areas.

FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos macei* R. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

LESSER YELLOWNAPE *Picus chlorolophus* R. PB. Rare. Well wooded areas.

STREAK-THROATED WOODPECKER *Picus xanthopygaeus* R. PB. Rare. Well wooded areas.

GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER *Picus canus* R. Rare. Well wooded areas.

BLACK-RUMPED FLAMEBACK *Dinopium benghalense* R. B. Common.

GREATER FLAMEBACK *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* R. Very rare. Well wooded areas.

GREAT BARBET *Megalaima virens* W. Occasional. Wooded areas.

BROWN-HEADED BARBET *Megalaima zeylanica* R. B. Common.

LINEATED BARBET *Megalaima lineata* R. PB. Rare. Wooded areas.

BLUE-THROATED BARBET *Megalaima asiatica* W. Rare. Wooded areas.
 COPPERSMITH BARBET *Megalaima haemacephala* R. Occasional.
 INDIAN GREY HORNBILL *Ocyroceros birostris* R. B. Common. Wooded areas.
 COMMON HOOPOE *Upupa epops* R. B. Fairly common.
 INDIAN ROLLER *Coracias benghalensis* R. PB. Occasional. Open areas.
 DOLLARBIRD *Eurystomus orientalis* V. One in a clearing in the dense forest of Champion block in September 1988.
 COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* R. Rare. Tons river & canal.
 WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER *Halcyon smyrnensis* R. PB. Occasional.
 CRESTED KINGFISHER *Megaceryle lugubris* V. One on Tons river on 28 October 1993.
 PIED KINGFISHER *Ceryle rudis* M. Very rare. Tons river.
 BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER *Nyctornis athertoni* R. PB. Rare. Wooded areas.
 GREEN BEE-EATER *Merops orientalis* R. PB. Fairly common.
 BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops philippinus* S. Occasional. Open areas.
 PIED CUCKOO *Clamator jacobinus* M. B. Occasional.
 COMMON HAWK CUCKOO *Hierococcyx varius* S. B. Fairly common.
 INDIAN CUCKOO *Cuculus micropterus* S. B. Fairly common.
 COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* S. B. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 BANDED BAY CUCKOO *Cacomantis sonneratii* S. B. Rare. Well wooded areas.
 GREY-BELLIED CUCKOO *Cacomantis passerinus* S. PB. Rare. Wooded areas.
 DRONGO CUCKOO *Surniculus lugubris* S. B. Rare. Well wooded areas.
 ASIAN KOEL *Eudynamis scolopacea* S. B. Fairly common.
 GREATER COUCAL *Centropus sinensis* R. PB. Rare. Well wooded areas.
 ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* R. B. Common.
 ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* R. B. Common.
 SLATY-HEADED PARAKEET *Psittacula himalayana* W. Common.
 PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET *Psittacula cyanocephala* R. B. Common.
 RED-BREASTED PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri* W. Rare. Wooded areas.
 HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET *Collocalia brevirostris* W. Rare. Wooded areas.
 ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* S. Rare. Tons valley.
 HOUSE SWIFT *Apus affinis* R. B. Common.
 CRESTED TREESWIFT *Hemiprocne coronata* S. Very rare. Tons valley.
 BARN OWL *Tyto alba* R. PB. Very Rare. Main building.
 ORIENTAL SCOPS OWL *Otus sunia* S. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 COLLARED SCOPS OWL *Otus bakkamoena* R. B. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* V. One in Tons valley scrub jungle in May 1986.

COLLARED OWLET *Glaucidium brodiei* V. One in December 1950
 ASIAN BARRED OWLET *Glaucidium cuculoides* R. Very rare. Arboretum.
 JUNGLE OWLET *Glaucidium radiatum* R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 SPOTTED OWLET *Athene brama* R. B. Common.
 BROWN HAWK OWL *Ninox scutulata* R. B. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus macrurus* R. B. Occasional. Tons valley forests.
 SAVANNA NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus affinis* R. Rare. Tons valley scrub jungle.
 ROCK PIGEON *Columba livia* R. B. Common. Large buildings.
 COMMON WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* V. Three birds on 22 February 1989.
 ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis* R. Occasional.
 LAUGHING DOVE *Streptopelia senegalensis* R. PB. Rare. Tons valley scrub jungle.
 SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis* R. B. Common.
 EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* R. PB. Occasional. Inhabited areas.
 EMERALD DOVE *Chalcophaps indica* R. B. Fairly common. Wooded area
 YELLOW-FOOTED GREEN PIGEON *Treron phoenicoptera* R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 WEDGE-TAILED GREEN PIGEON *Treron sphenura* V. Sighted on 2 October 1956 & 3 May 1991.
 WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus* M. Very rare. Water bodies.
 GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* W. Occasional. Tons river.
 EURASIAN THICK-KNEE *Burhinus oedicnemus* R. Rare. Tons valley scrub jungle; visits open fields in the night.
 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* V. A pair on Tons river on 12 December 1986.
 NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* W. Rare. Open fields in Feb & March.
 YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus malarbaricus* R. Very Rare. Tons river.
 RIVER LAPWING *Vanellus duvaucelii* R. Very rare. Tons river.
 RED-WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus indicus* R. B. Fairly common. Open areas.
 ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus* W. Occasional. Open areas and forest edges.
 BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus* R. Very rare. Tons valley.
 BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* R. B. Common.
 BRAHMINY KITE *Haliastur indus* M. Very Rare. Near irrigation canal.
 LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus* W. Very rare. Tons valley.

- EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus* R. Rare.
 WHITE-RUMPED VULTURE *Gyps bengalensis* R. B. Fairly common.
 LONG-BILLED VULTURE *Gyps indicus* R. PB. Fairly common.
 EURASIAN GRIFFON *Gyps fulvus* V.
 RED-HEADED VULTURE *Sarcogyps calvus* R. Very rare.
 SHORT-TOED SNAKE EAGLE *Circaetus gallicus* R. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE *Spilornis cheela* R. Rare. Wooded areas.
 SHIKRA *Accipiter badius* R. Rare. Open woods.
 BESRA *Accipiter virgatus* V. Sighted on 9 February 1951 & 12 October 1953.
 WHITE-EYED BUZZARD *Butastur teesa* R. Very rare. Tons valley.
 LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* W. Rare. Open woods.
 BLACK EAGLE *Ictinaetus malayensis* V. One in Tons valley on 18 October 1956.
 CHANGEABLE HAWK EAGLE *Spizaetus cirrhatu*s R. B. Rare. Forested areas. Seen nesting on a Pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) tree in March '86.
 COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* W. Rare. Open areas.
 LAGGAR FALCON *Falco jugger* W. Very rare. Sighted on 2 October 1955 & 5 December 1988.
 PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* R. Very rare. Open areas.
 LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* R. Rare. Tons river.
 CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* R. PB. Occasional. Open areas & water bodies.
 INDIAN POND HERON *Ardeola grayii* R. PB. Occasional. Water bodies.
 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* M. Rare. Paddyfields.
 HOODED PITTA *Pitta sordida* M. Very rare. Tons valley forests.
 INDIAN PITTA *Pitta brachyura* V. One in a bungalow on 11 May 1988.
 GOLDEN-FRONTED LEAFBIRD *Chloropsis aurifrons*. V. Two sightings of a pair of these birds on 24 January 1955 and 14 March 1957.
 BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. W. Rare. Open areas.
 BAY-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius vittatus*. R. PB. Rare. Open areas.
 LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach*. R. B. Fairly common.
 RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*. W. Very rare. Tons valley and arboretum.
 RUFOUS TREEPIE *Dendrocitta vagabunda*. R. B. Common.
 GREY TREEPIE *Dendrocitta formosae*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.
 HOUSE CROW *Corvus splendens*. R. PB. Occasional. Habitation.
 LARGE-BILLED CROW *Corvus macrorhynchos*. R. B. Abundant.
 EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. S. B. Common.
 BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE *Oriolus xanthornus*. R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.

- MAROON ORIOLE *Oriolus trailii*. W. Rare. Well wooded areas.
 LARGE CUCKOOSHRIKE *Coracina macei*. R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 BLACK-WINGED CUCKOOSHRIKE *Coracina melaschistos*. S. Rare. Wooded areas.
 BLACK-HEADED CUCKOOSHRIKE *Coracina melanoptera*. R. Occasional. Open woods.
 ROSY MINIVET *Pericrocotus roseus*. P. Very rare. Tons Valley forests.
 SMALL MINIVET *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*. R. PB. Open woods.
 LONG-TAILED MINIVET *Pericrocotus ethologus*. W. Occasional. Open woods.
 SCARLET MINIVET *Pericrocotus flammeus*. W. Fairly common. Open woods.
 BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE *Hemipus picatus*. R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 YELLOW-BELLIED FANTAIL *Rhipidura hypoxantha*. W. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL *Rhipidura albicollis*. R. Occasional.
 WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL *Rhipidura aureola*. R. Rare. Wooded areas.
 BLACK DRONGO *Dicrurus macrocercus*. R. B. Common.
 ASHY DRONGO *Dicrurus leucophaeus*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.
 WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO *Dicrurus caerulescens*. S. Very rare. Tons valley forests.
 SPANGLED DRONGO *Dicrurus hottentottus*. R. B. Fairly common. Wooded areas.
 BLACK-NAPED MONARCH *Hypothymis azurea*. W. Very rare. Tons valley forests.
 ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone paradisi*. S. B. Occasional. Open woods.
 COMMON IORA *Aegithina tiphia*. R. B. Rare. Tons valley forests.
 COMMON WOODSHRIKE *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*. R. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 BLUE-CAPPED ROCK THRUSH *Monticola cinclorhynchus*. P. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 CHESTNUT-BELLIED ROCK THRUSH *Monticola rufiventris*. V. Single sighting on 3 January 1952.
 BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*. W. Very rare. Main building and the Tons valley scrub jungle.
 BLUE WHISTLING THRUSH *Myophonus caeruleus*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.
 ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH *Zoothera citrina*. S. PB. Fairly common. Well wooded areas.
 SCALY THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*. W. Very rare. Well wooded areas.

TICKELL'S THRUSH *Turdus unicolor*. W. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 GREY-WINGED BLACKBIRD *Turdus boulboul*. W. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 DARK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis*. W. Fairly common. Open woods and fields.
 MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. V. Single sighting on 30 January 1957.
 DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa sibirica*. W. Occasional. Open woods & forest clearings.
 ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa dauurica*. W. Rare. Open woods.
 RUFIOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula strophciata*. W. Rare. Wooded areas.
 RED-THROATED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*. W. Fairly common. Open woods.
 SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hyperythra*. V. Single sighting in December 1984 in bamboo thickets of arboretum.
 ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER *Ficedula superciliaris*. P. Rare. Open woods.
 SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER *Ficedula tricolor*. W. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 VERDITER FLYCATCHER *Eumyias thalassina*. W. Fairly common.
 SMALL NILTAVA *Niltava macgrigoriae*. W. Very rare. Two sightings in the well-wooded areas in December 1991. RUFIOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA *Niltava sundara*. W. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER *Cyornis rubeculoides*. S. B. Occasional. Tons valley forests.
 TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATCHER *Cyornis tickelliae*. W. Very rare. Well wooded areas.
 GREY-HEADED CANARY FLYCATCHER *Culicicapa ceylonensis*. W. Fairly common.
 WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia pectoralis*. W. Occasional. Well wooded areas.
 BLUE-THROAT *Luscinia svecica*. W. Rare. Water bodies.
 INDIAN BLUE ROBIN *Luscinia brunnea*. V. Single sighting of a pair on 23 September 1956 in dense thickets.
 ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN *Tarsiger cyanurus*. V. Single sighting in December, 1961.
 ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN *Copsychus saularis*. R. B. Common.
 INDIAN ROBIN *Saxicoloides fulicata*. R. PB. Occasional. Tons valley scrub jungle.
 BLUE-CAPPED REDSTART *Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*. W. Rare. Forest clearings.
 BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. W. Occasional. Tons valley scrub jungle.
 WHITE-CAPPED WATER REDSTART *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*. W. Fairly common. Water bodies.

PLUMBEOUS WATER REDSTART *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*. W. Occasional. Water bodies.
 COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. R. Rare. Open areas.
 PIED BUSHCHAT *Saxicola caprata*. R. B. Fairly common in summers in open areas, rare in winters.
 GREY BUSHCHAT *Saxicola ferrea*. W. Fairly common. Open woods.
 DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*. V. Single sighting in December, 1986 in the Tons valley scrub jungle.
 ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina*. V. Single sighting in December 1987 in the Tons Valley scrub jungle.
 BROWN ROCK-CHAT *Cercomela fusca*. R. B. Occasional. Large buildings.
 SPOT-WINGED STARLING *Saroglossa spiloptera*. P. Fairly common on passage through the campus in April and July. Wooded areas.
 CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING *Sturnus malabaricus*. S. B. Occasional. Open areas and habitation.
 BRAHMINY STARLING *Sturnus pagodarum*. S. B. Fairly common.
 COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. V. Sighted on 1 May 1955.
 ASIAN PIED STARLING *Sturnus contra*. R. B. Common. Open areas & habitation.
 COMMON MYNA *Acridotheres tristis*. R. B. Abundant.
 BANK MYNA *Acridotheres ginginianus*. R. Rare. Open areas.
 JUNGLE MYNA *Acridotheres fuscus*. R. B. Fairly common. Wooded areas.
 CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH *Sitta castanea*. R. Very rare. Tons valley forests.
 VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH *Sitta frontalis*. V. Single sighting of three birds on 7 November 1991 in the Tons valley forests.
 WALLCREEPER *Tichodroma muraria*. W. Very rare. Few sightings on the main building and the Tons river gorge.
 BAR-TAILED TREECREEPER *Certhia himalayana*. W. Occasional. Wooded areas.
 SPOT-WINGED TIT *Parus melanolophus*. W. Very rare.
 GREAT TIT *Parus major*. R. B. Fairly common.
 GREEN-BACKED TIT *Parus monticolus*. W. Very rare.
 PLAIN MARTIN *Riparia paludicola*. R. B. Fairly common. Tons valley.
 DUSKY CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo concolor*. R. B. Fairly common. Large buildings.
 BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. W. Occasional. Open areas.
 WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW *Hirundo smithii*. R. B. Occasional. Open areas.
 RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*. R. B. Fairly common.
 STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW *Hirundo fluviicola*. R. B. Occasional.

BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus melanicterus* V. A pair in the golf links in the winters of 1950-51.

HIMALAYAN BULBUL *Pycnonotus leucogenys*. R. B. Common. Wooded areas.

RED-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus cafer*. R. B. Abundant.

BLACK BULBUL *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis*. R. Rare. Tons valley scrub forests.

GREY-BREASTED PRINIA *Prinia hodgsonii*. R. B. Common.

JUNGLE PRINIA *Prinia sylvatica*. W. Rare. Open fields with tall grass.

ASHY PRINIA *Prinia socialis*. R. B. Occasional. Open woods & Tons valley scrub forests.

ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE *Zosterops palpebrosus*. R. B. Common.

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA *Tesia castaneocoronata*. W. Very rare. Single sighting on 11 April 1992 in Tons valley forests.

GREY-SIDED BUSH WARBLER *Cettia brunnifrons*. W. Rare. Well wooded areas.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. P. Common during the spring passage (April) in Tons valley forests.

COMMON TAILORBIRD *Orthotomus sutorius*. R. B. Fairly common.

TICKELL'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus affinis*. V. Sighted on 4 November 1956 in tall grass and bushes.

SULPHUR-BELLIED WARBLER *Phylloscopus griseolus*. P. Rare. Wooded areas.

LEMON-RUMPED WARBLER *Phylloscopus chloronotus*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

HUME'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei*. W. Occasional. Wooded areas.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* W. Occasional. Wooded areas.

WESTERN CROWNED WARBLER *Phylloscopus occipitalis* P. Occasional. Wooded areas.

GREY-HOODED WARBLER *Seicercus xanthoschistos*. W. Common.

GOLDEN-SPECTACLED WARBLER *Seicercus burkii*. W. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax leucolophus*. R. Flocks were occasionally seen in the Tons valley forest in the 1950s and 1960s. Last authentic record in 1977.

STRIATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax striatus*. V. Three sightings of a pair from February to May, 1989 in Tons valley forests.

RUFIOUS-CHINNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax rufogularis*. R. Rare. Tons valley forests.

PUFF-THROATED BABBLER *Pellorneum ruficeps*. R. B. Fairly common. Well wooded areas.

RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER *Pomatorhinus erythrogegens*. R. B. Fairly common. Well wooded areas.

WHITE-BROWED SCIMITAR BABBLER *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*. R. PB. Very rare. Tons valley forests.

SCALY-BREASTED WREN BABBLER *Pnoepyga albiventer*. P. Rare. Well wooded areas.

BLACK-CHINNED BABBLER *Stachyris pyrrhops*. R. B. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

YELLOW-EYED BABBLER *Chrysomma sinense*. R. B. Occasional.

COMMON BABBLER *Turdoides caudatus*. R. PB. Occasional. Open areas.

JUNGLE BABBLER *Turdoides striatus*. R. B. Abundant.

RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX *Leiothrix lutea*. W. Very rare. Tons Valley forests.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. W. Rare. Open woods.

ASHY-CROWNED SPARROW LARK *Eremopterix grisea*. V. Sighted on 19 June 1952 & 28 September 1952.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*. R. Rare. Tons valley & open fields.

ORIENTAL SKYLARK *Alauda gulgula* W. Rare. Open fields.

THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum agile*. R. PB. Fairly common. Wooded areas.

PALE-BILLED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*. R. PB. Rare. Open woods.

FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum ignipectus*. W. Occasional.

PURPLE SUNBIRD *Nectarinia asiatica*. R. B. Common

MRS GOULD'S SUNBIRD *Aethopyga gouldiae*. V. Single sighting in December 1984 in the Tons valley forests.

CRIMSON SUNBIRD *Aethopyga siparaja*. R. PB. Occasional. Open woods.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. R. B. Abundant. Habitation.

RUSSET SPARROW *Passer rutilans*. W. Occasional. Tons valley scrub jungle.

CHESTNUT-SHOULDERED PETRONIA *Petronia xanthocollis*. S. PB. Occasional. Wooded areas.

WHITE-BROWED WAGTAIL *Motacilla maderaspatensis*. R. PB. Rare. Tons river.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. W. Common. Open fields.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. W. Occasional. Open fields.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. W. Fairly common. Open fields and water bodies.

PADDYFIELD PIPIT *Anthus rufulus*. R. PB. Occasional. Open fields & lawns.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. W. Fairly common. Open woods.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. W. Fairly common. Open fields.

BAYA WEAVER *Ploceus philippinus*. S. B. Fairly common. Open woods.

RED AVADAVAT *Amandava amandava*. V. Single sighting of a bird in December, 1988 flying across the Tons river bed.

INDIAN SILVERBILL *Lonchura malabarica*. R. Occasional. Open areas.
 SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA *Lonchura punctulata*. R. B. Fairly common. Open woods and fields; common during monsoon.
 YELLOW-BREASTED GREENFINCH *Carduelis spinoides*. W. Occasional. Open fields and cultivation.
 EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. W. Rare. Open areas.
 COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. P. Rare in autumn but abundant in spring passage specially on wheat fields.
 CRESTED BUNTING *Melophus lathami*. W. Very rare. Tons valley.
 ROCK BUNTING *Emberiza cia*. V. Sighting of two birds on 4 January 1954.
 WHITE-CAPPED BUNTING *Emberiza stewarti*. W. Occasional in the Tons valley scrub jungle, rare in other open areas.
 CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata*. W. Rare. Tons valley.
 BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*. V. Two sightings of small flocks on 22 April 1946 and 2 May 1951 on open ground.

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Report on an ornithological visit to Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal, India, 17 February to 6 March 1992

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A visit, in 1992, to Buxa Tiger Reserve, in an ornithologically rich area in north-east India, produced a total of 227 species, including two globally threatened and five near-threatened. Previous significant records are discussed, and a complete annotated species list is given.

The eastern Himalaya, stretching eastward from the Arun-Kosi valley of Nepal, is an important area of regional endemism, and has been designated by BirdLife International as Endemic Bird Area (EBA) DO8. The larger eastern part of this EBA lies within Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar and is not open for unrestricted scientific exploration. The more accessible areas, for instance eastern Nepal, have suffered serious loss of lower montane forest, resulting in the local extinction of many species (Inskipp 1989). It is a vast area and the distribution, status and movements of many rare and/or threatened species remain little known.

West Bengal is the furthest east along the Himalaya that can be visited with relative ease and so, following a period of three months studying birds in Nepal, we looked for forested submontane/montane areas in this state. The Singgalilla Hills, Darjeeling district were too wet and cloudy in early February so we moved down to Buxa Tiger Reserve in Jalpaiguri District.

BUXA TIGER RESERVE

Buxa Tiger Reserve lies in the north-east corner of West Bengal between 26°30'N and 26°48'N and between 89°25'E and 89°55'E, enclosing 759 km². It is bounded to the north by Bhutan, to the east by the river Sankosh and Assam, and to the west by the river Pana; the southern boundary follows what remains of the forest. It is dissected by braids of rivers which rise to the north and flow south (see Fig. 1). The altitude at the border of the reserve reaches 2,000 m, but the majority of the reserve lies at plains level, sloping from c. 160 m at the base of the foothills to c. 60 m towards Alipurduar. The forest is largely Sal *Shorea robusta*, with many huge emergents. It is divided into blocks, some of which appear to be almost virgin, though there are many teak plantations and also village settlements. The surrounding areas to the south and west have mostly been cleared for cultivation or tea gardens. The