

RED-HEADED BULLFINCH <i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>	X	3080-3290	21,22
WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK <i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>	XC	2665-3620	21,31,33
GOLD-NAPED FINCH <i>Pyrrhoptectes epauletta</i>	X	3280-3385	21
CRESTED BUNTING <i>Melophus lathami</i>	TSF	650-1445	11,12,14-16, 25,27,29,32
LITTLE BUNTING <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	SF	1320-2550	2,11
BLACK-FACED BUNTING <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	SF	1400	11

Key

1st trek

T = Tropical zone

S = Subtropical zone

P = Temperate zone broadleaved forest

2nd trek

U = Subtropical zone broadleaved forest

B = Temperate zone broadleaved forest

X = Temperate zone mixed forest

C = Temperate zone coniferous forest

H = Subtropical zone Chir Pine forest

Both treks

F = Fields, grazing areas and around human habitation

R = Rivers and lakes

Locations:

- 1 Paro (2,250 m) - Thimphu (2,400 m)
- 2 Thimphu valley (2,400 m)
- 3 Tseri (2,590 m - 2,600 m)
- 4 Thimphu (2,400 m) - Phuntsholing (350 m)
- 5 Phuntsholing (350 m)
- 6 Royal Manas National Park (250 m - 550 m)
- 7 Manas (550 m) - Dalim (710 m)
- 8 Dalim (710 m) - Tshobrang (1,395 m)
- 9 Tshobrang (1,395 m) - 1,615 m - Ponchela (1,400 m)
- 10 Ponchela (1,400 m) - 2,390 m - Subrang (1,400 m)
- 11 Subrang (1,400 m) - 1,525 m - Zurphey (1,320 m)
- 12 Zurphey (1,320 m) - Tshanglajong (1,065 m)
- 13 Tshanglajong (1,065 m) - Tingtibi (650 m)
- 14 Tingtibi (650 m - 810 m)
- 15 Tingtibi (650 m) - Tongsa (2,200 m)
- 16 Tongsa (2,200 m)
- 17 Chendibiji (2,400 m)
- 18 Pele La (2,930 m - 3,210 m)
- 19 Phobjikha valley (2,780 m - 2,870 m)
- 20 Phobjikha (2,780 m) - Khebatang (2,800 m)
- 21 Khebatang (2,800 m) - Gele La (3,630 m) - Laphu Gang (3,100 m)
- 22 Laphu Gang (3,100 m) - Pema La (3,290 m) - Nehi (2,440 m)
- 23 Nehi (2,440 m)
- 24 Nehi (2,440 m) - Harachhu (1,125 m)
- 25 Harachhu (1,125 m - 1,445 m)
- 26 Harachhu (1,125 m) - 1,695 m - Nashina (1,220 m)
- 27 Nashina (1,220 m)
- 28 Nashina (1,220 m) - 1,435 m - Ada (1,280 m)
- 29 Ada (1,280 m)
- 30 Ada (1,280 m) - Tarana (2,430 m)
- 31 Tarana (2,430 m) - Phobjikha (2,780 m)
- 32 Phobjikha (2,780 m) - Thimphu (2,400 m)
- 33 Tashigong monastery/Dochu La (2,840 m - 3,530 m)

The birds of Pakistan: supplementary observations from the northern Punjab and hills

A. VITTERY

I was resident in Lahore from May 1973 to early June 1974. Some of my observations in the first part of this period were included by T. J. Roberts in *The birds of Pakistan* (1991 and 1992) but other data appear never to have reached him. The following accounts are limited to those species where my records add materially to the status described by Roberts. These include an addition to the Pakistan list: Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*; one probable addition: Blyth's Pipit *A. godlewskii*; three revised first records for Pakistan: Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*, Brown Crake *Amauormis akool* and Mew Gull *Larus canus*; four first inland occurrences of migratory waders and the first inland and autumn records of White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*. ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* In 1973 a total of 14 flew north/north-east over Lahore on 24 July, one flew south-west at Balloki, 64 km south-west of Lahore on 26 July, and two flew north over Lahore on 28 August.

PALE-BACKED PIGEON *Columba eversmanni* Two flocks totalling 75 birds were seen in an arid area near Raiwind on 2 February 1974, and nine beside the Hudiara drain, south-west of Lahore, on 26 February 1974. It does not seem to have been recorded in the northern foothills but there were 10 near Rawal Lake, Islamabad, on 16/17 February 1974.

BROWN CRAKE *Amauormis akool* One was well seen at the Balloki headworks on 20 January 1974 and there were two there on 3 March 1974 (one of which caught and ate a mud-skipper). These predate the only record listed by Roberts.

RUDDY-BREASTED CRAKE *Porzana fusca* Seen at the Balloki headworks on six dates between 3 February and 26 May 1973, max. 6+ on 10 March. Considered rare to scarce by Roberts, who also saw one at Balloki, on 28 March 1981.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* According to Roberts, 'seldom encountered' in the Punjab. There were two at Kharrar jheel, near Renala Khurd, on 21 July 1973, two on 7 October 1973 and one on 19 May 1974.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Roberts knew of no inland occurrences. There was one on the River Ravi at Niaz Beg, Lahore, on 27 September 1973 and two at Kharrar jheel on 7 October 1973. The call was heard on both occasions.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Earliest near Lahore on 12 July 1973 and at least 50 at Kharrar jheel by 21 July (earliest date cited by Roberts).

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* A notable count of 1,140 at Kharrar jheel on 21 July 1973. There were still at least 300 there on 7 October 1973 and a flock of 80 east of Bahawalnagar on 1 April 1974. Latest were nine at Kharrar jheel on 19 May 1974.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Earliest near Lahore 12 July 1973 with flocks of 11 on 15 July and 28 on 24 July.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* The late June birds thought by Roberts to be summering would almost certainly be returning migrants, since this species is known to leave the breeding grounds from early June. In 1973 birds were widespread in the Lahore area by 3 July.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Earliest near Lahore 12 July 1973. Latest (two or three) at Kharrar jheel on 19 May 1974.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Tringa cinerea* Roberts cites only one inland occurrence. I saw this species on three dates in the Lahore area: three near Raiwind and one at Julke on 14 September 1973, 4 (flew south-east) at Niazi Beg on the River Ravi on 27 September 1973 and one at Balloki headworks on 26 May 1974.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* Earliest were 6 near Lahore on 15 July 1973. Latest on 17 May 1974.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Roberts knew of no inland occurrences. There was one at Kharrar jheel on 19 May 1974.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Neither Roberts nor Ali and Ripley (1969) knew of inland occurrences in the subcontinent. On 12 August 1973, three flew low over floodwater at Balloki but left to the north-east without landing. There was also one near Raiwind from 30 September - 2 October 1973.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* Roberts cites arrivals from mid-August. In 1973 small numbers appeared around Lahore in late July (earliest 21st).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* Roberts credits me in error with a sighting at Kharrar jheel in 1970. My only encounter with Sharp-tailed/Pectoral Sandpipers was on 21 September 1973 when a party of four was flushed from floodwater beside the main Multan road to the south-west of Lahore. Their low 'trrrt - trrrt' calls sounded more like Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos* than Sharp-tailed, but I was unable to confirm the identification.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Earliest was one at Kharrar jheel on 21 July 1973.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Earliest were eight at Kharrar jheel on 21 July 1973. At least 50 there on 19 May 1974.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* Roberts cites only one inland occurrence. There was one at Kharrar jheel on 19 May 1974.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* Notable counts of 2,000+ at Kharrar jheel on 7 October 1973, and at least 4,000 there on 19 May 1974.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* Roberts noted that it is rarely encountered far from the sea-coast. There were nine near Raiwind on 30 September 1973 (with four remaining until 4 October) and three at Kharrar jheel on 19 May 1974.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* One was seen and heard near Raiwind, south of Lahore, on 4 January 1974 and another was heard at Kharrar jheel on 17 March 1974. These represent the first inland records.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* Roberts describes this species as a "rare straggler" in the Punjab and gives 17 September as the latest date. I saw it frequently south of Lahore from 5 May to 7 October, maxima of 20 at Kharrar jheel (including a newly fledged juvenile) on 21 July 1973, at least 100 at Balloki headworks on 26 July 1973 and up to 35 at each of three localities in August 1973.

INDIAN SKIMMER *Rynchops albigollis* Roberts knew of no recent winter records. There was one at the Wahdat ponds on the western outskirts of Lahore on 27 December 1973.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* Roberts mistakenly gives the first record of this species from the Ravi River near Lahore in 1972. In fact, the first record (for the subcontinent) was of an adult at the Rasul barrage on 27 January 1974 seen by F. J. Koning, L. J. Dijkens and myself. On 17 February 1974 there was a first winter bird on Rawal Lake, Islamabad.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Roberts describes this species as a rare spring passage migrant, first recorded as recently as 1970. In the Lahore area I saw it on three occasions in autumn 1973 (none in spring): an adult moulting into winter plumage near Julke on 14 September, a flock of 12 juveniles nearby at Raiwind on 30 September and five at the same locality on 2 October (probably part of the same flock). There was also a juvenile at Khabbaki Lake (Salt Range) on 21 October.

PIED HARRIER *Circus melanoleucos* Roberts cites only one record (December/January 1985/1986). During an exceptionally cold spell a male was quartering fields on the south-west outskirts of Lahore on 27 December 1973. This adds greater credence to the undated record of a bird "putatively seen" at Lahore by A. J. Currie in the 1920s (Ali and Ripley 1968) which Roberts overlooks (or discounts).

BLACK BITTERN *Ixobrychus flavicollis* Two at Balloki headworks from 8 July - 5 August 1973 and on 28 April 1974.

DARK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis* A male of the red-throated race *ruficollis* (but not dull maroon-chestnut as described by Roberts) was seen near the Balloki headworks on 3 March 1974.

SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER *Ficedula tricolor* A male in the Jinnah Gardens, Lahore, on 13 February 1974 seems to be the first record away from the foothills.

COMMON GRASSHOPPER-WARBler *Locustella naevia* Roberts noted that it was apparently scarce, with records from only four observers. One near Lal Suhanra on 30 March 1974.

MOUNTAIN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus sindianus* The status of this species between its breeding and wintering grounds is obscure. In the Lahore area in 1974 there was a marked spring passage from 3 March to 11 April, with small numbers seen in ten localities. Further south, in late March larger numbers were seen around Lal Suhanra and Fort Abbas, max. 20+ at the former on 29/30 March. Two were in song at Balloki on 17 March.

BLYTH'S LEAF-WARBler *Phylloscopus reguloides* Roberts knew of no records outside of the breeding season, although he states that the species 'migrates in winter to the foothills and adjacent plains'. On 21 October 1973 there was one in the Bakh Hund pass between Naushara and Nurewala (Salt Range) - a rather small crown-striped warbler with two conspicuous yellow wing-bars, yellowish-white supercilia and white in the outer tail-feathers.

LARGE GREY BABBLER *Turdoides malcolmi* Roberts recorded it as a rare resident, with only three records in the last 80 years. I saw this species four times by the River Ravi at Niaz Beg, Lahore, between 11 September 1973 and 24 January 1974, max. five on 8 January 1974. Further north, there was one east of Shekupura on 20 October 1973.

RUFOUS-TAILED LARK *Ammomanes phoenicurus* Roberts knew of no recent occurrences. My two sightings fit the 'monsoon' pattern of Waite's earlier records: one flew NE at Balloki on 26 July 1973 and one flew SE at Niaz Beg on the River Ravi, Lahore, on 13 September 1973.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Roberts states that in Pakistan it is confined to the drier mountain regions of the west. A small flock near Sakesar (Salt Range) on 21 October 1973 was outside of this range.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* Roberts included this, and the Paddyfield Pipit *A. rufulus*, in *A. novaeseelandiae* but makes no mention of the occurrence of *richardi*. On 16 September 1973 a large, dark, long-tailed pipit flew W near Raiwind, giving the characteristic 'dzreep' call of *richardi*. Another was seen at Niaz Beg on the River Ravi on 20 September 1973.

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewskii* Roberts makes no reference to this species, although Vaurie (1959) includes Pakistan in its winter range, and one of the known Indian wintering areas is not far to the south-east of Sind (Ali and Ripley 1973). On 13 September 1973 I had close views of a pipit at Niaz Beg, Lahore, which was larger than *A. rufulus waitei* but smaller and shorter-tailed than *A. richardi*. It had warm buff underparts, richer on the

flanks and paler on the rather finely streaked breast. The brown back was almost as dark as that of *A. richardi* but the pattern on the median and greater coverts resembled that of Tawny Pipit *A. campestris*. The harsh 'p-titt' call was unfamiliar but does not seem to correspond closely to calls so far attributed to *A. godlewskii*. There was a similarly plumaged (but silent) bird at the same locality on 9 October 1973. At the time no good field descriptions of *A. godlewskii* existed but, on the basis of information now available, it seems these birds were probably of this species.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* Three additional winter records of two by the Hudiara drain on 26 December 1973, two on the south-west outskirts of Lahore on 27 December 1973 and two at Kharrar jheel on 10 February 1974 suggest that the species is thinly distributed in the northern Punjab. However, the exceptionally cold weather of late December 1973 may have induced movement from elsewhere.

ROSY PIPIT *Anthus roseatus* I found this to be a rather more common winter visitor (late December to March) in the northern Punjab than Roberts suggests. It was quite widespread on the fringes of lakes, marshes and ditches with maxima of 12 at Kharrar jheel on 31 December 1973, nine near Raiwind on 2 February 1974 and 5 at Balloki on 3 March 1974.

SPECTACLED FINCH *Callacanthus burtoni* An unusually large flock of 40 was seen at just over 2,000 m near Murree on 16 February 1974. There was also one at Nathia Gali on 15 April 1974.

PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus rodochrous* Roberts regarded it as scarce. A male was seen above Ghora Gali on 16 February 1974 and there were two females in the same area on 13 April 1974 plus at least six (three males) at Nathia Gali on 15 April 1974.

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