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# Noteworthy records from western Arunachal Pradesh in October–November 2006

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**[Editorial note:** The sighting of the species in Chittoor happens to be the only known sighting of *P. nuchalis* in Andhra Pradesh in recent decades, as no record of the species exists after Jerdon obtained his type specimens from the hills west of Nellore. Also, no recent reports of its sightings exist from the western part of the southern peninsula in recent years. As the author suggests, intense surveys of the species in Chittoor area are needed to assess the status of this population of the species.]

# Noteworthy records from western Arunachal Pradesh in October–November 2006

Harkirat Singh Sangha, Rishad Naoroji & Manoj Sharma

Sangha, H. S., Naoroji, R. & Sharma, M. 2007. Noteworthy records from western Arunachal Pradesh in October–November 2006. *Indian Birds* 3 (5): 199–200.

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We conducted field surveys in western Arunachal Pradesh from 22.x–4.xi.2006, at the following locations: Tawang (24°37'N 91°52'E), Zimithang, Nelya (c. 3000 m), Dirang (27°19'N 92°16'E), Chander and, Tungri (c. 3000 m). Species of significance, observed during these surveys, are described below:

### Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

An adult observed early morning of 22.x.2007 attacking Jungle Crows *Corvus macrorhynchos* in the campus of 27 Madras at Km 6, Tawang. Another individual seen on 1.xi.2007 at Tungri. Eurasian Hobby has not been previously recorded in Arunachal Pradesh (Grimmett *et al* 1998; Kazmierczak 2000). Its distribution in northern parts of Arunachal Pradesh is shown as, “presence suspected,” (Naoroji 2006). However, there is one record from Wallong (1,200 m) in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh (Singh 1995).

### Merlin *F. columbarius*

At dawn on 2.xi.2007 at Tungri, one individual observed from approximately four metres perched on a bush. On being alerted it flew away. The species is otherwise only recorded in eastern Arunachal Pradesh (Kazmierczak 2000) and from D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (Naoroji 2006).

### Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*

A pair was heard calling late at night on 30.x.2006 at Larjup between Chander and Tungri. While camping at Tungri from 31.x–3.xi.2006, another pair was regularly heard calling



Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, Banni Grasslands, Kachchh, Gujarat, December 2006.

Clement Francis



Clement Francis

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*, Nandi Hills, Karnataka, March 2007.

throughout the night. An isolated winter record from Arunachal Pradesh (Kazmierczak 2000) is likely based on sighting at Taksing (Singh 1995).

#### **Eastern Skylark *Alauda gulgula***

14–15 birds were observed foraging on 29.x.2006 near Chander, on a grassy slope. Its distribution in Arunachal Pradesh is shown as, “uncertain record” (Kazmierczak 2000). The birds seen are likely races *inopinata* or *vernayi*, both originating from southern and south-eastern Tibet. These subspecies were collected in the neighbouring Bhutan by ornithological expeditions of the 1960s and 1970s (Spiereburg 2005). Rasmussen & Anderton (2005; 2: 307) states that *vernayi* is found in eastern India whereas *inopinata* in western Himalayas.

#### **Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

The species was observed regularly at Tungri from 31.x–3.xi.2006. Its distribution in Arunachal Pradesh is shown as, “uncertain record” (Kazmierczak 2000).

#### **Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

At Tungri four birds including two juveniles were seen on top of a coniferous tree on 31.x.2006. On the basis of the presence of two juveniles showing not crossed mandibles it can be presumed that it breeds in Arunachal Pradesh. Red Crossbill is not listed in Arunachal Pradesh (Grimmett *et al.*

1998; Kazmierczak 2000) but there is a record from Mayodia (Singh 1995).

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#### **Errata**

*Indian Birds* Volume 3 Number 4 (July–August) 2007.

Page 142, Table 4: The following footnote should be inserted below the table: <sup>1</sup>Present study; <sup>2</sup>Sathyakumar 2003; <sup>3</sup>Sankaran 1993; <sup>4</sup>Ramesh *et al.* 1999; <sup>5</sup>Sathyakumar *et al.* 1992.

Page 156: Aasheesh Pittie is the author of the third synopsis.