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PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS

PRICE, 15 rupees]

1930

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PREFACE

AT the present time when a person interested in the bird-life of Southern India wishes to identify a specimen of bird or egg he must search in some such voluminous works as the "*Fauna of British India—Birds*" or "*Jerdon's Birds of India*," etc., a tedious and unsatisfactory task because much of these works contain descriptions of birds found all over India and not of those of any one particular Presidency. The new edition of the "*Fauna of British India—Birds*," which is near completion will, when finished, consist of eight volumes, so the necessity of a book dealing exclusively with the birds resident in or visitors to the South of India can easily be realized.

There is little original matter in this work, but we have tried to compile, as accurately as possible, all information there is on the birds of this area and hope, that with its help, the study of ornithology in Southern India may be increased.

The only references we have given are to the two editions of the "*Fauna of British India—Birds*" (*F.B.I.*). While at home we had the privilege of seeing the MSS. of the addenda and corrigenda for Mr. Stuart Baker's last volume of the second edition and through his kindness have been able to make use of it.

Mr. Hugh Whistler is working out a collection of birds from South India but his results are not published yet; we have therefore been unable to incorporate his notes in this volume. When the collection has been worked out there may, possibly, be some corrections to make.

We must thank Mr. Stuart Baker for his kind help in revising a good deal of the manuscript, for the use of his many articles on Indian bird-life and for the interest he has taken in this work. Major Phythian Adams also helped us in the revision and we are indebted to him for some interesting notes as well as much other invaluable help; thanks are also due to many authors and publishers for material used in the compilation of this work; quotations are duly acknowledged.

We have also to thank the Bombay Natural History Society for the permission to use the coloured plates prepared by them and which make such a difference to the book.

The cost of having special plates drawn for this work would have been prohibitive so we were fortunate in being able to use these.

There is an apology to be made, which is, that our measurements are not consistent in all cases, some being given in inches and others in millimetres. Nowadays, in scientific works, millimetres are always used, but for the ordinary student inches are much simpler and preferable. There has not been sufficient time to convert the millimetres into inches, so we have taken the liberty of copying a scale from "*A Practical Handbook of British Birds*."

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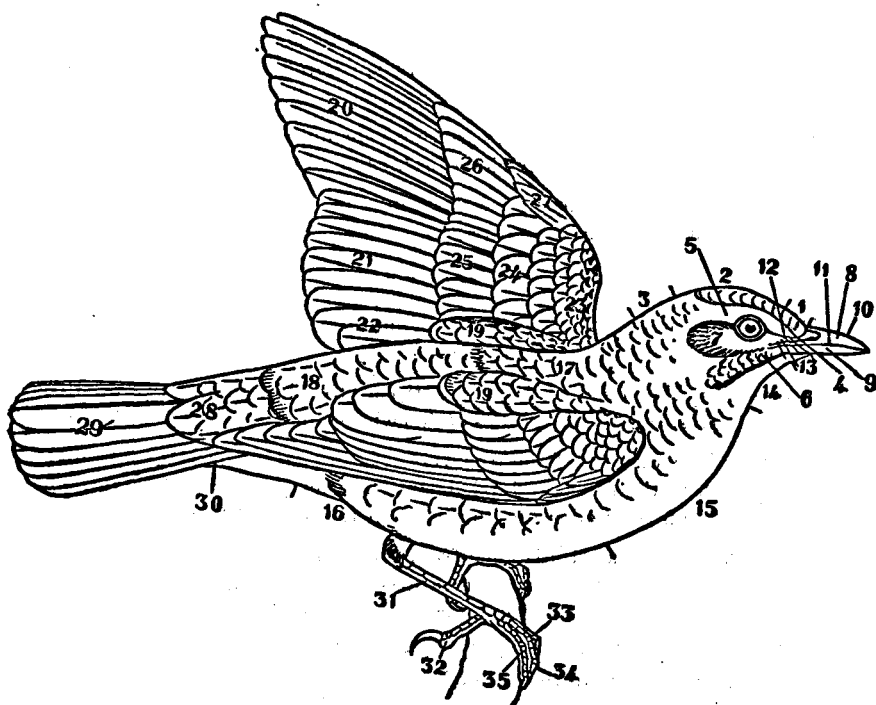


DIAGRAM OF A BIRD, to illustrate the terminology of the plumage and limbs.
(From *Fauna of British India*.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Forehead. | 19. Scapulars. |
| 2. Crown. | 20. Primaries (the earlier or outermost 9 or 10 quills of the wing). |
| 3. Nape or occiput. | 21. Secondaries (wing-quills springing from the radius and ulna). |
| 4. Lores (space in front of eye). | 22. Tertiaries. |
| 5. Supercilium. | 23. Lesser wing-coverts |
| 6. Cheeks. | 24. Median wing-coverts. |
| 7. Ear-coverts. | 25. Greater wing-coverts. |
| 8. Upper mandible or maxilla. | 26. Primary wing-coverts. |
| 9. Lower mandible. | 27. Winglet or bastard-wing. |
| 10. Culmen or upper profile of maxilla. | 28. Upper tail-coverts. |
| 11. Commissure or line of junction of the two mandibles. | 29. Tail-feathers or rectrices. |
| 12. Rictal bristles or vibrissæ. | 30. Under tail-coverts. |
| 13. Chin. | 31. Tarsus. |
| 14. Throat. | 32. Hind toe or first toe or hallux. |
| 15. Breast. | 33. Inner or second toe. |
| 16. Abdomen. | 34. Middle or third toe. |
| 17. Back. | 35. Outer or fourth toe. |
| 18. Rump. | |

Flanks or sides of body are the parts approximately covered by the closed wing.

Axillaries are the lengthened feathers springing from the axilla or region beneath the base of the wing.

Supplementary bristles or hairs are those springing from the side of the forehead in front of the rictal bristles.

Nasal bristles or hairs are those springing from the front of the forehead and covering the nostrils.

The measurements in this work are mostly in English inches and decimals, and are taken thus :—

Length.—The distance from the tip of the bill to the tip of the longest tail-feather, unless otherwise stated.

Tail.—The distance from the root of the tail, generally indicated both in the fresh and dried state by the presence of a piece of flesh on the underside, to the tip of the longest feather.

Wing.—The greatest distance from the bend of the wing to the tip of the longest primary, measured straight. When the wing is curved, it is flattened out for the purpose of measurement.

Tarsus.—The distance from the centre of articulation of the tarsus with the tibia to the base of the middle toe.

Bill.—The distance from the angle of the gape to the tip, measured straight.—“*Fauna of British India.*”

SCALE

(OF MILLIMETRES AND INCHES.)

| Inches. | Millimetres = mm. | Millimetres = mm. | Inches Decimals. | Inches and Fractions. |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{8}$ | 3.175 | 1 | .039 | |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ | 6.350 | 2 | .078 | |
| $\frac{3}{8}$ | 9.525 | 3 | .118 | |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12.700 | 4 | .157 | |
| $\frac{5}{8}$ | 15.875 | 5 | .196 | or about $\frac{2}{10}$ |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ | 19.050 | 8 | .315 | " $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| $\frac{7}{8}$ | 22.225 | 10 (= 1 cm.) ... | .393 | " $\frac{2}{5}$ |
| 1 | 25.400 | 15 | .590 | " $\frac{3}{5}$ |
| 2 | 50.799 | 20 | .787 | " $\frac{4}{5}$ |
| 3 | 76.199 | 30 | 1.181 | " $1\frac{1}{5}$ |
| 4 | 101.600 | 40 | 1.574 | " $1\frac{2}{5}$ |
| 6 | 152.399 | 50 | 1.968 | " $1\frac{3}{5}$ |
| 12 | 304.800 | 60 | 2.362 | " $2\frac{1}{5}$ |
| | | 70 | 2.756 | " $2\frac{2}{5}$ |
| | | 80 | 3.149 | " $3\frac{1}{10}$ |
| | | 90 | 3.543 | " $3\frac{2}{10}$ |
| | | 100 (= 10 cm.) ... | 3.937 | " $3\frac{3}{10}$ |

(From "A Practical Handbook of British Birds, 1919, page xii.")

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| 463. <i>totanus totanus</i> (Linn.,) | 398 |
| 464. <i>totanus terrignotæ</i> Meinertz., | 399 |
| 465. <i>erythropus</i> (Pall.,) | 399 |
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| 466. <i>nebularia</i> (Gunner.,) | 400 |
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| 266. Genus <i>Erolia</i> <i>Vieillot</i> | 403 |
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| 470. <i>temminckii</i> (<i>Leisl.</i>) | 404 |
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| 268. Genus <i>Limicola</i> <i>Koch</i> | 406 |
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APPENDIX

We include here the corrections taken from Mr. Stuart Baker's manuscript, including one additional subspecies and also printing errors so far as we have noticed them.

Page 1.—For *Corvus coronoides culminatus* read *Corvus leuallanti culminatus*.

Page 6.—For *Sitta castaneiventris castaneiventris* (Frankl.), read *Sitta castanea castanea* Lesson.

Page 8.—For *Trochalopteron* read *Trochalopteron*.

Wherever the name *Trochalopteron* has been used from pages 8 to 10 read *Trochalopteron*.

Page 14.—For *Pomatorhinus horsfieldi horsfieldi* Sykes, read *Pomatorhinus hosfieldi horsfieldi* (Sykes).

Page 16.—For *Dumetia albigularis* read *Dumetia albogularis albogularis*.

Page 17.—For *Pyctorhis* Hodgson 1844 read *Chrysomma* Blyth 1843.

For *Pyctorhis sinensis sinensis* read *Chrysomma sinensis sinensis*.

Page 21.—For *Liotrichinae* read *Leiotrichinae*.

Page 22.—For *Ægithina tiphia zeylonica* Gmel. read *Ægithina tiphia multicolor* (Gmel.).

Page 25.—For *Molpastes hæmarrhous hæmarrhous* (Gmel.) read *Molpastes cafer cafer* (Linn.).

For *Otocompsa* Cabanis, 1851, read *Elathea* Gistel 1848.

Page 26.—For *Otocompsa emeria fuscicaudata* read *Elathea jocosa fuscicaudata*.

Page 30.—For *Salpornis melanotus* read *Salpornis spilonotus*.

Page 35.—For *Phænicurus ochrurus phænicuroides* Moore, read *Phænicurus ochruros phænicuroides* (Moore).

Page 39.—For *Kittacincla macroura indica* read *Kittacincla malabarica indica*.

Page 41.—For *Geocichla* Kuhl 1836, read *Geokichla* S. Müller 1835.

Wherever the name *Geocichla* has been used from pages 41 to 43 read *Geokichla*.

Page 44.—For *Oreocincla dauma nilghiriensis* read *Oreocincla dauma neilgheiriensis*.

Page 46.—For *Myiophoneus* read *Myophonus*.

For *Myiophoneus horsfieldii* read *Myophonus horsfieldii*.

Page 48.—For *Cyornis* read *Muscicapula*.

Wherever the name *Cyornis* has been used on pages 48 and 49 read *Muscicapula*.

Page 50.—For *Stoparola* Blyth, 1847 read *Eumyias* Cabanis 1851.

For *Stoparola melanops melanops* (Vigors) read *Eumyias thalassima thalassima* (Swains.,)

Page 51.—For *Stoparola albicaudata* read *Eumyias albicaudata*.

For *Alseonax latirostris* read *Alseonax latirostris poonensis*.

Page 54.—For *Terpsiphone* Gloger, 1827, read *Tchitreia* Lesson 1830.

For *Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi* read *Tchitreia paradisi paradisi*.

Page 56.—For *Rhipidura* Vigors and Horsf., 1826 read *Leucocerca* Swainson 1838.

Wherever the name *Rhipidura* has been used on pages 56 and 57 read *Leucocerca*.

Page 62.—For *Pericrocotides* read *Campephagides*.

For *Pericrocotus speciosus flammeus* read *Pericrocotus flammeus flammeus*.

Page 63.—For *Pericrocotus peregrinus malabaricus* (Gmel.) read *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Linn.,).

Page 68.—For **The Ceylon King Crow** read **The Ceylon Black Drongo**.

For **The Ceylon Drongo** read **The Ceylon Grey Drongo**.

Page 71.—For **The Ceylon Black Drongo** read **The Ceylon Crested Black Drongo**.

Page 76.—For *Franklinia* Blyth read *Franklinia* Jerdon.

Page 79.—For *Chaëtormis locustelloides* (Blyth) read *Chaëtormis striatus* Jerdon.

For *Phragmaticola* read *Phragamaticola*.

Page 80.—For *Phragmaticola aëdon* read *Phragamaticola aëdon*.

Page 83.—For *Phylloscopus tytleri* (Brooks) read *Phylloscopus tytleri* Brooks.

Page 84.—For *Acanthopneuste magnirostris* (Blyth) read *Acanthopneuste magnirostris* Blyth.

Page 90.—For *Oriolus chinensis indicus* (Jerdon) read *Oriolus chinensis diffusus* Sharpe.

Page 91.—For *Eulabetida* read *Graculida*. For *Eulabes* Cuvier 1817 read *Gracula* Linn., 1758.

For *Eulabes religiosa* (Cuvier) read *Gracula indica* Cuvier.

Page 95.—For *Æthiopsar* Sharpe read *Æthiopsar* Oates.

Page 97.—For *Ploceus* read *Ploceus*.

Page 100.—Under **Indian Spotted Munia** insert *Plate XII*.

Page 103.—For *Passer domesticus confucius* (Bonaparte) read *Passer domesticus nigricollis* (Burton).

Page 104.—For *Emberiza icterica* (Eversmann) read *Emberiza icterica* Eversmann.

Page 105.—For *Ptyonoprogne* Reichenbach 1850 read *Krimnochelidon* Walden 1876.

Wherever the name *Ptyonoprogne* has been used on pages 105 and 106 read *Krimnochelidon*.

Page 110.—For *Motacilla lugubris maderaspatensis* read *Motacilla maderaspatensis*.

Page 118.—For *Caladrella* read *Calandrella*.

Page 122.—For *Amommanes* read *Ammomanes*.

For *Pyrhulauda* Smith 1839 read *Eremopteryx* Kaup 1836.

For *Pyrhulauda grisea* read *Eremopteryx grisea*.

Page 124.—For Sub-family *Nectariniidæ* read Sub-family *Nectariniinæ*.

Page 129.—For *Dicaeum minullum concolor* read *Dicaeum concolor concolor*.

For *Dicaeum minullum olivaceum* read *Dicaeum concolor olivaceum*.

Page 130.—For *Piprisoma squalidum squalidum* (Burton) read *Piprisoma agile agile* (Tick.).

Page 134.—For *Picus vittatus myrmecophaneus* (Stresemann) read *Picus vittatus xanthopygius* (Gray).

For *Picus chlorolophus chlorogaster* read *Picus chlorolophus chlorigaster*.

Page 135.—For *Leiopicus mahrattensis* read *Leiopicus mahrattensis mahrattensis*.

Page 137.—For *Micropternus brachyurus gularis* (Jerdon) read *Micropternus brachyurus jerdonii* (Malherbe).

Page 142.—For *Thriponax* Cab. & Heine 1863 read *Macropicus* Malherbe 1861.

For *Thriponax javanensis hodgsonii* read *Macropicus crawfordi hodgsonii*.

Page 143.—For *Picumnus* Temminck 1825 read *Vivia* Hodgson 1837.

For *Picumnus innominatus avunculorum* read *Vivia innominatus avunculorum*.

Page 148.—For *Cuculus canorus telephonus* (Heine) read *Cuculus canorus telephonus* Heine.

Page 150.—For *Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus* (Lath.) read *Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus* Lath.

For *Cuculus micropterus micropterus* (Gould) read *Cuculus micropterus micropterus* Gould.

Page 164.—For *Centropus benghalensis benghalensis* read *Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*.

Page 165.—For *Psittacula eupatria eupatria* Linn., read *Psittacula eupatria eupatria* (Linn.,)

Page 167.—For *Psittacula columboides* Vigors read *Psittacula melanorhyncha* (Sykes).

Page 170.—For *ruchal collar* read *nuchal collar*.

For *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis* Linn., read *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis* (Linn.,)

Page 174.—For *Bucia* Hodgson 1836 read *Alcemerops* J. Geoff. St. Hilaire 1833.

Page 177.—For *Ceyx* Lacépède 1801 read *Ceyx* Lacépède 1799.

For *Ceyx tridactylus tridactylus* Pall., read *Ceyx tridactylus tridactylus* (Pall.,)

Page 179.—For *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca* Bodd., read *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca* (Bodd.,)

Page 182.—For *Sauropatis chloris vidali* Sharp read *Sauropatis chloris vidali* (Sharpe).

Page 184.—For *Anthracoceros* Reich., 1849 read *Hydrocissa* Bonaparte 1850.

For *Anthracoceros coronatus* read *Hydrocissa coronata*.

Page 185.—For *Lophoceros* Hempr., & Ehr. 1828 read *Tockus* Lesson 1831.

Wherever the name *Lophoceros* is used on pages 185 and 186 read *Tockus*.

Page 189.—For *Trogons* read *Trogones*.

For *Pyrotrogon* Bonaparte 1854 read *Harpactes* Swainson 1833.

For *Pyrotrogon fasciatus malabaricum* read *Harpactes fasciatus malabaricum*.

Page 192.—Add

(272-A) *Micropus melba bakeri* Hartert.

THE INDIAN ALPINE SWIFT.

Description. "Smaller and darker than *M.m. alba*. Wing 190 to 195 mm.

Distribution. "A resident breeding bird in the mountains and hills of Ceylon and Southern India". (*Stuart Baker*.)

The notes on the breeding of the previous bird should be for this subspecies. Both subspecies may possibly occur in our area, the present one being the resident form.

Page 205.—For *Tyto alba javanica* (Gmel.) read *Tyto alba stertens* Hartert.

Page 209.—For *Strix ocellata* Less., read *Strix ocellata* (Less.)

Page 211.—For *Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis* Gmel., read *Ketupa zeylonensis zeylonensis* (Gmel.)

Page 212.—For *Bubo bubo bengalensis* Frankl., read *Bubo bubo bengalensis* (Frankl.)

Page 217.—For *Plate XIV* read *Plate XVI*.

Page 219.—For *Glaucidium radiatum malabaricum* (Sharpe) read *Glaucidium radiatum malabaricum* Sharpe.

Page 243.—For *Ictinaëtus malayensis perniger* Hodgs., read *Ictinaëtus malayensis perniger* (Hodgs.)

Page 244.—For *Spizaëtus* Vieillot 1816 read *Limnaëtops* Stuart Baker.

Wherever the name *Spizaëtus* is used from pages 244 to 246 read *Limnaëtops*.

Page 248.—For *Spilornis* G. R. Gray 1840 read *Hæmatornis* Gould 1831.

Wherever the name *Spilornis* has been used on pages 248 and 249 read *Hæmatornis*.

Page 262.—For *Buteo* Cuvier, 1800 read *Buteo* Lacépède, 1799.

Page 264.—For *Astur* Lacépède, 1801 read *Astur* Lacépède, 1799.

Page 265.—Under the **Indian Shikra** insert *Plate XIX*.

Page 281.—For *Columba elphinstonii* Sykes read *Columba elphinstonii* (Sykes).

Page 285.—For *Ænopopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica* read *Ænopopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica*.

Page 289.—For *Pterocles exustus erlangeri* (Neum.) read *Pterocles exustus erlangeri* Neum.

Page 331.—For *Gallinula chloropus parvifrons* read *Gallinula chloropus indicus*.

Page 334.—Under the **Indian Purple Moorhen** insert *Plate XIX*.

Page 335.—For *Fulica atra utra* read *Fulica atra atra*.

For (*H.L. No. 1889*) read (*Fauna of British India*, 2nd edition No. 2029).

Page 337.—Under **The Bronze-winged Jacana** insert *Plate XX*.

Page 338.—For *Phlasant-tailed Jacana* read *Pheasant-tailed Jacana*.

Page 359.—Eliminate Sub-family *Larinae*.

Page 366.—Under **The Indian River Tern** insert *Plate XXI*.

Page 371.—For **Black-shafted Little Tern**, read **Black-shafted Ternlet**.

Page 386.—For *Hoplopterus ventralis* (Wagl.) read *Hoplopterus duvauceli* (Less).

Page 387.—For *Lobivanellus* Strickland, 1841 read *Lobivanellus* Gray 1841.

Page 391.—For *Numenius arquata lineatus* (Cuv.) read *Numenius arquata orientalis* Brehm.

Page 394.—For *Xenus* Kanp., 1829 read *Terekia* Bonaparte, 1838.

Page 395.—For *Xenus cinereus cinereus* (Gülden.) read *Terekia cinereus cinereus* (Gülden.).

Page 439.—Under **The Indian Black Ibis** insert *Plate XXI*.

Page 444.—Under **The Adjutant** insert *Plate XXII*.

Page 450.—Under **Eastern Grey Heron** insert *Plate XXII*.

Page 4.—**The Southern Grey Tit** differs from the bird figured in having the tail black on both webs with only a narrow grey edge on the outer webs. The illustration fairly represents our bird.

Page 22.—**The Malabar Chloropsis** differs from that illustrated in having the chin and throat black instead of blue and there being no golden-yellow band surrounding the black.

Page 58.—Delete *Plate VII* under **Bay-backed Shrike**.

Page 59.—Insert *Plate VII* under **Southern Rufous-backed Shrike**. Our bird differs from the one given in the plate by having no trace of rufous on the upper back.

Page 71.—**The Malabar Large Racket-tailed Drongo** only differs from the one illustrated in its rather smaller size and crest. The illustration fairly represents our bird.

Page 89.—Delete *Plate X* under **Indian Oriole**.

Page 90.—Insert *Plate X* under **Indian Black-headed Oriole**.

Page 135.—**The Southern Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker** differs from that figured in the plate by being blacker above showing less white and the crown and abdomen are a deeper crimson.

Page 217.—**The Southern Spotted Owlet** is darker above and more heavily spotted below than the sub-species illustrated.

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