

5. ON THE VALIDITY OF *FRANCOLINUS PICTUS PALLIDUS*
(J. E. GRAY)

When cataloguing the Painted Partridges (*Francolinus pictus*) from Indian limits in the Society's collection (1969, *JBNHS* 66: 257-258), I said there was much variation in the patterns both above and below, but with the material available (31 specimens none from near the type locality) it was not possible to separate any as *pallidus* (J. E. Gray, type locality Udaipur) from nominate *pictus* (Jardine & Selby, Bangalore).

With the assistance of Mr. Amrendra Singh of Udaipur, we have now been able to obtain a male from near Udaipur, the type locality,

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dated 1 September 1977 (BNHS Reg. No. 24381), which is distinctly paler than any of the others. This paleness is most prominent on the wings and is generally emphasized by the pale streaks in the form of paler edges to the dark feathers on the head. The last character is visible in only one other skin from Mt. Abu (o? 13746) and which does show an appreciable tendency towards *pallidus*. In any case, it would appear that this form does exist but covers a very restricted range.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

6. INCUBATION AND INCUBATION PERIOD IN THE INDIAN
LITTLE BROWN DOVE *STREPTOPELIA SENEGALENSIS*

A pair of Indian Little Brown Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* managed to construct a nest in the veranda of my house in Baroda. Soon after the construction work of their nest got over, the eggs were laid, one each on successive days, namely on 29th and 30th of January 1977. Both the sexes participated in incubating the eggs, both of them working in shifts for a few hours during the day time, but only one of them would remain at the nest at night. Since one of them had lost several tail feathers it was possible to tell the otherwise indistinguishable members apart: it was always the one with the tail feathers intact that would take up the night duty. This individual, moreover, was also very aggressive as compared to the other. The feathers on its head were also conspicuous, in that they were

always disturbed and slightly raised and would give an appearance of a comb. On two occasions when the bird was disturbed at night (because of my prying), the bird simply left the place leaving the nest unguarded all through the night only to return next day morning (after 11-00 a.m.) to see if the place was safe and undisturbed. Wallace and Mahan (1975) have reported that in Mourning Dove and some other columbids it is the female which takes on the duty of incubating the eggs at night, and is relieved by the male during the daytime. It is possible that the aggressive individual doing the night shift is probably a female, and that the aggressive attitude towards suspected invaders develops during the breeding season rather than only during incubation periods; for, even after the young



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