

11. TERRITORY IN THE HOUSE CROW, *CORVUS SPLENDENS* VIEILLOT

During the past four years, 1964 to 1967, I had an opportunity to study the territorial behaviour of House Crow, *Corvus splendens* Vieillot in and around Poona. As many as 67 pairs (4 of them ringed ones) were observed for the purpose of this study. It was observed that in the case of House Crow:—

1. The territory is claimed after the nesting site has been selected.
2. The occupation of territory is announced by the mere presence of one or both of the pair.
3. Courtship and copulation usually takes place inside the territory.
4. Most of the food is obtained from outside the territory.
5. The territory is defended by both sexes by warning note, pursuit and attack.
6. Territory is occupied and defended during the breeding season only.
7. A well-marked social defence system is employed whereby several nesting pairs of the neighbourhood join the defence efforts of a threatened pair against predators.
8. The territorial limits (area of defence) vary according to the type of intruder. Intruders like others of the species and sex and small harmless birds of the other species are permitted to come up to a couple of metres without any show of hostility. Many a times a House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus* was observed to perch within a few centimetres of the nest proper while the owner(s) sat inside the nest. Raptors are assaulted on sight when within 50 to 60 metres of the nest and are chased as far away as 200 to 300 metres. Koel is attacked even when heard within 100 metres of the nest and is pursued till the pursuers are convinced of their inability to catch up with the offender. Other intruders like human beings, monkeys and carnivora are attacked only when they try to climb the nesting tree and are not left in peace till they put 200 to 300 metres between themselves and the nest, or reach a place of shelter.

It follows therefore that the House Crow, *Corvus splendens* Vieillot:—

- (i) Sustains a territory which is intermediate between types B and C of Hinde's (1956:342) classification. It is therefore suggested that one more category may be added in between Hinde's types B

and C to cover such birds who occupy large nesting territories within which courtship, copulation and nesting takes place but which do not furnish most of the food.

(ii) Occupies and defends it after the pair's selection of the nesting site, employs warning note, pursuit and assault as the chief means of defence. Defends it mainly for nesting site, nest, eggs and brood only. The main functions of the territory in *Corvus splendens* is to afford protection to nest, eggs and young, that is, the functions proposed by Nice (1933), Mayr (1935), Lack (1935), Noble (1939) and Tinbergen (1939).

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B. S. LAMBA

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12. THE BROWN FLYCATCHER, *MUSCICAPA LATIROSTRIS* RAFFLES IN KUTCH

Once again I had the good luck to come across a new bird in Kutch and that too in the same place where I have seen most of the other new birds; the grounds of Vijaya Vilas Palace, Mandvi. On November 21 and 22, 1967, I saw the Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris* Raffles) in the garden which surrounds the palace. On both occasions only one bird was observed. At first glance an inexperienced observer could easily mistake it for the Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva* Bechstein) a regular winter visitor in Kutch which is met with in all suitable localities. Obviously the Brown Flycatcher is an extremely rare visitor in this part of the country. Dharmakumarsinhji (BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA; 428) does not



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