

make any reference to its occurrence in Saurashtra but says it was recorded by Littledale at Saran (Dungarpur State, now in Rajasthan) and that it is presumably resident in the Dangs (Gujarat). It appears that, at least up to the time the BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA was published, this bird does not seem to have been firmly recorded in Saurashtra.

JUBILEE GROUND,
BHUJ, KUTCH,
April 12, 1968.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

13. NEW WINTERING LOCALITY OF THE SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER *BRADYPTERUS THORACICUS* (BLYTH)

On 24 November 1967 whilst netting migratory birds in the phragmites reed beds at Nalbani, North Salt Lakes, Calcutta, with Mr. S. S. Saha & Mr. D. K. Ghosal, a Spotted Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus thoracicus* (Blyth) was collected. It is of interest that this constitutes the first Calcutta area record and appears to be the only record of the species' occurrence away from the Himalayan foothills or Sylhet, E. Pakistan which Ripley in his SYNOPSIS states to be its winter range. The bird was therefore inexplicably some 300 miles south of its usual wintering areas.

The Spotted Bush Warbler is a great skulker and the specimen was virtually pushed into the net by cheyving it along with the hands from only two or three feet away. This may account for its not having been collected before although netting has been carried out fairly regularly in this area since 1962.

Since the above record, two other specimens have been caught at the same locality (on 28 January 1968) indicating that the species is not necessarily scarce. On no occasion, however, has the bird been observed in the field prior to its being caught in the nets.

Measurements (in mm.) of the birds collected and now in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, are as follows:—

24.xii.67 1 ♂, wing 54, tail 54, bill 14. Primaries 2nd=10th

26.i.68 1 ♂, wing 52.5, tail 49.5, bill 14. Wing tip—2—
Wing-tip damaged.

26.i.68 1 ♂, wing 51.3, tail 52, bill 13.5. Primaries 2nd=11th.

(on the latter two birds the spots on the chest are more pronounced).

I wish to record my appreciation for the help of Dr. B. Biswas of the Zoological Survey of India, India Museum, Calcutta, for his confirming the identification of the above specimens.

Bradypterus thoracicus (Blyth) is illustrated in Sálím Ali's BIRDS OF SIKKIM.

THE CHARTERED BANK,
CALCUTTA-1,
March 26, 1968.

J. R. S. HOLMES, M.B.O.U.

14. DUST BATHING BY COMMON BAYA (*PLOCEUS PHILIPPINUS*)

Recently, going through the chapter on Feather Maintenance in A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS, I came across a statement by K. E. L. Simmons, who, while writing of Dusting says, 'Dusting is also found, for example, in sparrows (Passerinae—but not in other Ploceidae).

On the afternoon of May 4, 1962, Julian Donahue and I had gone out along Agra Canal beyond Okhla to watch a large wagtail roost which Julian had discovered the previous evening. Stopping the car on the road, we spotted a family of Bustard Quails. The land was parched and dotted with dry *Zizyphus* bushes and other kinds of thorny bushes, clump of grass and a few *keekar* trees.

A few Common Bayas (*Ploceus philippinus*) were bathing in the dust. Others were feeding on some kind of seeds from the ground.

Dust bathing by the Common Baya has since been corroborated by Mr. S. K. Kanjilal from Lucknow.

32, CHHATRA MARG,
DELHI-7,
August 28, 1968.

(MRS.) USHA GANGULI

15. SOME NEW BIRD RECORDS FOR DELHI

On 2 June 1968 I found the Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola maldivarum*) nesting on the grasslands on the south-western side of the dried-up Najargarh jheel, about 20 miles south-west of Delhi.

This is the first nesting record we can trace for Delhi, although the Pratincole has been seen in every month of the year.

There were many Pratincoles in the area, some flying and others standing or sitting on the ground. As I drove my car slowly towards one it suddenly rose and threatened the car with outstretched wings. I then found two eggs resting on the ground in the short grass. There was little sign of the bird having hollowed the ground at all,



Holmes, J R S. 1968. "New Wintering Locality of the Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 65, 779–780.

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