

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF THE AVIFAUNA OF NORTHERN BALUCHISTAN.

BY

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Since the series of articles written by Dr. Ticehurst in the *Journal* in 1926-7, little has appeared in print concerning the avifauna of Northern Baluchistan.

For four years I have made a close study of the Political Districts of Zhob, Loralai, Quetta-Pishin, Chagai, Kalat, and the Northern mountainous part of Sibi. I have been in regular correspondence with the Society and with Dr. Ticehurst, and have collected a series of specimens in all doubtful cases, and checked many of them at the British Museum and Royal Scottish Museum, while others have been checked by the Bombay Natural History Society and by Dr. Ticehurst.

There is still a great deal of research to be done in Northern Baluchistan, and this article is written in the hope that it may provide a basis for future study for ornithologists who may be stationed there.

I shall only deal with new records, and with species about which there has been controversy regarding race.

1. *Corvus corax ruficollis*.

This raven is definitely scarce. Purely a winter visitor, I have seen it half a dozen times only, on Quetta golf course, in company with *laurencei*, rooks and choughs, in hard weather from 15 December to 12 March. It is resident in Mekran, but from where these winter visitors come to us is not clear. There are not many places where *laurencei* and *ruficollis* overlap.

2. *Coryus corone orientalis*.

I obtained this crow on Shinghar, where it is resident in small numbers in the chilghoza pine forests as well as on the Takht-i-Suleiman. It lives at about 8,500 ft. and nests in April about 30 ft. up in a fork of a pine. Five eggs averaged 42×29 mm. It is not found anywhere else.

3. *Pyrhacorax graculus*.

The Alpine or Yellow-billed Chough is purely a bird of the great cliffs in the high mountains, and except when breeding is seen in small flocks of ten to fifteen. They do not descend to the valleys in winter like *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*. I have seen them on Murdar, Chiltan, Zarghun, Takatu, and Khalifat, mostly at about 10,800-11,200 ft. Nests are usually in holes in inaccessible cliffs, but one I reached on Khalifat in May 1938 had four very pale yellowish grey eggs with a few bright brown spots. They averaged 40×28 mm.



**4. *Nucifraga multipunctata*.**

General Norton tells me he found this Slender-billed Nutcracker on the Takht-i-Suleiman in winter, and natives say it visits Shinghar also in winter. I have not been able to get there in winter to confirm this, but I saw a Nutcracker of undetermined species on Shinghar on 14th July 1940. Which nutcracker is found in our area still wants working out.

**5. *Sitta kashmiriensis*.**

Brook's Nuthatch is common in the chilghoza pine forests of the Takht and on Shinghar. I have found it overlapping *Sitta neumayeri tephronota*, and in 1940 found nests of both species within 80 yards of each other, the one in a chilghoza pine, and the other in the cleft of a rock inside the usual clay cone.

**6. *Turdus unicolor*.**

Tickell's Thrush is a regular winter visitor to Fort Sandeman, Loralai, and Quetta gardens. I had several in my garden in the winter of 1940-41. They became very tame in hard weather.

**7. *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.**

Dr. Ticehurst identified a specimen I sent him from Robat on 18th April 1939 as the European Redstart.

**8. *Chaimarrhornis leucocephala*.**

I obtained the White-capped Redstart near Hanna Lake, Quetta, on 6th March and 19th November, 1939. The earliest record is 2nd March, and Meinertzhagen reported it from Baleli on that date and on 14th April and 14th November. When it occurs it probably winters, and this must be about the S.-W. limit of its range.

**9. *Oenanthe*.**

The distribution of the eleven species of Wheatear which have been reported from Northern Baluchistan has taken a lot of working out, and much more research is still needed. According to old records and the indications given by specimens collected by me, the distribution seems to work out as follows:—

*O. picata* is a very common summer visitor, and passage migrant. It winters in the areas below about 4,000 ft., but I have seen odd ones quite happy among the big rocks at 9,000 ft. in deep snow in mid-January. Much more a bird of the rocks, it is found far higher than any of the others.

*O. isabellina* is common on passage, and is resident in small numbers locally, while others are summer visitors. It breeds in old rat holes, and nests are easy to find.

*O. finschi barnesi* is a passage migrant in small numbers. Odd pairs remain to nest or come here from further South. I got a nest on 29th April in the hills N.-E. of Nushki, and found one nest, and a family party North of Quetta. The bird was shot in each case to make sure. The nest is a flat saucer of camelthorn, lined with grassy fibres and goats' hair. The five eggs were a deeper blue than the usual chat type. There was a zone of rusty spots at the thick end, and a few odd spots elsewhere. Average  $20.5 \times 15.5$  mm.

*O. deserti atrogularis* is common, but only as a winter visitor and on passage. It has, however, been reported as nesting round Quetta. This may be so, but I think only an odd pair nests. The Messrs. Williams found a nest on 15th May near Quetta.

I have seen a family party on 12th July and obtained an adult male.

*O. xanthopyrymma chrysopygia*. The Red-tailed Wheatear is quite common on passage, (earliest Quetta 24th January); the Kacha range in W. Chagai is full of them in March and April. It winters in S. Mekran, and many nest in the Hindu Kush. A few nest in the Amran Khwajah and along the Barshor hills. It is not a desert-loving bird, but frequents the small rocky perennial streams. It is one of the most interesting birds to watch. The nuptial display is very marked, and once I saw a cock bird going through the whole performance in mid-September for fifty minutes, although I could find no trace of any hen. It arrives in April and is very tame and confiding. The nest itself is unusual.



It is placed in small hollows quite low down in a rock face above water. The hollow is lined with tiny flat stones from the stream, and the cup in the middle is a deep one, and is made of grasses with a fine lining of root and grass fibres. Four to five eggs are laid, usually above 7,000 ft. They are pale blue with only a few rusty spots. In one nest the eggs had no spots. Average of fourteen eggs  $20.7 \times 16$  mm.

*O. opistholeuca*. Strickland's Chat is a scarce passage migrant. I have only obtained it between the end of February and mid-April, and once in September. Meinertzhagen obtained it near Quetta on 24th February and 21st October. There was a specimen in Old Quetta Museum from Baleli 18th March, and Dr. Ticehurst obtained one there on 11th August.

*O. capistrata*. Gould's Chat is also a scarce passage migrant, but a few are seen every year between mid-February and April, and in late August and September. Latest record in October.

*O. deserti oreophila*. The Tibetan Desert Wheatear winters in Mekran and Iranian Baluchistan in some numbers, but what route it takes I have not been able to discover. I have never seen it in the Chagai desert, though I obtained one near Nushki, and another at Robat, both in April. Dr. Ticehurst obtained it near Quetta on 28th February and 3rd March.

*O. leucomela, rostrata, alboniger*.

The Siberian; the pale race of Common Wheatear; and Hume's Chat; are I think, only stragglers on passage. Of *leucomela*, there are old, doubtful records by St. John from Pishin in March, and by Blanford from Quetta. Dr. Ticehurst got it at Ziarat on 5th October, and I obtained one near Nushki in March.

*O. rostrata* is reported to pass through Quetta between 17th March and 18th October, and I obtained one near Nushki on 14th November.

The only record for *alboniger* is one by Murray from Chaman in April; probably a mistake.

#### 10. *Suya crinigera striatula*.<sup>5</sup>

The Brown Hill Warbler is only found in Loralai and N.-E. Zhob. It extends just into the more open parts of the pine forests on Shinghar up to 7,400 ft. It nests in May and June according to altitude about 4 ft. up in sage or wild almond bushes, or sometimes in a buddleia.

#### 11. *Acrocephalus agricola agricola*.

Jerdon's Reed Warbler has always been considered only a passage migrant. Many winter in the Sibi-Jacobabad plain and pass through in March and April, returning from August to early October. However all do not pass through, as I found a regular breeding colony in the Malezai Lora each year. I have found 25 nests.

The nest is a deep cup woven round three or four reed stalks 18 in. to 3 ft. above water. It is made of fine reed stems lined with reed fibres, wool, goats' hair, feathers, and the seed-down of reeds. Of the 25 nests 18 had 5 eggs and 7 had 4. Colours varied from whitish to stone, and a few were greenish stone. They were blotched, streaked and spotted with dark olive, brown, dark grey, and even black, the markings being thicker at the blunt end where they tended to form a zone and sometimes a cap.

Largest  $17.2 \times 13.1$  mm.; smallest  $16.4 \times 12.8$  mm.; average  $16.8 \times 12.9$  mm. Lt.-Colonel Darcy, R.A., was with me on one visit, and kindly checked the measurements for me. I know of no other breeding place in Baluchistan, though I have searched every likely spot.

#### 12. *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

I thought I found the Reed Warbler nesting in the Malezai Lora in 1939, and 1940. I shot a bird from the nest and sent it and the eggs to Dr. Ticehurst. Owing to the war the eggs did not arrive, and the bird was so battered that Dr. Ticehurst could only say that he thought it was *scirpaceus*. I also sent a clutch of eggs to Stuart Baker, which did not arrive. The Malezai reed beds would well repay close study.



**13. *Phylloscopus collybita*.**

I have obtained both *tristis* and *sindianus* on passage. The common one however, is *tristis*, the Siberian Chiffchaff. It has a faint tinge of green in the upper plumage, which is dark brown. Underparts are pale buff, and both wings and tail are edged with olive-yellow. It breeds in N. Asia, and passes through to the Sibi plain and Sind from 21st February to 15th April, and later birds give song. Going South it passes through from 25th September to mid-November, but many spend the winter in pairs or singly in cantonment gardens.

*P. sindianus* breeds in Central Asia and Ladakh, and winters in Sind, N.-W, F.P., Punjab, U. P., and Rajputana. The wing formula is the same, but this race has no green tinge on the upper parts. It passes through farther East, and I have only obtained it twice, both in N.-E. Baluchistan in November.

A specimen obtained at Quetta by Meinertzhagen on 28th July could not be separated by Dr. Ticehurst from the typical race. It was much greener above, and had some yellow on the breast. It had at that early date completed its moult, and Dr. Ticehurst thinks it was probably a vagrant that had failed to breed.

**14. *Luscinia megarhyncha golzii*.**

I obtained the Eastern Nightingale at Kacha and Robat on the Iran frontier in April 1939. Natives say it does not sing or nest there.

**15. *Troglodytes troglodytes neglectus*.**

The Wren is very local and has not been previously recorded. I heard it in 1938 and 1939 in a secluded tangi near Ziarat, and in 1940 found it there and in two other tangis. In all I found four families of half-fledged young in June, and found one nest. It was placed in a crevice underneath a rock, and consisted of juniper bark strips tightly bound round fibres of bark and grassy roots. The lining was of finer root fibres, and some fine bark fibres with a few feathers. Eggs must have been laid in the last fortnight of May, and cocks sang up till 15th July. I obtained one but could not separate it from *neglectus*.

**16. *Acridotheres tristis tristis*.**

The Common Mynah I have only seen round the Staff College in Quetta where half a dozen pairs are resident at 5,800 ft. and nest regularly.

**17. *Carpodacus erythrinus*.**

I have cleared up the question of the distribution of the Rosefinches. Most are only passage migrants, but the intermediate race, *kubanensis*, is a summer visitor to the chilghoza forests, the juniper forests, and to those higher hills over 7,500 ft. where there are a few junipers, thorny scrub and wild briars. There it nests in wild briars, the nest being a grassy cup lined with fine juniper bark fibres or fine grass roots, and usually containing three and sometimes four eggs, of a clear blue blotched very sparsely with browns and blacks. Average size 19.8×15 mm.

Its clear calls of 'twee-twee-tweeou' and 'twee-tweeou', with accent on the second syllable, is one of the characteristic sounds of the forests. Of a large series of males obtained in summer, all were unmistakably of this race. They had throat and chest splashed with dark crimson, and a pale suffusion of pink on the abdomen.

Of the passage migrants I have identified the pale typical race and the dark race *roseatus*. The former is fairly common on passage from Sind and Mekran, where it winters, and I have obtained specimens from Chagai in October and March, the Kaiser Jungle near Nushki in September and March, and on Takatu, near Quetta, and Pishin, also in March. Males of this race are much paler all over, and only the chin, throat, and breast are rosy. *roseatus* I have not seen except in N.-E. Baluchistan, and have obtained only two specimens, in March and September. Males of this race have the throat, chest and abdomen splashed with dark crimson.



18. *Carduelis caniceps*.

Some doubt existed as to the races of the Goldfinch found in Baluchistan.

It is mainly a winter visitor, and all birds I have obtained have been the typical race, wing 83 mm. It is very common in cantonments, and sings away all winter.

Dr. Ticehurst identified three obtained in winter as the Far Eastern race *paropamisi*, and Meinertzhagen got the Eastern race *major* in Quetta on 27th February, 1913. Possibly the large flocks seen contain birds of all three races.

*subulata*, a larger central Asian race, wing 88 mm., is a summer visitor very locally to some of the higher hills, and no doubt breeds there. I have only found one pair nesting. This was on Takatu near Quetta at 7,500 ft., but I have seen family parties of *subulata* feeding on sunflowers in cantonments in Quetta in late July. The nest I found on Takatu was made of wool and goats' hair, lined with finer hairs and grassy fibres. Very inconspicuous, it was 15 ft. up in a fork of an old country apriect in a deserted patch of cultivation opposite the Marichak Tangi. Four young hatched out on 2nd May 1938, and I saw a family party of six on 12th July, watering within half a mile of the nest. I found another family party in Zhob, June 1942.

19. *Amandava amandava amandava*.

From September to early December, small flocks of Red Munniyas appear regularly in Quetta gardens. A purely plains species, its occurrence is strange. I have seen it at this time in Chaman, Pishin, and the Barshor Valley, and in April at Baleli and Killa Abdulla. Possibly it moves down from Afghanistan in winter to the Sibi plain and Sind.

20. *Cinnyris asiatica brevirostris*.

There was a Purple Sunbird in the Church compound in Quetta from April till June, 1939.

21. *Motacilla citreola*.

There is some doubt as to the race of Yellow-headed Wagtail which is very common, and passes through in March and April. Dr. Ticehurst considers that they belong to the smaller race *werali*, described by Buterlin (Orn. monatsb. 1909, p. 197); the type locality being Simbirsk, White Sea, East of the Urals. Most W. Indian birds belong to this race.

Seven specimens obtained by me in March varied very considerably.

No. 1, male, Malezai, Wing 82 mm.

No. 2, male Malezai, Wing 84 mm.

No. 3, male, Barshor, Wing 80 mm.

No. 4, male, Kacha, (Iran frontier), Wing 82 mm.

Nos. 5 & 6, female, Malezai, Wing 82 mm.

No. 7, female, Kacha, Iran Frontier, Wing 87 mm.

So possibly the typical race is the one of Western Chagai.

22. *Dryobates auriceps*.*Dryobates sindianus*.

*D. auriceps* must reach the S.-W. limit of its distribution on the Takht and Shingar, where it is common and resident. It nests in May and June in the underside of the branch of a chilghoza pine, from 15-25 ft. up. I have found it from 7,400 to nearly 10,000 ft. A nest had four eggs on 5th June, and they measured  $21 \times 16$  mm.

I saw a pied woodpecker near Chautair, 16 miles East of Ziarat, on 2nd July 1940. It flew across the valley and settled in a juniper but I was unable to get a close view and cannot say if it was *auriceps* or the next named.

*D. sindianus* is now very local and is a bird of tamarisk and old *Pistachia cabulica* rather than of junipers and pines. It is found in Kalat, and in January 1941 there were still a few pairs in the scanty remains of the old *Pistachia cabulica* forest at Shelabagh, the Khojak and Chaman, between 4,400 and 6,600 ft.

This species nests much nearer the ground than *auriceps*, holes being rarely higher than 6-7 ft. from the ground.



**23. *Picus squamatus flavirostris*.**

The distribution and variations of this Green Woodpecker are interesting. I have found it resident from the Takht and Shinghar, through the Juniper forests, in the valleys where there is tamarisk and a few willows, down to the Kaisar tamarisk jungle near Nushki, and south into Kalat.

Birds from the N.-E. have the lower parts fairly heavily scaled, while specimens from Nushki are not only much paler generally, but have no scaling on the underparts. Birds from North of Quetta are intermediate. I have found nests from 4,000-9,000 ft. in *Pistachia cabulica*, willow, apricot, chilghoza, juniper, mountain ash, mulberry, and even in tamarisk scrub. In the Kaisar Jungle where there are no trees, only tamarisk scrub, the nest was in the root of a tamarisk 5 ft. below ground level, where the root was exposed in the side of a muddy nala bank, and 7 ft. above the water.

In July 1938 on Chiltan, I watched a bird watering from a hole in an old tree where water had been caught. The nearest water was four miles away.

**24. *Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis*.**

A White-breasted Kingfisher visited the Residency at Ziarat, 8,200 ft., on the 23rd and 24th June, 1938, and Sir Arthur Parsons kindly invited me to come and see it.

**25. *Alcedo atthis pallasii*.**

The Central Asian Kingfisher is common on passage on all the perennial streams. I was surprised to find that an odd pair sometimes stay to nest. In May 1938 I found a nest hole in the Karak Lora near Quetta, the site being given away by the mass of small bones and guano outside the hole. I found a similar nest hole in the mud bank of the Kaisar River near Nushki in April 1939. Both holes went in 3 ft. and the chamber measured 5"×4", and contained fish bones. In each case there were five eggs, averaging 23.4×20.3 mm.

**26. *Merops orientalis beludshicus*.**

This race of Little Green Bee-eater is sometimes seen at Chaman. I have not seen it anywhere else.

**27. *Caprimulgus aegyptius aegyptius*.**

The range of this Nightjar extends from the Sudan in winter to Seistan and Turkestan in summer. It is very light in colour, and has no white spots on the upper surface of the wings or tail. I obtained it at Robat on the Afghan-Iran-Baluchistan frontier on 12th April 1939, and saw another. Natives know it well and say it comes to nest there, but I could find no one who had seen its eggs. My specimen, a male, had wing 208 mm.

**28. *Strix aluco biddulphi*.**

I obtained a half-fledged Scully's Wood Owl in July 1940, but in spite of advice as to its feeding from Karachi Zoo, it only lived ten days. It was then three months old. Colonel Venning obtained an adult on 10th January some years ago, which is now in the Bombay Museum. No other records. Probably resident; tribesmen say it is the common owl of the chilghoza forests there, and that it nests under a large boulder.

**29. *Haliaeetus albicilla*.**

A very fine female frequented a Quetta rubbish dump a mile from cantonments for some days in the very cold February of 1940. It was very tame, and allowed one to approach within 10 yds. on horseback on several occasions. There was also a female at Kushdil Khan on 10th June 1940. No other records, though it has been reported occasionally from the coast.

**30. *Falco peregrinus calidus*.**

Lt.-Colonel O'Carrol Scott, M.B.O.U., a keen falconer, saw a Siberian Peregrine at Kushdil Khan on 11th February, 1940. I went there with him, and we tried to catch her, without success.



**31. *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*.**

I saw a pair at Ziarat on 20th July, 1939, and watched them for three days. Meinertzhagen recorded one there on 24th July 1913. Major Bedi, P. A. Loralai, a very knowledgeable falconer, saw one near Loralai in October, 1940.

**32. *Falco jugger*.**

The Lagger Falcon, a plains species, is very rare in N. Baluchistan. One pair nests regularly in the mud cliffs of the Malezai Lora, near Pishin. The nest is in a hole 20 ft. up, and in 1939 four eggs were laid on sticks in April. In 1940 the nest was moved to another hole a few yards away, and no sticks were used, the four eggs being deposited on the sand. From the opposite side of a small nala the eggs could be seen, and the young hatched successfully each year.

**33. *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*.**

The Asiatic race *tinnunculus* is a passage migrant through Chagai and the S.-W., and also a summer visitor in small numbers and breeds in the higher hills. A few over winter.

In April 1939 I was lucky enough to see a migration of Kestrels through Chagai. I followed them for 130 miles. They flew along the ground, now and again settling on small bushes, and then pushing on again. I counted between 50 and 60, and shot one, which proved to be the typical race. I also obtained it on the Iran border in March.

**34. *Falco aesalon insignis*.**

The Merlin is a scarce winter visitor mostly to the open parts of Loralai District. *Falco chicquera* does not occur.

**35. *Accipiter nisus melanoschistus*.*****Accipiter nisus nisosimilis*.**

The Himalayan race of Sparrow Hawk *melanoschistus* is darker and nearly an inch shorter than the Asiatic race *nisosimilis*. The former is a summer visitor, and breeds in the juniper forests in June, in small numbers. The latter is purely a scarce winter visitor.

**36. *Circus aeruginosus*.**

A winter visitor to Malezai and Zangi Nawar. Natives told me it bred in both places occasionally, and at Zangi Nawar showed me two old nests in dense patches of reeds. In 1940 a pair nested successfully in a dense reed bed at Malezai. Single non-breeding birds sometimes remain all summer.

**37. *Streptopelia senegallus cambayensis*.*****Streptopelia senegallus ermanni*.**

Two races of the Little Brown Dove occur; *cambayensis* is the common bird of Zhob, Loralai, Quetta-Pishin, Sibi and Kalat, its numbers being augmented both by passage migrants and summer visitors. It is smaller and darker than *ermanni*, and males have wings 125-132 mm. and females 121-129 mm. *Ermanni* is the race of Western Chagai, and I obtained it at Kacha and Robat on the Iran border. Wings of male 135-140 mm., females 130-140 mm.

**38. *Fulica atra*.**

In 1939 a Coot nested on Kushdil in a small reed patch and hatched out five young in the last week in June. A second brood of three was hatched from the same nest on 18th August. The only breeding record for Baluchistan.



**39. *Megalornis grus*.**

The typical race is recorded by Dr. Ticehurst as a passage migrant over Quetta, Kalat, and Mekran. *M. g. lilfordi* which nests in Eastern Siberia and winters in Northern and N.-W. India, winters at Zangi Nawar, where there is annually a flock of about fifteen, one of which I shot in 1939 to make sure.

**40. *Otis tarda*.**

In 1937 natives brought in alive a pair of Greater Bustards to the Political Agent at Nushki. These became very tame, and walked about the compound like turkeys. Unfortunately in 1938 they were killed by dogs. One was shot in the Zhob on 2nd April, 1940.

**41. *Charadrius leschenaulti*.**

I saw a small flock of six Geoffroy's Sand Plovers in March 1938, West of Quetta near the Afghan frontier, and five in the North Chagai desert on 21st April 1939, obtaining a bird in each case. Finn reports this species when on the Afghan Boundary Commission, 1896.

**42. *Totanus nebularius*.**

I saw a Greenshank that had been shot at Kushdil on 22nd June, 1939, and obtained one at Zangi Nawar on 25th February 1940. I saw what I took to be a small flock at Kushdil on March 17th 1938, but did not obtain one.

**43. *Numenius arquata lineatus*.**

In April one occasionally hears a Curlew's cry as it passes over Quetta. I have only seen three on the ground, one on 16th April 1939 at Burj Aziz Khan, near the Afghan frontier West of Quetta, one at Zangi Nawar on 23rd October 1939, and one at Kushdil on 6th October 1940, which I shot.

**44. *Limosa limosa*.**

All specimens of the Black-tailed Godwit obtained on passage are very large. Otherwise they are not distinguishable from the typical race. Eight birds shot in September and October measured as follows:—

3 males, Wing 206-212 mm.; Bill 105-110 mm.

5 females, Wing 230-250 mm.; Bill 116-126 mm.

**45. *Lobivanellus indicus aigneri*.**

I have seen small flocks of the Red-wattled Lapwing near Quetta on passage, and they winter regularly at Zangi Nawar. An odd pair is resident.

**46. *Tringa erythropus*.**

The Spotted or Dusky Redshank is a scarce but regular passage migrant through Kushdil Khan and Zangi Nawar. I have obtained it only in September and October.

**47. *Capella solitaria*.**

One Snipe was shot by me at Zangi Nawar on 23rd October 1938. Another near Quetta on 15th October 1939 and Pishin 1940. A very large race, wing average 166 mm.

**48. *Larus fuscus taimyrensis*.**

I saw a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Kushdil on April 17th 1938, July 18th 1938, and a small flock of a dozen on August 20th 1940. At Zangi Nawar I saw one on October 16th and 19th, 1940.

**49. *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*.**

The Bittern is a regular winter visitor to Zangi Nawar and Malezai; an odd pair must stay to breed, as on 8th June 1939 I put up two young ones hardly able to fly, from the Karak Lora near Quetta, and they bred at Malezai in 1914 and 1938.



**50. *Ixobrychus minutus minutus*.**

The Little Bittern is a common summer visitor to Malezai, where it breeds in some numbers. It arrives in April and leaves in August. Nests are in the reeds in 2-4 ft. of water, and 18 in. to 2 ft. above it, the nest itself being cup-shaped and made of dead reed stems plaited into standing ones, and 9 in. in diameter. It is built up solid from the water level. Five to seven eggs are laid, and incubation must start as each egg is laid, as the young are seen in various stages of growth. It also breeds near Nushki.

**51. *Nycticorax nycticorax*.**

The Night Heron breeds regularly in a colony in the Chenar avenue in Lytton Road, Quetta. I have not seen it anywhere else. They arrive in March and leave in July. The nests are only rough platforms of sticks, unlined, and high up. 3-5 eggs are laid in April, average  $50 \times 34.5$  mm. The whole colony is very messy, and numbers of young birds fall out of the nests onto the road. As dusk falls the birds may be seen flying off to the adjacent loras to feed, but I have seen them fishing by day when young are being fed.

**52. *Ardea purpurea*.**

Both the European race *purpurea* and the Asiatic *manillensis* visit us spasmodically. Meinertzhagen reports records from Quetta and Nushki in March. I got *purpurea* in the Karak Lora, near Quetta, on 12th March, 1938, and at Zangi Nawar on 17th October 1940.

**53. *Cygnus olor*.**

Mute Swans visited Kushdil Khan in November 1933, and January and February 1935 (Quetta Shooting Club Records). I saw five at Zangi Nawar on 23rd October 1939. Four were shot near Bostan 20 miles North of Quetta in 1900 by a platelayer, and Meinertzhagen records them at Kushdil in February 1911 and November 1913.

**54. *Anser indicus*.**

There were three Bar-headed Geese at Zangi Nawar on 5th October, 1938. No other record.

**55. *Oxyura leucocephala*.**

The Stiff-tailed Duck is a rare but regular winter visitor to Kushdil and Zangi Nawar. One has been shot at each place in December 1938, 1939, and 1940. All birds of the year.

**56. *Tadorna tadorna*.**

In 1937 a pair of Shelducks bred in a hole opposite the island on Kushdil, and hatched out eleven, which the parents took over to the island. Seven were shot in September and October. In 1939 a pair nested at the N.-E. end and young birds were shot on 15th October and 12th November. An adult male was shot on 23rd November 1940, and I saw one shot at Zangi Nawar on 4th November 1939.

**57. *Anas angustirostris*.**

I have tried to get evidence of the Marbled Duck nesting at Zangi Nawar. Natives are positive it breeds there in small numbers, and they take the eggs. The terrific heat in May and June prevented me from finding a nest when I went there for that purpose. There is no reason why it should not breed there.

**58. *Glaucion clangula*.**

The Golden-eye is one of the rarest of the ducks seen in Baluchistan. The only one I have seen was shot at Kushdil on 12th December, 1940. Two specimens obtained at Zangi Nawar in January 1916 were in the Old Quetta Museum.



**59. *Clangula hyemalis*.**

A female Long-tailed Duck was shot at Kushdil in January 1938, and identified by the Society. The only record.

**60. *Merganser merganser orientalis*.**

The Eastern Goosander is a very irregular winter visitor to Kushdil and Zangi Nawar. I saw one shot at Kushdil in November 1938 and myself shot one at Zangi Nawar on 2nd December 1939. Both were birds of the year. No other records.

**61. *Mergus serrator*.**

Red-breasted Mergansers were shot at Kushdil on 17th February 1934 and 19th November 1939. Both were birds of the year. There is an old record on 3rd April 1902.

## ADDENDUM.

***Pericrocotus brevirostris*.**

On 27th June 1942 I found a family party of Short-billed Minivets on Shinghar the first record for Baluchistan.





Christison, A. F. Philip and Ticehurst, Claud B. 1942. "Some Additional Notes on the Distribution of the Avifauna of Northern Baluchistan." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 43, 478–487.

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