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9. THE LONGEVITY RECORD OF GREATER FLAMEBACK *CHRYSOCOLAPTES LUCIDUS*¹

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The longevity of many migratory waders has been reasonably well-documented as these birds have been ringed in large numbers (Ali and Hussain 1981; Balachandran 1998). Twelve wader species were recaptured after more than 10 years at Point Calimere. One Garganey *Anas querquedula* ringed at Point Calimere, and one individual each of Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* and Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* ringed at Bharatpur were shot in Russia, 10 years after ringing. One Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* was recaptured after 22 years at Point Calimere (Balachandran and Hussain 1994). Longevity records for Indian birds are rare due to insufficient long-term bird ringing studies in India, in a particular area. However, bird ringing studies of the Bombay Natural History Society at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, after a gap of 16 years in 1999 under the Bird Banders Training have helped to document an interesting longevity record for the resident Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*. During a nine day bird banding programme, organized in November 1999 at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, 101 individuals of 32 species were caught and ringed. Among these, the only Greater Flameback caught had a ring (B-45025) on its left leg. The earlier banding data on the ring indicated that it was

ringed in May 1983 from the same locality. The time lapse between capture and recapture was 16 years, 5 months and 24 days. In India, this is the longest longevity record for any passerine bird based on the capture-recapture method.

It is worth mentioning here that 530 birds of 72 species were ringed during 1983 at Parambikulam in 45 days. Of the 530 birds, three Greater Flameback were caught. This recapture shows the territoriality and site-fidelity of this species as it was recaptured from the same locality which has undergone tremendous changes due to increased developmental activities.

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10. OCCURRENCE OF *LANIUS CRISTATUS LUCIONENSIS* IN THE WESTERN GHATS, KERALA¹

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The status of *Lanius cristatus lucionensis* in India was given by Ali and Ripley (1983) as 'winter visitor to Andaman and Nicobar Islands'. Later it was found to be a

regular winter visitor to south-east India based on the records at Sriharikota Island (Mohapatra and Santharam 1992), and ringing data of ten individuals at Point Calimere during

October 1991 by Balachandran and Alagar Rajan (1994). Based on their earlier bird ringing experiences Balachandran and Alagar Rajan (1994) also suggested that some individuals of this species had been mistaken for the *Lanius cristatus cristatus* on the assumption that the plumage difference (greyish white head for *lucionensis* and brown for *cristatus*) was due to age. On January 22, 1999, two individuals of *L.c. lucionensis* were caught and ringed at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary in the Western Ghats of Kerala. Though this species was recorded in 1876 by Hume (1876) in Kerala, it is not listed in the BIRDS OF KERALA by Ali (1969). Hence, this record is not only the second authentic record for Kerala, but from the Western Ghats too. Hume (1876) stated that the plumage characters of the only specimen collected from Kerala did not agree with the specimens obtained from China and the Andamans. The Philippine Shrikes caught at Parambikulam matched with the birds ringed at Point Calimere. However, the Philippine Shrikes caught and observed at Andamans in February 2000, varied in plumage characters

from the mainland (Point Calimere and Parambikulam) specimens. The fore-crown of the individual caught at Andamans was paler than the individuals caught at Parambikulam and Point Calimere. The paler fore-crown of the bird handled at Andamans suggests that the wintering population of the Andamans may be from a different geographical population.

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11. SIGHTING OF BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *TURDUS RUFICOLLIS ATROGULARIS* IN THE DESERT NATIONAL PARK, JAISALMER, RAJASTHAN¹

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At about 1150 hrs on December 03, 2006, while returning from the Sudasri, Desert National Park to Jaisalmer, after birdwatching in the morning, John Penhallurick and I saw a Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* foraging close to the road near Sam village. We observed and photographed the bird for about five-six minutes. Fortunately, the bird was not shy and allowed close approach to be well observed. The bird was identified as a first winter male Black-throated Thrush.

Black-throated Thrush occurs in winter across Pakistan from the North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) through Baluchistan to the Makran Coast, Sind; the Himalayas and adjacent plains from the Indus Valley and Gilgit eastward through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Bangladesh. Its extension into the plains is governed by winter conditions. The species

has occurred fairly often south to Jhang, Ludhiana, Bharatpur and Gorakhpur and has been recorded as far south as Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh and once in Jakhau, Kutch (Ali and Ripley 1998).

Individual birds are occasionally found at great distances from their range. The appearance is invariably correlated with weather, as some individuals wander, especially during hard winter weather (Elkins 1998). The sighting near Sam in Desert National Park represents the first record from the Thar Desert of Rajasthan. Though the sighting of the species near Sam is far to the south of its normal winter range, it is not surprising. The species is known for straggling (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), and has occurred as vagrant to many parts of the Western Palearctic and Middle East in the autumn and early winter (Clement and Hathaway 2000).



Balachandran, S. and Sehgal, Rajan. 2008. "Occurrence of *Lanius Cristatus Lucionensis* in the Western Ghats, Kerala." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 105, 220–221.

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