

## SOME INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE AVIFAUNA OF THE POINT CALIMERE SANCTUARY, THANJAVUR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU<sup>1&2</sup>

R. SUGATHAN<sup>3</sup>

The Point Calimere Sanctuary in Thanjavur District in Tamil Nadu is one of the major and important wintering grounds for migrants from the north. The Bombay Natural History Society had earlier conducted bird ringing camps in the sanctuary from 1969 to 1972. During the course of the ringing programme it was possible to obtain not only data on the status and migratory pattern of the migrant and resident species but also on some distributional peculiarities. Some stray species typical of wet evergreen forest biotope were recorded possibly while on passage to similar biotopes in Sri Lanka. Some of such typical species that were repeatedly recorded were the Threetoed Forest Kingfisher, Pied Thrush, Orangeheaded Ground Thrush, Broadtailed Grass Warbler etc. (Raju and Shekar 1971, Hussain 1976). During the course of the present study a total of 38280 birds belonging to 178 species were ringed and released between July 1980 and March 1982. The following eight species have been recorded for the first time in this area.

### Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

The swamps of Point Calimere Sanctuary are one of the major feeding grounds of the Large Flamingo in the southern peninsula. The birds arrive on passage either from the north or from the south (Sri Lanka). The timing of arrival and departure has been sporadic. The main influx occurs soon after the commencement of the NE monsoon (October) and the birds spread out throughout the swamp. Since the swamp lies on the flyway to Sri Lanka there is a constant movement of populations either way (northbound and southbound). No adequate data are available of the migratory movements of the flamingos in the peninsula. Very few flamingos have been trapped and ringed and there has been no recovery of any of these birds. A few stray recoveries within our limits of the flamingos ringed in Iran have been recorded from several parts of India including as far south as Point Calimere and Rameshwaram.

A number of juvenile *Phoenicopterus roseus* without any trace of pink in the plumage, were

<sup>1</sup> Accepted August 1982.

<sup>2</sup> The Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, is currently conducting a project entitled "Studies on the movement and population structure of Indian Avifauna" with Dr. Sálím Ali as the Principal Investigator. The project is funded from PL-480 grant No. 8851-558-01 released through the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

Two major research stations — one in the Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan, in north India and the other in Point Calimere Sanctuary, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu in South India — have been established under this project and will be in operation for about five years. The data gathered will be analysed periodically and published in the journal.

<sup>3</sup> Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay-400 023.



noticed in Point Calimere swamp from July 1980 to March 1982. They were observed feeding along with adults and later in the season, in small isolated flocks of their own. These juveniles were perhaps first year birds accompanying their parents from their breeding ground in the Rann of Kutch.

The Lesser Flamingos (*Phoeniconaias minor*) were first noticed at Point Calimere in July 1980.<sup>4</sup> They were observed throughout the season and also during the subsequent season. One bird was trapped and ringed in January 1982. Studies on the population fluctuation, feeding behaviour and food habits, are being carried out by the project staff.

#### Baza *Aviceda leuphotes leuphotes*

The genus *Aviceda* has a discontinuous distribution typical of certain forms whose peculiar distribution pattern has given rise to speculations and hypotheses on the incursions of Malayan fauna into the peninsula. Both the species of Baza occurring in the subcontinent namely *leuphotes* and *jerdoni*, have a similar distributional pattern. They affect wet evergreen biotopes of NE Himalayas, the southern portion of the Western Ghats, and the hill zone of Sri Lanka.

A single Blackcrested Baza was trapped and ringed at Point Calimere on 24th October 1981. The bird was apparently on its way to Sri Lanka. According to the key to the subspecies in the HANDBOOK (Vol. 1) *leuphotes* differs from subspecies *syama* in having a chestnut breast band as against the all-black breast of the latter. The specimen from Point Calimere had a distinct rufous band across the chest and could well be of the nominate race.

<sup>4</sup> The Lesser Flamingo was first reported from Point Calimere by R. A. S. Melliish in February 1968 (Newsletter for Birdwatchers Vol. 9(1), p. 4 January 1969).

HANDBOOK (Vol. 1) speculates that the wintering populations visiting Sri Lanka could be the Himalayan form *syama*. The fact that the type locality of *leuphotes* is Pondicherry, which lies on the east coast approximately 160 km north of Point Calimere, strengthens the assumption the southern birds may belong to this subspecies.

#### Spoonbilled Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*

The Spoonbilled Sandpiper has been recorded as a straggler in West Bengal and Assam. There have been no other records of this species within our limits for the past fifty years.

Two birds were netted at Point Calimere Sanctuary, one on 19th February 1981 (released with Ring No. AB-86435) and the other on 19th March 1981 (preserved in BNHS collection). A third specimen was ringed and released at Chilka Lake, Orissa on 17th March 1981.

The occurrence of these birds on the east coast within the space of a month suggests that the species may be regularly wintering on our southern seaboard but has been overlooked among the dense flocks of stints with which it associates. The trappers employed by the Project when questioned, admitted that they had trapped these birds on earlier occasions before the commencement of the bird ringing programme at Point Calimere. The spatulate bill was considered by them to be that of deformed Little Stint (*Calidris minutus*)

#### Greyfronted/Orangebreasted Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora/Treron bicincta*

Two species of green pigeons have been recorded so far from Point Calimere. One specimen of *T. pompadora* was ringed in 1969 by the BNHS ringing camp. Subsequently 2 *pompadora* and 2 *bicincta* were ringed in April/December 1970. A single specimen of *T. bicincta* was also ringed and released on



21/12/1980. The latter species was regularly seen in Point Calimere from August to December which coincides with the fruiting of Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*) in the area. Subspecies of *pompadora* and *bicincta* occur in the low country of Sri Lanka as well. It will be interesting to know whether there is any local migration between Indian peninsula and Sri Lanka.

Scops owl **Otus scops leggei**?

A single specimen (♀) was netted near the forest bungalow at Point Calimere, on 16/12/1981. The specimen has been preserved in the BNHS collection. It has a smaller tarsus (21 mm) and is darker than three specimens of *sunia* in BNHS collection. It appears thus to be *leggei* of Sri Lanka.

Indian Cliff Swallow **Hirundo fluviicola**

A single specimen (♂) netted on 18/10/1980 and preserved in BNHS collection. The previous southernmost record for this species is Coimbatore at the foot of the Nilgiris and the present record in a way confirms the sight record by Phillips in Sri Lanka (*JBNHS* 47: 740).

Blue Chat **Erithacus brunneus**

This species breeds in higher hills of the Himalayan ranges and winters in the hill zones of South India and Sri Lanka, preferring evergreen biotopes. It is interesting to note that it has not been recorded in the plains of the peninsula or anywhere<sup>5</sup> between the breeding and wintering ranges. Seven Blue Chats were ringed at Point Calimere in October 1969. Eighteen individuals (♂ ♀) were ringed between October-November, 1980. Again five were ringed during the same period in 1981,

<sup>5</sup> Recorded at Bhimashankar, Western Ghats — SA.

<sup>6</sup> Probably Point Calimere birds come down the Western Ghats. The species is quite common seasonably in sholes in the Nilgiris, e.g. Coonoor-SA.

indicating that Point Calimere is a regular stage for Blue Chats on their winter migration. Birds were regularly noted during this period. However, none were recorded on spring migration, suggesting that these birds may be using a different route (Western Ghats?) on their return migration.<sup>6</sup>

Forest Wagtail **Motacilla indica**

Another species seen on passage in Point Calimere. The first winter arrivals were noted on census paths within the sanctuary on 15th September 1980, and thereafter they were regularly seen until third week of January 1981. Peak influx was noticed in October-November. Six birds were netted and ringed during this period. Once again no birds were seen in spring migration suggesting that this species also takes a different route on return migration.

Rosefinch **Carpodacus erythrinus**

This species has been recorded as wintering in the Indian peninsula but so far has not been recorded in Sri Lanka. A single female, (in BNHS collection) was obtained at Point Calimere on 24-1-1981.

Several species of birds have been recorded from Point Calimere Sanctuary during the course of our studies. A checklist of the birds ringed/recorded is given in the appendix. Of the birds recorded so far the Spoonbilled Sandpiper, hitherto regarded as a rare straggler, may actually prove to be a regular winter visitor to the area. Evidence is now available that the Lesser Flamingo occurs on the eastern seaboard from Chilka in the north to Point Calimere and possibly Rameswaram and Sri Lanka in the south. Both large and lesser Flamingos occur in the same areas, but their feeding ecology needs to be studied. The occurrence of Baza, together with that of Blue Chat, Broad-tailed Grass Warbler, Threetoed Forest Kingfisher and Scops Owl, is intriguing.



## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF POINT CALIMERE

B = Breeding, C = Common, R = Resident, M = Migrant, SM = Seasonal Migrant, Ra = Rare,  
O = Occasional.

Common Name	Species	Status
1. Little Grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>	SM, B
2. Grey or Spottedbilled Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	SM
3. Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	O
4. Indian Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	O
5. Little or Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	O
6. Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	O
7. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	SM
8. Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	SM
9. Little Green Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	O
10. Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	C
11. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	C
12. Large Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	C
13. Smaller Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	C
14. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C
15. Indian Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	C
16. Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	SM
17. Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Ra
18. Painted Stork	<i>Ibis leucocephalus</i>	C
19. Openbill Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	SM
20. Whitenecked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	SM
21. Blacknecked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	SM
22. White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephala</i>	SM
23. Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	SM
24. Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	SM
25. Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	SM
26. Barheaded Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Ra
27. Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	M
28. Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	M
29. Spotbill Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	SM
30. Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Ra
31. Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	M
32. Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	M
33. Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	M
34. Cotton teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	SM
35. Blackwinged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	O
36. Indian Blackcrested Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	R
37. Pariah or Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	O
38. Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	C,B
39. Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	SM
40. Sparrow-Hawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	M
41. Besra Sparrow-Hawk	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	M
42. White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	O



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Common Name	Species	Status
43. Booted Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	O
44. Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	O
45. White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	O
46. Egyptian or Scavenger Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	O
47. Pale Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	M
48. Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	M
49. Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	M
50. Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	M
51. Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	O
52. Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	O
53. Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	M
54. Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	M
55. Redheaded Merlin	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	M
56. Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	SM
57. Grey Partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	C,R
58. Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	C,R
59. Common Bustard-Quail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	C,R
60. Bluebreasted Banded Rail	<i>Rallus striatus</i>	M
61. Banded Crake	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	SM
62. Whitebreasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	C,R
63. Water Cock, Kora	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	SM
64. Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	SM
65. Bronzewinged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	SM
66. Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	M
67. Blackwinged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	SM
68. Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	M
69. Crab Plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	SM
70. Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	SM
71. Great-Stone Plover	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	SM,B
72. Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	SM
73. Small Indian Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	O
74. Redwattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	C,R
75. Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	C,R
76. Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	M,C
77. Eastern Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	M,C
78. Large Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	M
79. Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	C,R
80. Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	O
81. Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	C,R
82. Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	M,C
83. Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	M,C
84. Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	M,C
85. Blacktailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	M,C
86. Bartailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	M,C
87. Spotted or Dusky Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	M
88. Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	M,C
89. Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	M,C



Common Name	Species	Status
90. Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	M,C
91. Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	M,C
92. Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	M,C
93. Terek Sandpiper	<i>Tringa terek</i>	M,O
94. Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	M,C
95. Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	M,C
96. Snipebilled Godwit	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	M,O
97. Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	M,O
98. Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	M,O
99. Fantail Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	M,O
100. Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	M,O
101. Eastern Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	M,O
102. Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	M,O
103. Little Stint	<i>Calidris minutus</i>	M,C
104. Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	M,O
105. Longtoed Stint	<i>Calidris subminutus</i>	M,O
106. Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpinus</i>	M,C
107. Curlew-Sandpiper	<i>Calidris testaceus</i>	M,C
108. Spoonbilled Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus</i>	M,Ra
109. Broadbilled Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	M,C
110. Ruff and Reeve	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	M,C
111. Rednecked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	M,O
112. Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	M,C
113. Lesser Blackbacked Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	M,C
114. Great Blackheaded Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	M,C
115. Brownheaded Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	M,C
116. Blackheaded Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	M,C
117. Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	M,C
118. Whitewinged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	M,C
119. Gullbilled Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	M,C
120. Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	M,C
121. Roseate or Rosy Tern	<i>Sterna dougalli</i>	M,O
122. Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	M,C
123. Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	M,O
124. Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	R,B
125. Large Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	M,O
126. Indian Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	M,O
127. Indian River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	M,O
128. Pompadour or Greyfronted green pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	S,M
129. Orangebreasted Green pigeon	<i>Treron bicincta</i>	S,M
130. Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	C
131. Indian Ring Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R,B
132. Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	R,B
133. Roseringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	C,SM
134. Redwinged Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	M
135. Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	SM,B
136. Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus sparveriioides</i>	SM



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Common Name	Species	Status
137. Small Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	SM
138. Common Hawk-Cuckoo or Brain fever Bird	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	SM
139. Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	SM
140. Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	SM
141. Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	SM
142. Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	C,SM
143. Small Greenbilled Malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	C,R
144. Crow-Pheasant or Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	C,R
145. Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	O
146. Eagle Owl, Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	O
147. Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Ra
148. Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	C,R
149. Shorteared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	M,O
150. Indian Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	M,O
151. European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Ra
152. Longtailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	?
153. Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	?
154. Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	C,R
155. Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	SM
156. Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	C,SM
157. Threetoed Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithacus</i>	SM
158. Whitebreasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	C,R
159. Blackcapped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	SM
160. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	SM
161. Bluetailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	SM
162. Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	R,C
163. Indian Roller or Blue Jay	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	C,R
164. Hoopoe, Hudhud	<i>Upupa epops</i>	SM
165. Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	O
166. Lesser Goldenbacked Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	C,R
167. Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	SM
168. Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	SM
169. Redwinged Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	SM
170. Ashycrowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	SM
171. Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>	?
172. Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	SM
173. Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	R,C
174. Collared Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	O
175. Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M
176. Indian Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo fluviicola</i>	M,O
177. Baybacked Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	SM
178. Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	C,R
179. Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	C,R
180. Black Drongo or King Crow	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	C,R
181. Grey or Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	SM
182. Whitebellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>	SM
183. Ashy Swallow-Shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	C,R



Common Name	Species	Status
184. Greyheaded Myna	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	SM
185. Blackheaded or Brahminy Myna	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	SM
186. Rosy Pastor	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	SM
187. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	C,R
188. Indian Tree Pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	C,SM
189. House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	C,R
190. Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	C,R
191. Common Wood Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	C,R
192. Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	C,R
193. Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	C,R
194. Redvented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	C,R
195. Whitebrowed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	C,R
196. Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	C,R
197. Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>	M
198. Brownbreasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	M
199. Redbreasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa parva</i>	M
200. Bluethroated Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa rubeculoides</i>	M
201. Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	M
202. Blacknaped Flycatcher	<i>Monarcha azurea</i>	SM
203. Tailor Bird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	C,R
204. Thickbilled Warbler	<i>Phragmaticola aedon</i>	M
205. Broadtailed Grass Warbler	<i>Schoenicola platyura</i>	Ra
206. Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	M
207. Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	M
208. Booted Warbler	<i>Hippolais caligata</i>	M
209. Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	M
210. Largebilled Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	M
211. Dull Green Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	M
212. Blue Chat	<i>Erithacus brunneus</i>	M
213. Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	C,R
214. Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	C,R
215. Pied Ground Thrush	<i>Zoothera wardii</i>	M
216. Orangeheaded Ground Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina cyanotus</i>	M
217. Pipit	<i>Anthus sp.</i>	M
218. Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	M
219. Forest Wagtail	<i>Motacilla indica</i>	M
220. Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	M
221. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla caspica</i>	M
222. Pied or White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	M
223. Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	C,B
224. Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	C,R
225. Purplerumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	SM,B
226. Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	O
227. Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	SM,B
228. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	C,R
229. Yellow throated Sparrow	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	SM
230. Baya	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	SM
231. Blackheaded Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	SM
232. Common Silverbill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	SM
233. Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	M



# AVIFAUNA OF THE POINT CALIMERE SANCTUARY

It has been postulated (Meher-Homji 1974, a & b) that the climatic conditions in the Coromandel Coast in the peninsula was humid with equatorial climate not unlike that of S. W. part of Sri Lanka in the recent past, suggesting the occurrence of a contiguous eco-

system between Indian Peninsula and Sri Lanka. The occurrence and pattern of movements of several species of birds typical of wet evergreen biotopes in the Point Calimere scrub, seems to support the above theory.

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