

1978 (Gaston 1978), a sight record on 16 April 1980 from the Delhi Golf Club (Inskipp 1980), and another sight record from Raj Ghat, New Delhi, on 03 Jan 2009 (Parkes 2009). It is to be noted that none of these sight records are included in the annotated checklist on the birds of the Delhi area (Vyas 2019).

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A summer record of Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* from Zunheboto, Nagaland

The Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*, is a high-elevation resident in the Himalayas, occurring between 3700–5600 m asl (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It has been recorded all along the Himalayas, in Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and within India in Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. Outside the Himalayas, it has a wide distribution from Northwest Africa through southern Europe, and the temperate regions of mainland Asia to Japan (Ali & Ripley 1987; Hatchwell et al. 2020; Inskipp et al. 2020). There are nine recognized sub-species (Hatchwell et al. 2020).

During our visit to Tsutoho Community Conserved Area (CCA), Nagaland, India on 30 May 2023, between 1255 and 1307 hours, we observed an Alpine Accentor foraging on the moss-covered surface of a rocky cliff [269]. The sighting was at the peak of Mount Chingkhru (25.81°N, 94.60°E; c.2,600 m msl). We encountered only a single individual during multiple visits to the Tsutoho CCA. The Tsutoho CCA is in the Zunheboto District in the Naga Hill ranges of Nagaland (Fig. 1). This area has an elevation range of 1,800 m asl to 2,600 m asl, with its highest point being the peak of Mount Chingkhru at 2,600 m asl, the tallest in Zunheboto. The vegetation in the Naga Hills above 2,000 m asl is predominantly montane wet-temperate forest, while elevations from 1,000 to 1,800 meters feature subtropical broad-leaved forest (Champion & Seth 1968). The Tsutoho CCA is adjacent to the Tsuruhu CCA and Satoi CCA in the same landscape.



269. Alpine Accentor foraging in Mount Chingkhru.



Fig. 1. Location of both sightings from Nagaland, India.

Choudhury (2003) and Grewal et al. (2012) do not list the Alpine Accentor for Nagaland. The only other record of this species from Nagaland is in November 2014 (Edwards et al. 2016) at c. 3,300 m asl in the Mount Saramati area. The peak of Mount Saramati (c. 3,826 m asl), bordering Myanmar, is the tallest peak in Nagaland. This was a winter record, and on the other hand, our sighting is in the summer, and it is at an aerial distance of only 50 km west of Mount Saramati. The sighting of Alpine Accentor in both winter and summer could be an indication that Nagaland is a range extension for the species. The nearest known populations are from the Mishmi Hills and the western edge of the Hengduan Range in Sichuan and Northern Yunnan. These populations are of the *P. c. nipalensis* sub-species, which is also the same sub-species extant across the entire Eastern Himalayas (Hatchwell et al. 2020). Further research is necessary to classify the Naga Hills population at the sub-species level. Ninoto Aye, a naturalist from the Sema community of Satoi village, who is proficient in bird identification, personally communicated that he has seen this species in Satoi village, which is located on the southern slope of Tsutoho CCA. He did not document the records but recalled that most of the observations were in winter and a few in summer.

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A Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* preying on a mugger *Crocodylus palustris* hatchling

The Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* is a widely distributed waterbird that prefers marshland, reed beds, and open fringes of water bodies (Cramp & Simmons 1977; Ali & Ripley 1987; Martínez-Vilalta et al. 2020). This species is well-known for its versatile and diverse dietary habits that span from fish to amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans to small mammals, and even insects, depending on the habitat and availability of resources (Kushlan & Hancock 2005; Prasad & Bhadola 2008). Here, we present a noteworthy feeding observation of a Grey Heron preying on a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*.

On 23 June 2023, PT was on a visit to Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India. While on a wildlife safari, sudden movements by a Grey Heron caught PT's attention near a wetland in the Jogi Mahal area. PT observed as the heron caught a large prey item. Upon closer inspection, the prey appeared to be a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* [270] which it proceeded to consume. During our stay at Ranthambore, we noted two instances of mugger hatchlings being depredated by Grey Herons. These observations shed light on the diverse feeding habits of the Grey Heron in the complex ecosystem of Ranthambore National Park.

A literature review revealed that large waterbirds such as Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* are known predators of mugger hatchlings (Somaweera et al 2013; Vyas 2019). Large waders are known to consume the hatchlings of other crocodilians as well (Fitzsimons 2020). A study by Somaweera et al. (2013), shows that 23 species of waders are known to feed on 15 different species and subspecies of crocodilians.

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270. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* with a hatchling mugger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* at Jogi Mahal, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India.

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The predation strategies used by House Crows *Corvus splendens* for hunting Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

The House Crow *Corvus splendens* is a common, widespread bird throughout the Indian subcontinent (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) and is known for its intelligence and adaptability (Nyari 2006). House Crows are known to use their intelligence for innovative foraging strategies (Ryall 1992). Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola* nest in colonies and build their nests attached under bridges, over canals and under gateway arches usually close to water (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). The nest is made of mud and lined with feathers with a short tubular entrance. Although Streak-throated Swallows live in large colonies, the nests are vulnerable to predators, including the House Crow. In this note we report the predation strategies used by House Crows to depredate on Streak-throated Swallows in their colonies.

The predation events by House Crows on Streak-throated Swallows we describe here were documented at Matiyari Dam Canal Kharpariya, Rapta Old Bridge Mandla town, and Narmada Bridge at Khaddevari in Madhya Pradesh, India. Most observations were made between 0630 h and 0900 h, and a few between 1600 h and 1800 h, between 15 February 2023 and 13 March 2023. We followed all guidelines in Barve et al. (2020a, b) while