

INDIAN PITTA

Pittas are tropical birds and do migrate but unlike other one. Also known as 6'o clock bird as it most often calls at 6 in the morning as well as in the evening. The name pitta is derived from Telgu, which means a small bird. The other name is based on its colours "Navrang". A shy bird often seen while foraging for insects on the ground under thick cover of vegetation. Has been spotted lately around Jammu city especially in Mahamaya & Environment Park Raika.



Photo By : Parmil Kumar

BARRED BUTTONQUAIL

A typical little buttonquail, known as salui gundra in hindi. Found in most habitats except dense forests and deserts. Another rare bird for J&K spotted twice in Jammu region during the last two years.

Initially recorded from Akhnoor and late from Jammu City. Normally occurs from sea-level up to 2500 m in Himalayas and to 1650 m in SE Asia



Photo By : Parvaiz Shagoo

CHESTNUT -TAILED MINLA



Photo By : Parmil Kumar

Found in Broadleaf evergreen forest (especially oak), mixed broadleaf-conifer forest, subalpine oak and rhododendron forest, sometimes pine forest, mixed pine-rhododendron; open forest of birch (Betula), willow (Salix), barberry (Berberis), bushes in forest, oak and rhododendron scrub or other low bushes, bamboo. At 1800–3750 m (1600–3000 m in SE Asia); locally as low as 1300 m during harsh winters in Indian Subcontinent. Has been spotted in areas around Macchedi in Billawar, Batote and places around Bholderwah.

GLOSSY IBIS



Photo By : Parvaiz Shagoo

The Glossy Ibis is a medium-sized, dark wading bird with a long, decurved bill, an appearance responsible for the common name "black curlew." In good light, the plumage is metallic bronze with a striking green tinge. Reported from Jammu region during the last few years

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The pamphlet is based on the recent records of birds documented by individual birders across J&K. The contribution of pictures by Jainy Maria, Parvaiz Shagoo, Parmil Kumar, Anup Soni, Bilal Nasir Zargar, Ansar Ahmed, Yatin Gupta, Vishal Kapur is highly acknowledged.

CONTACT

Member Secretary, J&K Biodiversity Council
Winter Office : Nov - April O/o Pr. Chief Conservator of
Forests, Van Bhawan, Below Gumat, Jammu - 180001
Summer Office : May - October JKFRl Complex near
Woodland School, Sonwar, Srinagar -190001

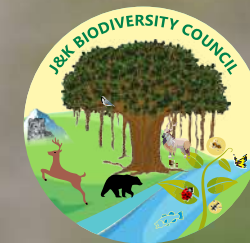
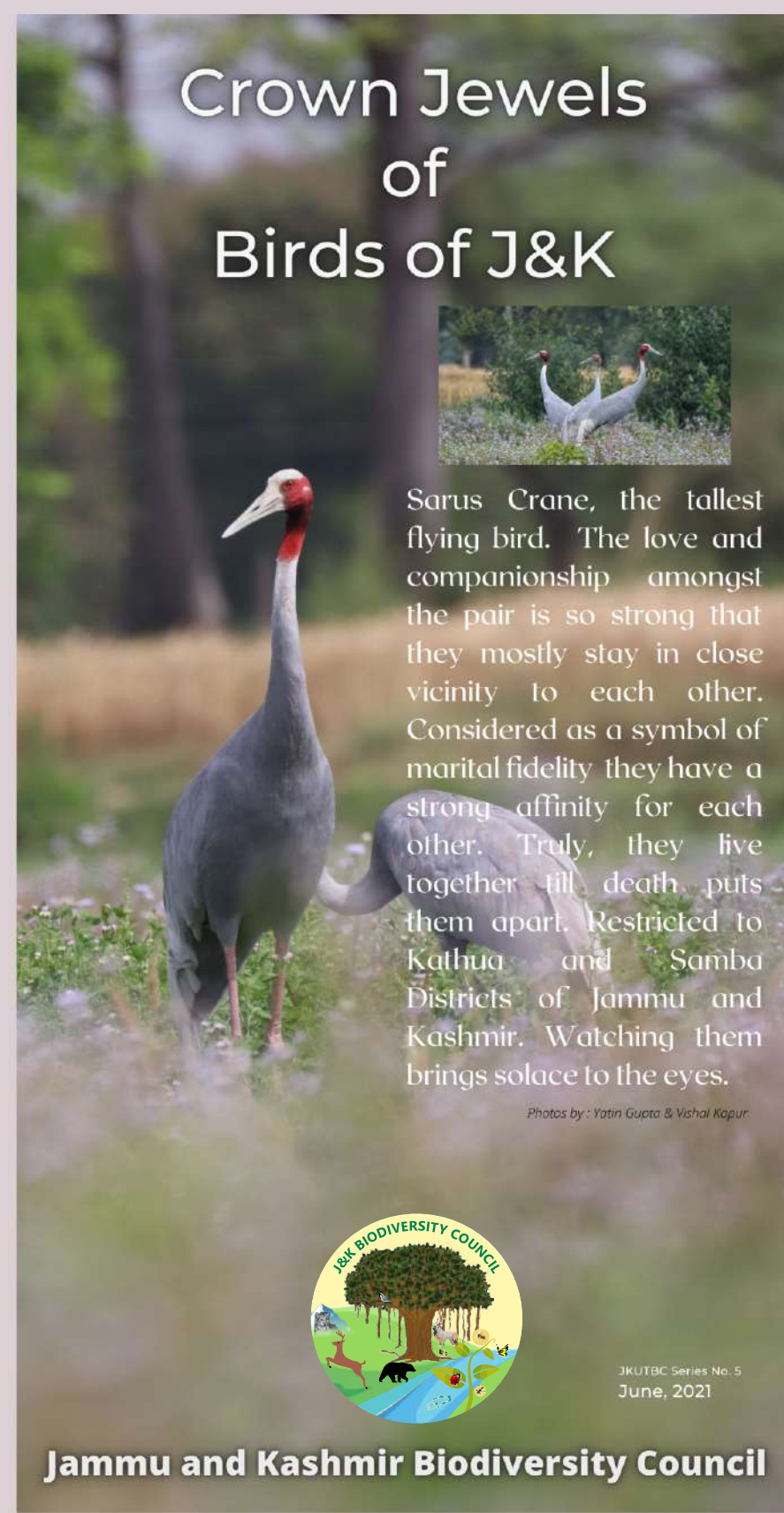
Designed By : Parvaiz Shagoo

Crown Jewels of Birds of J&K



Sarus Crane, the tallest flying bird. The love and companionship amongst the pair is so strong that they mostly stay in close vicinity to each other. Considered as a symbol of marital fidelity they have a strong affinity for each other. Truly, they live together till death, puts them apart. Restricted to Kathua and Samba Districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Watching them brings solace to the eyes.

Photos by : Yatin Gupta & Vishal Kapur



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INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet on "Crown Jewels of Birds of Jammu and Kashmir" highlights the the unique species of birds that have been recorded in Jammu and Kashmir. The region is rich in avian biodiversity because of the wide altitudinal range. The region supports large populations of water birds which migrate to the famous wetlands such as Hokersar, Wular lake and Gharana Wetland Conservation reserve among others. In addition there is a large population of resident birds. Some birds undertake altitudinal migration within the region. A total of 604 species of birds have been recorded in J&K as per record of sightings that have been uploaded on the eBird database. J&K is among the top 10 (at No 6) birding hotspots of India in terms of the number of species recorded. New species are continuously being added to the regions checklist by the birders across J&K.

The Wetlands which support the migratory population need special attention as their degradation directly contributes to the reduction of diversity of population of many birds. The impact of climate change on the avian biodiversity of J&K is poorly understood at present however, the species that migrate to the waterbodies may be affected if measures to improve and protect these habitat are not taken.

Visitors and birders from all across the country and within J&K visit the various birding hotspots to get a glimpse of some unique birds found in J&K. Birdwatching in their natural habitat has lately gained momentum in the region with the introduction of optical aids that enable passionate birders to see and study the diversity of birds. The citizen science platforms like eBird has added to enthusiasm. In addition the interaction of birders on social media groups like Indian Birds, J&K Birdlife, Kashmir Birdwatch has helped and motivated amateur bird watcher to increase the field work which was never possible before.

Some of the fascinating birds of J&K that attract everyones attention are :

TAWNY OWL

One of the most interesting species of owls found in Kashmir region especially in Kangan and areas around Dachigam National Park. Bird lovers from all around the Country visit kashmir to get a glimpse of this rarity.



Photo By : Jainy Maria

LONG-EARED OWL

This species often roosts communally during the nonbreeding season; typical roosts contain 2 to 20 birds, but up to 100 have been reported. It migrates south to Persian Gulf states, Pakistan, and Egypt. In China, breeds in N, winters in S; Asian breeders winter as far S as N India and Indochina. Reported from areas around Manasbal Kashmir and Srinagar



Photo By : Bilal Nasir Zargar

ORANGE BULLFINCH

Orange bullfinch is a partial altitudinal migrant regarded as the crown jewel of birds found in Kashmir with a limited range in northern India & northern Pakistan. It has been recorded around Dachigam National Park in Srinagar, Kangan, Pahalgam, villages besides Sind river & Baderwah.



Photo By : Ansar Ahmed

KASHMIR NUTCRACKER



Photo By : Jainy Maria

The Kashmir Nutcracker is a poorly known corvid that occupies a rather limited range in eastern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, Kashmir, and northwestern India. Like other nutcrackers, it is closely associated with alpine conifers, the seeds of which form an important part of their diet. It Has been recorded around Tangmarg, Gulmarg, Yousmarg and a few other places

KASHMIR FLYCATCHER

Found in deciduous forest, often in mixed forest of walnut (*Juglans*), cherry (*Prunus*) and willow (*Salix*), and especially where there is dense undergrowth of *Perrotia* or hazel. A summer visitor to Kashmir and spends the winter in the southern states of India



Photo By : Anup Soni

ROOK

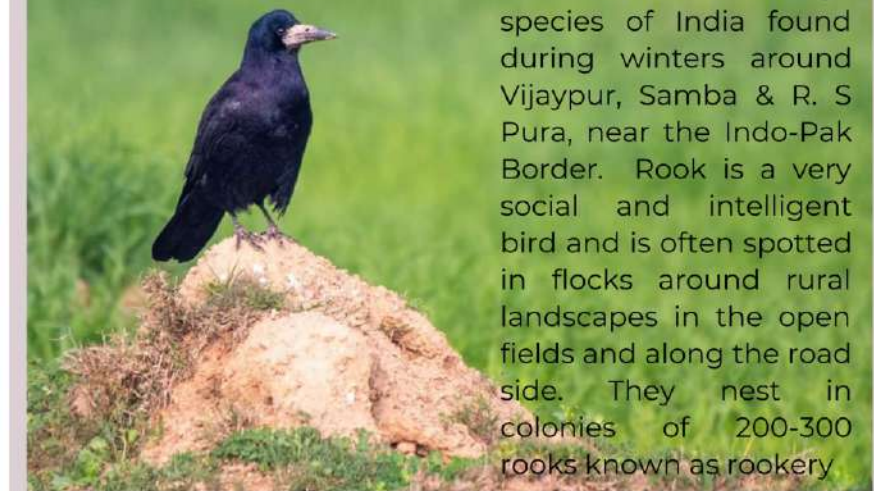


Photo By : Parmil Kumar

This is probably one of the restricted range species of India found during winters around Vijaypur, Samba & R. S Pura, near the Indo-Pak Border. Rook is a very social and intelligent bird and is often spotted in flocks around rural landscapes in the open fields and along the road side. They nest in colonies of 200-300 rooks known as rookery

SPOTTED CRAKE

A small waterbird that occurs in marshes (permanent or seasonal) and fens, at sewage ponds, pools in flooded grassland, and at margins of dams, lakes and sluggish rivers. For J&K its a rare species occasionally found around Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve , Jammu. They are mostly heard than seen as they are very secretive during the breeding season.



Photo By : Parvaiz Shagoo