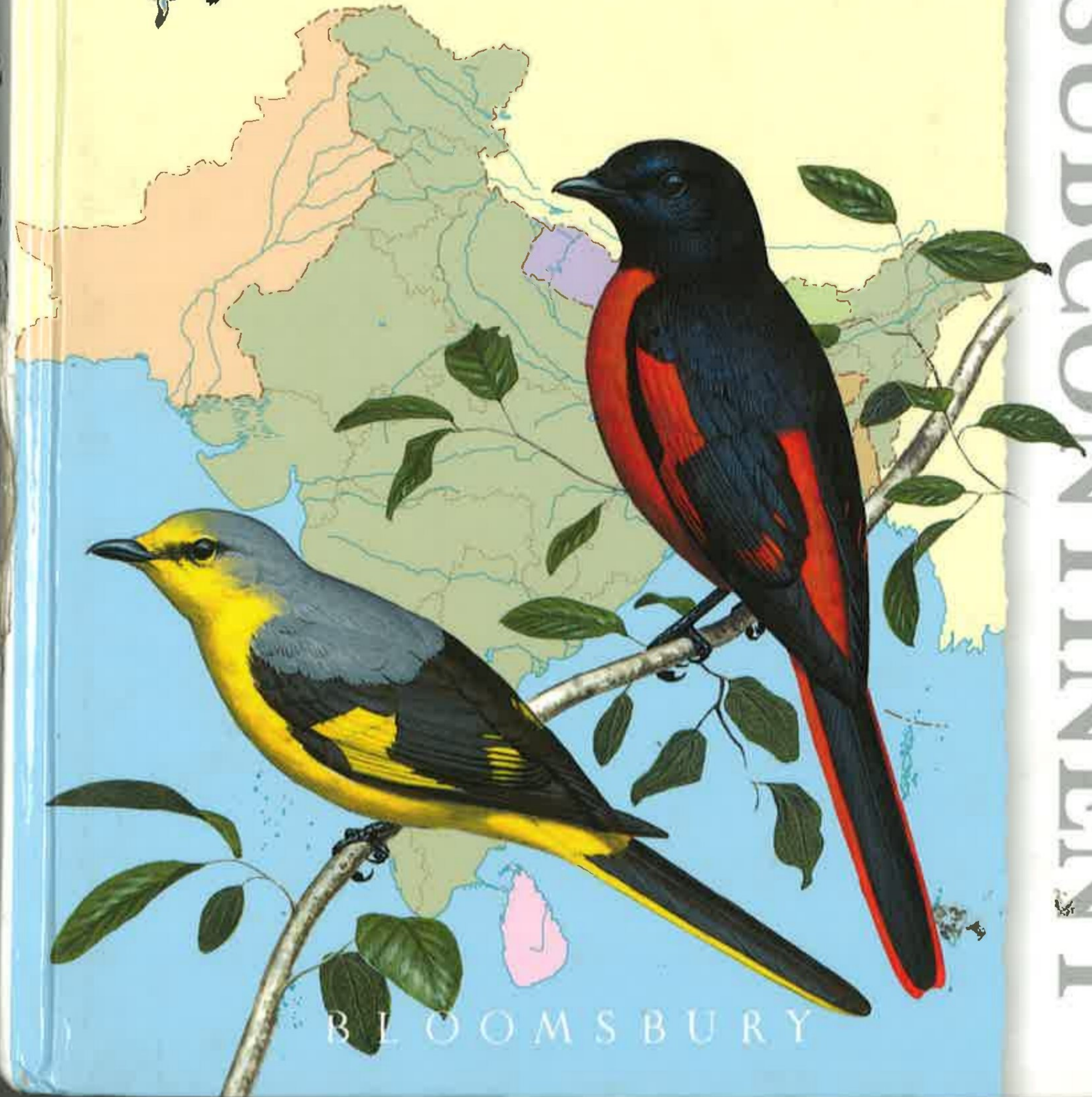


A Field Guide to the
**Birds of the
Indian
Subcontinent**

Krys Kazmierczak
Illustrated by Ber van Perlo



BLOOMSBURY

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

First published in India 2015
Published in 2000 by Christopher Helm, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
This edition published 2014

Copyright © 2000 Krys Kazmierczak and Ber van Perlo

The moral right of the author has been asserted

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever
without written permission from the Publisher except in the case of brief quotations
embodied in critical articles or reviews

Every reasonable effort has been made to trace copyright holders of material
reproduced in this book, but if any have been inadvertently overlooked the publishers
would be glad to hear from them.

This edition is printed with permission from
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP
www.bloomsbury.com

Bloomsbury is a trademark of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
Bloomsbury Publishing, London, New Delhi, New York and Sydney
A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 1 4729 1518 4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Cover illustrations by John Cox, Front : Scarlet Minivets and Red-wattled Lapwings,
Spine: Fire-tailed Myzorins, Back: Wallcreeper and Grandala

Printed and bound in India by Replika Press Pvt Ltd

Exclusively distributed in the Indian subcontinent by Om Books International,
4379/4B, Praksh House, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi



CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8
INTRODUCTION	9
The Region	9
The Species	9
Taxonomy, Systematic Order and Nomenclature	9
Conservation	10
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	11
The Illustrations	11
The Species Texts	11
Distribution Maps	14
Topography	15
FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS	17
COLOUR PLATES AND MAPS	33
WING AND TAIL PATTERNS	310
GLOSSARY	312
USEFUL ORGANISATIONS	316
REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING	318
INDEX OF ENGLISH NAMES	321
INDEX OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES	340
QUICK INDEX TO PLATE NUMBERS	351

- Johnsgard, P. A. (1991) *Bustards, Hemipodes and Sandgrouse, Birds of Dry Places*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Johnsgard, P. A. (1993) *Cormorants, Darters and Pelicans of the World*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC.
- Jones, D., Dekker, R. W. R. J., Roselaar, C. S. & van Perlo, B. (1995) *The Megapodes*. OUP, Oxford.
- Juniper, T. & Parr, M. (1998) *Parrots: A Guide to the Parrots of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Kemp, A. & Woodcock, M. (1995) *The Hornbills*. OUP, Oxford.
- König, C., Weick, F. & Becking, J.-H. (1999) *Owls: A Guide to the Owls of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Lambert, F. & Woodcock, M. (1996) *Pittas, Broadbills and Astities*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Lefranc, N. & Worfolk, T. (1997) *Srikes: A Guide to the Srikes of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Madge, S. & Burn, H. (1988) *Wildfowl: an Identification Guide to the Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World*. Christopher Helm, Bromley, U.K.
- Madge, S. & Burn, H. (1993) *Crows and Jays: A Guide to the Crows, Jays and Magpies of the World*. Helm, Mountfield, U.K.
- Olsen, K. M. & Larsson, H. (1997) *Skuas and Jaegers: A Guide to the Skuas and Jaegers of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Olsen, K. M. & Larsson, H. (1995) *Terns of Europe and North America*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Restall, R. (1996) *Muntias and Mannikins*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Summers-Smith, J. D. (1988) *The Sparrows*. T. & A. D. Poyser, Calton, U.K.
- Taylor, B. & van Perlo, B. (1998) *Rails: A Guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Turner, A. & Rose, C. (1989) *A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World*. Christopher Helm, Bromley, U.K.
- Wilds, C., DiCostanzo, J. & Schmidt, C. (in prep.) *Terns and Skimmers: A Guide to the Terns and Skimmers of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Winkler, H., Christie, D. A. & Nurney, D. (1995) *Woodpeckers: A Guide to the Woodpeckers, Piculets and Wrynecks of the World*. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.

Sound guides

- Ranft, R. & Cleere, N. (1998) *A Sound Guide to Nightjars and Related Nightbirds*. CD. Pica Press, Mountfield, U.K.
- Connop, S. (1993) *Birdsongs of Nepal*. Cassette. Turaco, New York.
- Connop, S. (1995) *Birdsongs of the Himalayas*. Cassette. Turaco, New York.
- Cramp, S. *et al.* (eds) (1998) *The Complete Birds of the Western Palearctic on CD-ROM*. 3 CD-ROMs. OUP, Oxford.
- Marshall, J. T. (1978) *Systematics of Smaller Asian Night Birds Based on Voice*. Vinyl record and booklet. American Ornithologists' Union, Tampa.
- Mild, K. (1990) *Bird Songs of Israel and the Middle East*. 2 cassettes and a booklet. Bioacoustics, Stockholm.
- Mild, K. (1987) *Soviet Bird Songs*. 2 cassettes and a booklet. Bioacoustics, Stockholm.
- Roché, J. C. (1990) *All the Bird Songs of Europe*. 4 CDs and 4 booklets. Sittelle, Chateaubois.
- Scharringa, J. (1999) *Birds of Tropical Asia: Sounds and Sights*. CD-ROM Bird Songs International BV, the Netherlands.
- Sivaprasad, P. S. (1994) *An Audio Guide to the Birds of South India*. Cassette. Privately published, London.
- Warakagoda, D. (1997-8) *The Bird Sounds of Sri Lanka*. 2 Cassettes. DHW Library of Nature Sounds, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.
- White, T. (1984) *A Field Guide to the Bird Songs of South-East Asia*. 2 Cassettes. British Library, London.

INDEX OF ENGLISH NAMES

The plate number is followed by the number of the species on that plate. Alternative (obsolescent) names are given in parentheses.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accentor, Alpine 93.1 | Babbler (cont.) | Babbler (cont.) |
| Altai 93.3 | (Chestnut-headed Tit) 69.3 | (Rufous-headed Tit) 69.7 |
| Black-throated 93.7 | (Chestnut-throated Shrike) 68.16 | (Rufous-necked Scimitar) 67.4 |
| Brown 93.5 | (Chinese Tit) 69.5 | Rufous-throated Wren 66.14 |
| (Himalayan) 93.3 | Common 68.8 | Rusty-cheeked Scimitar 67.7 |
| (Jerdon's) 93.4 | Coral-billed Scimitar 67.6 | Rusty-throated Wren 66.15 |
| Maroon-backed 93.9 | Dark-fronted 67.17 | Scaly-breasted Wren 66.11 |
| (Pale) 93.5 | (Dusky Green Tit) 69.11 | (Short-tailed Wren) 66.3 |
| Radde's 93.6 | Eyebrowed Wren 66.2 | (Sind) 67.20 |
| (Radde's Brown) 93.6 | Golden 67.13 | (Slaty-headed Scimitar) 67.1, 67.2 |
| Robin 93.2 | (Golden-breasted Tit) 69.10 | Slender-billed 68.6 |
| Rufous-breasted 93.4 | (Gold-headed) 67.13 | Slender-billed Scimitar 67.9 |
| (Rufous-streaked) 93.3 | (Greater Scaly-breasted Wren) 66.11 | (Small Wren) 66.2 |
| Siberian 93.8 | Green Shrike 68.15 | Snowy-throated 67.15 |
| (Spotted) 93.6 | Grey-throated 67.14 | (Southern Common) 68.5 |
| (Spot-throated) 93.6 | (Immaculate Wren) 66.13 | Spiny 68.7 |
| Adjutant, Greater 7.6 | Indian Scimitar 67.1 | Spot-breasted Scimitar 67.8 |
| Lesser 7.5 | Jerdon's 67.20 | (Spotted) 66.4 |
| (Adjutant) 7.6 | Jungle 68.1 | Spotted Wren 66.19 |
| (Arrenga) 84.5 | Large Grey 68.2 | Spot-throated 66.7 |
| Avadavat, Green 91.11 | Large Scimitar 67.5 | (Sri Lanka Rufous) 68.4 |
| Red 91.10 | (Lesser Scaly-breasted Wren) 66.12 | Streak-breasted Scimitar 67.4 |
| Avocet, Pied 31.8 | (Lloyd's Scimitar) 67.3 | (Streaked Long-tailed Wren) 66.1 |
| (Avocet) 31.8 | Long-billed Wren 66.1 | Streaked Wren 66.3 |
| | (Long-tailed Spotted Wren) 66.18 | (Streak-throated Tit) 69.5 |
| | (Long-tailed Wren) 66.16 | Striated 68.9 |
| | Long-tailed Wren 66.17 | Striped Tit 67.18 |
| | Marsh 66.5 | (Tailed Wren) 66.14 |
| Babax, Chinese 71.1 | (Marsh Spotted) 66.5 | Tawny-bellied 67.16 |
| Giant 71.2 | (Mishmi Wren) 66.15 | Tawny-breasted Wren 66.16 |
| (Giant Tibetan) 71.2 | (Nepal) 69.9 | (Tickell's) 66.8 |
| Babbler, Abbott's 66.9 | Nepal Wren 66.13 | (Travancore Scimitar) 67.1 |
| (Ashy-headed) 72.2 | Orange-billed 68.4 | Wedge-billed Wren 66.20 |
| (Austen's Spotted) 67.15 | Puff-throated 66.4 | White-browed Scimitar 67.2 |
| Bar-winged Wren 66.18 | Pygmy Wren 66.12 | White-browed Shrike 68.14 |
| (Bearded Tit) 70.17 | (Quaker) 69.8 | (White-browed Tit) 69.4 |
| Black-chinned 67.12 | (Red-billed) 67.12 | (White-headed) 68.5 |
| Black-eared Shrike 68.16 | Red-billed Scimitar 67.3 | (White-headed Shrike) 68.18 |
| (Black-fronted) 67.17 | (Red-capped) 70.18 | White-hooded 68.18 |
| (Black-headed) 67.17 | (Red-fronted) 67.10 | (White-throated) 67.16 |
| Black-headed Shrike 68.13 | (Red-headed) 67.11 | Yellow-billed 68.5 |
| (Black-throated) 67.14 | (Red-throated Tit) 69.6 | Yellow-breasted) 67.18 |
| (Brown) 66.7 | (Red-winged Shrike) 68.14 | Yellow-eyed 67.19 |
| (Brown Wren) 66.12 | Rufous 68.3 | (Yellow-throated Tit) 69.11 |
| Brown-capped 66.6 | (Rufous-bellied) 67.16 | Barbet, Blue-eared 51.16 |
| (Brown-headed Tit) 69.1, 69.2 | (Rufous-bellied Shrike) 68.13 | Blue-throated 51.13 |
| Buff-breasted 66.8 | Rufous-capped 67.11 | Brown-headed 51.8 |
| (Buff-chested) 67.10 | Rufous-fronted 67.10 | (Ceylon Small) 51.15a |
| (Ceylon Rufous) 68.4 | | |
| Chestnut-capped 70.18 | | |
| Chestnut-fronted Shrike 68.17 | | |

Barbet (cont.)

- Coppersmith 51.14
- (Crimson-breasted) 51.14
- Crimson-fronted 51.15
- (Crimson-throated) 51.15
- Golden-throated 51.12
- Great 51.7
- (Great Hill) 51.7
- (Great Himalayan) 51.7
- (Green) 51.8
- (Hill) 51.7
- (Large Green) 51.8
- Lineated 51.9
- (Oriental Green) 51.8
- (Small Green) 51.10
- White-checked 51.10
- Yellow-fronted 51.11
- Barwing, (Austen's) 71.5
- (Hoary) 71.4
- Hoary-throated 71.4
- Rusty-fronted 71.3
- (Spectacled) 71.3
- Streak-throated 71.5
- (Baya) 92.10
- (Finn's) 92.11
- (Indian) 92.10
- Baza, Black 11.2
- (Black-crested) 11.2
- (Blyth's) 11.3
- (Brown) 11.3
- (Indian Black-crested) 11.2
- Jerdon's 11.3
- (Legge's) 11.3
- Bee-eater, Blue-bearded 51.6
- Blue-cheeked 51.2
- Blue-tailed 51.3
- Chestnut-headed 51.5
- European 51.1
- Green 51.4
- (Little Green) 51.4
- Besra 12.6
- (Bird, Brainfever) 45.7
- (Dial) 82.7
- (Tailor) 79.1
- Bittern, Black 6.8
- (Chestnut) 6.6
- (Chinese) 6.7
- Cinnamon 6.6
- (Eurasian) 6.9
- Great 6.9
- Little 6.5
- (Malay) 6.11

Bittern (cont.)

- (Tiger) 6.11
- Yellow 6.7
- (Bittern) 6.9
- Blackbird, (Common) 85.12
- Eurasian 85.12
- Grey-winged 85.11
- (Himalayan) 85.12a
- (Tibetan) 85.12a
- White-collared 85.10
- (Blackbird) 85.12
- Bluebird, Asian Fairy 56.8
- (Fairy) 56.8
- (Bluetail, Red-flanked) 81.8
- Bluethroat 81.4
- (Boobook, Brown) 48.8
- Booby, (Blue-faced) 2.4
- Brown 2.5
- Masked 2.4
- Red-footed 2.6
- Brambling 92.15
- Broadbill, (Collared) 56.2
- (Hodgson's) 56.1
- Long-tailed 56.1
- Silver-breasted 56.2
- Bulbul, Ashy 65.9
- Black 65.1
- (Black-capped) 65.17a
- (Black-capped Yellow) 65.17a
- Black-crested 65.17
- Black-headed 65.16
- (Black-headed Yellow) 65.17
- (Blyth's) 65.18
- (Brown-eared) 65.9
- (Finch-billed) 65.10
- Flavescent 65.18
- (Golden-browed) 65.7
- (Grey) 65.1
- Grey-headed 65.19
- Himalayan 65.14
- Mountain 65.3
- Nicobar 65.2
- Olive 65.8
- Red-vented 65.11
- Red-whiskered 65.12
- (Ruby-throated) 65.17b
- (Ruby-throated Yellow) 65.17b
- (Rufous-bellied) 65.3
- Striated 65.4
- (Striated Green) 65.4
- White-browed 65.20
- (White-checked) 65.13, 65.14

Bulbul (cont.)

- White-eared 65.13
- White-throated 65.6
- Yellow-browed 65.7
- Yellow-eared 65.15
- Yellow-throated 65.5
- (Yellow-tufted) 65.15
- Bullfinch, (Beavan's) 94.12
- Brown 94.11
- Grey-headed 94.12
- (Mongolian Trumpeter) 95.5
- Orange 94.14
- Red-headed 94.13
- (Trumpeter) 95.4
- Bunting, Black-faced 96.8
- Black-headed 96.4
- Chestnut 96.6
- (Chestnut-breasted) 96.9
- Chestnut-eared 96.12
- (Collared) 96.12
- (Common Reed) 96.17
- Corn 96.2
- Crested 96.1
- (Eurasian Rock) 96.13
- Godlewski's 96.14
- (Grey-headed) 96.12
- Grey-necked 96.11
- House 96.16
- Little 96.15
- Ortolan 96.10
- Pallas's 96.18
- Pine 96.3
- Red-headed 96.5
- Reed 96.17
- (Rock) 96.14
- Rock 96.13
- Rustic 96.20
- (Stewart's) 96.9
- (Striated) 96.16
- (Striolated) 96.16
- White-capped 96.9
- Yellow-breasted 96.7
- Bushchat, (Collared) 83.11
- (Collared Indian) 83.11
- (Dark-grey) 83.17
- Grey 83.17
- Hodgson's 83.12
- Jerdon's 83.16
- Pied 83.15
- (Rufous-tailed) 82.2
- Stoliczka's 83.14
- (White-browed) 83.14

Bushchat (cont.)

- (White-tailed) 83.13
- (White-throated) 83.12
- Bushlark, Bengal 57.3
- Indian 57.2
- Jerdon's 57.4
- (Red-winged) 57.2, 57.3, 57.4
- (Rufous-winged) 57.3, 57.4
- Singing 57.1
- Bustard, Great 29.10
- (Great Indian) 29.8
- (Houbara) 29.7
- Indian 29.8
- Little 29.11
- MacQueen's 29.7
- (Bustard-Quail, Barred) 25.16
- (Common) 25.16
- (Little) 25.14
- (Buteo, Eurasian) 13.3
- (Long-legged) 13.1
- (Upland) 13.2
- Buttonquail, Barred 25.16
- (Little) 25.14
- Small 25.14
- Yellow-legged 25.15
- Buzzard, Common 13.3
- (Crested Honey) 11.1
- (Desert) 13.3
- Grey-faced 13.4
- (Honey) 11.1
- (Japanese) 13.3
- Long-legged 13.1
- Rough-legged 13.6
- (Steppe) 13.3
- Upland 13.2
- White-eyed 13.5
- (Buzzard) 13.3
- Chaffinch 92.14
- (Common) 92.14
- (Chat, Barnes's) 83.6
- (Blue) 81.5
- (Brown Rock) 82.3
- (Dark-Grey Bush) 83.17
- (Hodgson's Bush) 83.12
- (Hooded) 83.8
- (Hume's) 83.9
- (Indian) 82.3, 82.10
- (Indian Blue) 81.5
- (Isabelline) 83.1
- (Pied) 83.10
- (Pleschanka's Pied) 83.7

(Chat [cont.])

- (Red-rumped) 83.3
- (Red-tailed) 83.3
- (River) 82.9
- (Rufous) 82.2
- (Rufous-tailed Bush) 82.2
- (Siberian Blue) 81.7
- (Stone) 83.11
- (White-browed Bush) 83.14
- (White-capped River) 82.9
- (White-tailed Bush) 83.13
- Chiffchaff, Common 80.1
- (Eastern) 80.2
- Mountain 80.2
- (Chiffchaff) 80.1
- (Chloropsis, Blue-winged) 56.7
- (Golden-fronted) 56.6
- (Gold-mantled) 56.7
- (Jerdon's) 56.7
- (Orange-bellied) 56.5
- Chough, (Alpine) 63.3
- (Hume's Ground) 62.14
- Red-billed 63.2
- Yellow-billed 63.3
- (Chough) 63.2
- Chukar 24.5
- Cisticola, (Bright-capped) 77.19
- Bright-headed 77.19
- (Golden-headed) 77.19
- (Red-headed) 77.19
- Zitting 77.18
- Cochoa, Green 84.10
- Purple 84.9
- Coot, (Black) 30.16
- Common 30.16
- (Eurasian) 30.16
- (Purple) 30.17
- (Coot) 30.16
- (Coppersmith) 51.14
- Cormorant, (Eurasian) 4.5
- Great 4.5
- Indian 4.7
- (Javanese) 4.6
- (Large) 4.5
- Little 4.6
- Pygmy 4.8
- (Cormorant) 4.5
- (Comcrake) 30.10
- Coucal, Brown 46.7
- (Ceylon) 46.4
- (Common) 46.5
- Greater 46.5

Coucal (cont.)

- Green-billed 46.4
- (Large) 46.5
- Lesser 46.6
- (Coucal) 46.5
- Courser, Cream-coloured 31.14
- (Double-banded) 31.16
- Indian 31.15
- Jerdon's 31.16
- Crab-plover 31.7
- Crake, Andaman 30.13
- (Andaman Banded) 30.13
- Baillon's 30.6
- (Banded) 30.12
- Black-tailed 30.5
- Brown 30.4
- Corn 30.10
- (Elwes's) 30.5
- Little 30.7
- Red-legged 30.11
- (Red-legged Banded) 30.11
- (Ruddy) 30.9
- Ruddy-breasted 30.9
- Slaty-legged 30.12
- (Slaty-legged Banded) 30.12
- Spotted 30.8
- Crane, Black-necked 29.2
- Common 29.1
- Demoiselle 29.5
- (Great White) 29.6
- Hooded 29.3
- Sarus 29.4
- Siberian 29.6
- Creeper, (Common Tree) 87.2
- (Himalayan Tree) 87.3
- (Kashmir Tree) 87.2
- (Nepal Tree) 87.5
- (Sikkim Tree) 87.4
- Spotted 87.1
- (Spotted Grey) 87.1
- (Tree) 87.2
- Crossbill, (Common) 94.9
- Red 94.9
- (Crossbill) 94.9
- Crow, (Black) 63.10
- Carion 63.9
- (Himalayan Jungle) 63.10
- (Hooded) 63.9
- House 63.6
- (Indian House) 63.6
- (Jungle) 63.10
- (King) 59.4