

2. *Pelecanus philippensis*: Recorded on 15.vi.1999 and 5.vii.1999 at Kanjany and status adopted from Ali and Ripley (1983). This species was also reported by Sreekumar (2004) from the Vembanad wetlands, which lies in the coast of Kerala.

3. *Aythya nyroca*: This species was recorded on 16.xi.1999 in Kanjany by the second author. Also reported by Kurup (1996) from the Purathur Estuary and Sreekumar (2004) from the Vembanad wetlands.

4. *Pardicula asiatica*: Species identity needs confirmation.

5. *Gallinago nemoricola* & *Scolopax rusticola*: Recorded from Kanjany on 3.iii.1999 and 9.iii.1999, Enamavu on 23.iii.1999 on grasslands and marshy areas by the second author.

6. *Calidris pygmeus*: The species was not recorded or marked in any of the locations in the paper but came to the list by typographical error.

7. *Cursorius coromandelucus*: The species was not recorded or marked in any of the locations in the paper but came to the list by typographical error.

8. *Larus fuscus*: Reported by Nameer (1993) from Kole wetlands. Reported by Kurup (1996) from the Purathur Estuary and Sreekumar (2004) from the Vembanad wetlands.

9. *Anthus trivialis*: Recorded from Kanjany on 4.x.2000 and Parappur on 12.x.2000 on bunds by the second author.

10. *Turdoides caudatus*: Recorded from Kanjany on 5.x.1999, Pullu on 6.x.1999, Kanjany on 6.x.1999 on bunds and trees by the second author.

11. *Mirafra assamica*: Reported in Nameer *et al.* (2000) from the KAU campus.

12. *Riparia paludicola*: This species marked due to over site in the Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Recorded from the Kole wetland by Santharam (1995).

13. *Accipiter nisus*: Recorded from Enamavu on 17.xi.1998; 23.iii.1999; 26.iii.1999; 7.x.2001 by the second author.

14. *Circus macrourus*: Recorded from Parappur on 10.iii.1999; 22.ii.2001; Enamavu on 26.x.1999; Arimpur on 20.ii.2001 by the second author.

15. *Francolinus pondicerianus*: Recorded at Parappur on 3.viii.2001 in bushes in the coconut plantations adjacent to the Kole wetlands by the second author.

16. *Streptopelia decaocta*: Sighted from Kanjany on 28.iv.1999; 5.vii.2001; Punnayarkulam on 7.x.1999; Parappur on 9.xii.1999; on electric lines and on trees in the adjacent areas by the second author.

17. *Nectarinia minima*: Recorded from Parappur on 31.iii.2000 and 29.ix.2001 on trees adjacent to the Kole wetlands by the second author.

18. *Dicrurus caerulescens*: Recorded from Arimpur on 6.x.1999; 29.iii.2000; Alapatt on 6.xii.1999; Parappur on 17.xii.1999; 8.iii.2000; 31.iii.2000; Kanjany on 22.ii.2000; 27.iii.00; 27.iii.2000; 6.vii.2001 on electric lines by the second author.

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COMMENT

ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL 20(5): 1880-1881

COMMENTS ON "AVIFAUNA OF THRISSUR DISTRICT, KERALA, INDIA" BY E.A. JAYSON ETAL. (2005)

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Though late, having had a chance to go through the article "Avifauna of Thirissur District, Kerala, India" by Jayson and Sivaperuman in *Zoos' Print Journal* 20(2): 1774-1783, I felt a need for a clarification note as an addendum to the checklist. The picture painted by the article is incomplete and mostly erroneous. Here I tabulate a list of species from their checklist that I felt had erroneous information.

Most of the species on which I have commented are common ones and even beginner bird watchers are aware of the status of these birds (eg. Ashy Drongo). I have refrained from commenting on several tall claims in the checklist like the Spoonbilled Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmeus*) or the Wood Snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*). Considering the nature of basic mistakes interspersed over the length of the article (more than 10% of the species listed have wrong information), it is not unsafe to assume that the whole checklist has been prepared without sufficient groundwork. It is hoped that such publications don't get accepted in the future without sufficient reviews by people familiar with the avifauna of the region.

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No	Species	Comments
1	Oriental Darter (<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>)	Listed as local migrant. Infact, it is a resident in Thrissur district nesting in a handful of heronries.
2.	Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	Listed as resident. The only known breeding location of this bird in Kerala is in Kannur district (Rajeevan et.al 2004) and hence this bird should be treated as a local migrant.
3.	Western Reef Egret (<i>Egretta gularis</i>)	No breeding records from Kerala. Considered as winter migrant but listed as resident.
4.	Black Ibis (<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>)	Only a single record of this bird from Kole Wetlands (P O Nameer pers comm.) and the habitats in the state are no longer suitable for this species. Hence this species is a vagrant and not a local migrant as listed in the checklist.
5.	Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	A rare winter visitor to Kerala and has only been recorded from Kadalundi (Ravindran. 1994) in Kerala. Details of the sighting from Kole Wetlands requested.
6.	Western Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	A migrant raptor and not resident as mentioned in the list.
7.	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	A migrant raptor and not resident as mentioned in the list.
8.	Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)	This bird sporadically breeds in many places in South Kerala. Hence, it should not be treated as a migrant; should be a local migrant.
9.	Red-headed Vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>)	Getting increasingly scarce and hence all sightings of this bird are important. Details of the sightings from Peechi WLS and Chimmony WLS requested.
10.	Great Stone Curlew (<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>)	There is only a handful of records of this bird from Kerala and none from Thrissur district. Details of the sightings from KAU campus requested.
11.	Black-bellied Tern (<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>)	This near-threatened <i>Sterna</i> breeds in the banks of Bharathapuzha river and should be considered as a resident and not as a migrant.
12.	Eurasian Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>)	A species from the dry land habitats of Deccan. Thrissur district does not have the required habitat for this species and it is quite unlikely to be seen at the places it has been reported.
13.	Eurasian Scops Owl (<i>Otus scops</i>)	All records of Otus scops from the Western Ghats in Kerala has been attributed to Oriental Scops Owl (<i>Otus sunia</i>). Hence, so should be this one.
14.	Black-capped Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon pileata</i>)	No breeding reports from Thrissur district or the entire stretch of Kerala. This bird cannot be considered as a resident.
15.	Plain Martin (<i>Riparia paludicola</i>)	This species has been reported from Kole Wetlands and not from Peechi WLS as mentioned in the list. Moreover, it is a migrant and not a resident.
16.	Common Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	One of the commonest migrant birds in the state, wrongly mentioned as resident in the list.
17.	Bengal Bushlark (<i>Mirafra assamica</i>)	Not found in South India (Kazmierczak, 2000). We have Rufous-winged Lark (<i>M. affinis</i>) instead.
18.	Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)	No record from Kerala. The recent distribution by Grimmett & Inskipp (1998) or Kazmierczak (2000) does not list Kerala as a wintering habitat. A more likely bird is Olive-backed Pipit (<i>A. hodgsoni</i>).
19.	Forest Wagtail (<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>)	One of the most erratic of winter visitors. Listed as resident.
20.	Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
21.	White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
22.	Citrine Wagtail (<i>Motacilla citreola</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
23.	Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
24.	Bluthroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>)	A migrant species listed as local migrant.
25.	Desert Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>)	This is a passage migrant or even can be considered as a vagrant to Kole Wetlands. Definitely not a resident as listed in the list.
26.	Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
27.	Blue-headed Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
28.	Blyth's Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
29.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
30.	Red-throated Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula parva</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
31.	Blue-throated Flycatcher (<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>)	A migrant species listed as resident.
32.	White-throated Munia (<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>)	The habitats in Thrissur district are not suitable for this bird. The species is quite unlikely to occur in the sites where it has been listed.
33.	Yellow-throated Sparrow (<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>)	This is a breeding visitor and not a resident species.
34.	Black-naped Oriole (<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>)	A winter migrant to Kerala listed as resident.
35.	Ashy Drongo (<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>)	A winter migrant to Kerala listed as resident.



RESPONSE ZOO'S PRINT JOURNAL 20(5): 1881-1882

REPLY TO THE COMMENTS BY PRAVEEN ON "AVIFAUNA OF THRISSUR DISTRICT, KERALA, INDIA"

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The status of the each bird species is adopted from Ali, S. and D. Ripley (1983), which take into consideration the Indian Subcontinent as a whole for assessing the status and not the Kole wetlands or Thrissur District or Kerala State as done by

the reader. Following details are given below as requested by the reader. We would like to point out that this paper is a compilation of published and unpublished papers and reports.

Anas strepera: Sighted on 21.xii.1999 from Kanjany by the second author.

Lonchura malabarica: Sighted on 22.iii.99, 30.xi.99, 28.xii.99, 12.xii.00, 19.ii.01 from Kanjany; 08.xii.99, 28.xii.99, 21.i.00 from Enamavu by the second author.

Streptopelia decaocta, Riparia paludicola, Mirafra assamica, Anthus trivialis: Please refer to my reply to comments by Sashikumar (Jayson, this issue).

Otus scops: Reported in Anon. (1992) Birds of Chimmoni Wildlife Sanctuary: A survey report. Nature Education Society, Trichur (NEST)