Birds of Jaiñtia Hills



Jaiñtia Hills Wildlife Division
Department of Forests & Environment
Meghalaya

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Photo by Smt. H. Lato

Lahkmen Rymbui
Hon'ble Minister
in-charge Forests and Environment Department,
Government of Meghalaya



FOREWORD

The planet earth is home to more than ten thousand known species of birds, of which more than one thousand three hundred species naturally exist in India. Birds naturally occur in all types of habitats from thick evergreen forests in Brazil, Borneo and India to hot Sahara desert to cold freezing Arctic Ocean. Birds eat pests, pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, scavenge carrion and cycle nutrients. Birds thus play important role in maintenance of the ecological balance and the human well-being. The role the birds plays in maintenance of ecological balance and human well-being is however grossly under-estimated.

Thick multi-storied forests in Narpuh and Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuaries, Balpakram and Nokrek National Parks and several such community and privately owned forests in Meghalaya are a natural home to several species of canopy birds. The degraded open forests, wetlands, agricultural fields and even the human habitations provide shelter and habitat to the birds of several other species. More than six hundred twenty species of birds have already been documented in the Meghalaya.

Worldwide deforestation, disappearance or reduction in size or deterioration in quality of wetlands, large scale planting of non-native plants, loss of areas to urban developments and intensive agriculture are major threats to birds. The Meghalaya may not be fully immune to some of these threats. Concerted efforts are therefore needed to assess the presence, distribution, extent, trend in population and threat to various species of the birds in the State.

I am happy to note that the Wildlife Wing in the Forests and Environment Department has taken initiative to document the bird species found in the Jaintia Hills and publish the same in the form of a pictorial Booklet. I am sure, the Booklet will make the residents of the State in general and the residents of the Jaintia Hills in particular, aware of the rich Avifaunal wealth and will motivate them to join hands with the Forests and Environment Department for its conservation.



Lahkmen Rymbui

B.K. Lyngwa, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya



FOREWORD

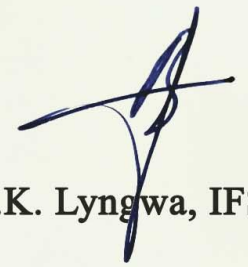
Meghalaya is rich in wild flora and fauna. Both these forms of nature as they occur, whether it be in beauty and splendour, richness and variety or their forms and uses, would stand comparison favourably with those in any other parts of the country and the world.

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) programme initiated by Bird Life International to document and advocate the protection and management of a network of sites that are important for the long term viability of naturally occurring bird populations across the geographic range have identified nine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in the State. Two of these areas viz, Saipung and Narpuh are located in Jaintia Hills.

Unlike other States, majority of the forests, the main habitat of birds in Meghalaya, are owned by communities and private individuals. The flora and fauna in Meghalaya, including the birds cannot be conserved without the active cooperation and involvement of local communities. It is heartening to note that the owners of several such community owned forests have voluntarily came forward to allow the State Government to notify such areas which are rich habitat of birds and other wildlife, as Community Reserves. As on date, 70 Community Reserves having a total area of more than 61 km2 have already been

notified. The Community Reserves are managed by the local communities with the technical and financial assistance from the State Forest Department. Proposals for establishment of several such areas as Community Reserve are being formulated.

I am happy to note that the Wildlife Wing in the Forests and Environment Department has taken initiative to publish an informative Pictorial Handbook on "Birds of Jaintia Hills" to make the public aware of the rich Avifaunal wealth of the Jaintia Hills. I congratulate all the officers and the staff involved in publication of this Booklet.



B.K. Lyngwa, IFS

H. C. Chaudhary, IFS
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya



FOREWORD

Meghalaya, a beautiful mountainous State located in North Eastern India is home to a fascinating array of wild animals. The State is rich in Avifauna which has been broadly documented by Ornithologists and other Researchers.

Jaintia Hills, located in Western part of the State has a rich diversity of Avifauna ranging from the Common House Sparrow to the Great Indian Hornbill. Wide variation in elevation, topography, forest types and land use provides a favourable environment for existence of various species of birds. Presence of several migratory species of birds including Amur Falcon has also been noted in the Jaintia Hills.

To create awareness among the general public about the rich diversity of the avifauna in the region and to seek their cooperation and involvement in conservation and protection of the existing species of birds and their habitats, the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division, Jowai has taken the initiative to publish this Pictorial Booklet on "Birds of Jaintia Hills". This Booklet can be used as a field guide by the students, researchers, foresters and amateur bird watchers.

I express my sincere appreciation to Smt. H. Lato, MFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division; Shri S. Law, Range Forest Officer and entire team of the officers and staff in the Division for their efforts in publication of this highly useful and informative Booklet. I sincerely hope that the Booklet will help in creation of awareness among the residents of the Jaintia Hills for conservation of its rich Avifaunal wealth.

H. C. Chaudhary, IFS



H. Lato, MFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division, Jowai



PREFACE

Jaintia Hill landscape located in eastern part of Meghalaya is an ideal habitat for several species of Avifauna. Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary, Narpuh Reserve Forests and Saipung Reserve Forest in Jaintia Hills stand as one among the few places in the world where lush green multi-storied primary forests still exist. These forests serve as an ideal habitat for several species of birds including many endangered species. Some of the rare and beautiful species of birds such as Great Indian Hornbill, Nuthatches, Rufous-Necked Hornbill, Austen's Brown Hornbill, Tawny Breasted Wren Babbler etc. are regularly sighted in various parts of Jaintia Hills. Lukha bridge at Sunapyrdi village in East Jaintia Hills District is home to one of the largest roosting colony of House Swift.

During my numerous trips to the Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary, it was really an amazing feeling to be woken up at the dawn by the sound of the flapping wings of Hornbills and different calls of other birds. The varieties of colourful birds of different shape, size and colour sighted together with their sweet calls heard especially in the morning and in the late afternoon created a fascinating feeling. These wonderful experiences made me curious to know these birds better. I therefore started to carry a camera along with me during my official visits to forests and other areas and started to capture the birds on reel whenever I see one.

I also learnt that in-spite of having a very rich diversity of birds in the region, most of the residents of the Jaintia Hills are not aware of the rich Avifaunal wealth of the region. To fill the vital information gap, I decided to publish this Pictorial Booklet. The Booklet contains recent photographs of ninety five species of birds taken by myself; Shri S. Law, Range Forest Officer; staff of Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division and Shri. R. Gassah, an avid Bird Watcher who often visits the Jaintia Hills for Birding.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Shri B.K. Lyngwa, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, who has always motivated me to work with passion and dedication. I am indebted to Shri. H.C. Chaudhary, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya who has always been a mentor and a supportive guide to me.

I would also acknowledge the inspiration of Dr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury, who had personally motivated me to take up birding as my passion. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Shri Rejoice Gassah, a passionate birder who had contributed some photographs for this Booklet and in identification of some of the species, Dr. Rajkamal Goswami of ATREE, Bangalore who had motivated me to develop a keen interest in birding and also to Shri. S. Law, Range Forest Officer for his contribution and also in assisting me in compilation and identification of the species included in this Booklet.



Smt. H. Lato, MFS,

Ashy Bulbul

Scientific Name: *Hemixos flavala*

Local Name : Laroit Stem /Riblong Khlow



Ashy Bulbuls Combine green wings with a grey back. The head is dark with a bushy crest and white throat. It has a cheerful call.

Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Ashy Drongo

Scientific Name: *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Local Name: Iyrwat

It is a commonly sighted bird.It is duller dark grey with conspicuous red eyes.

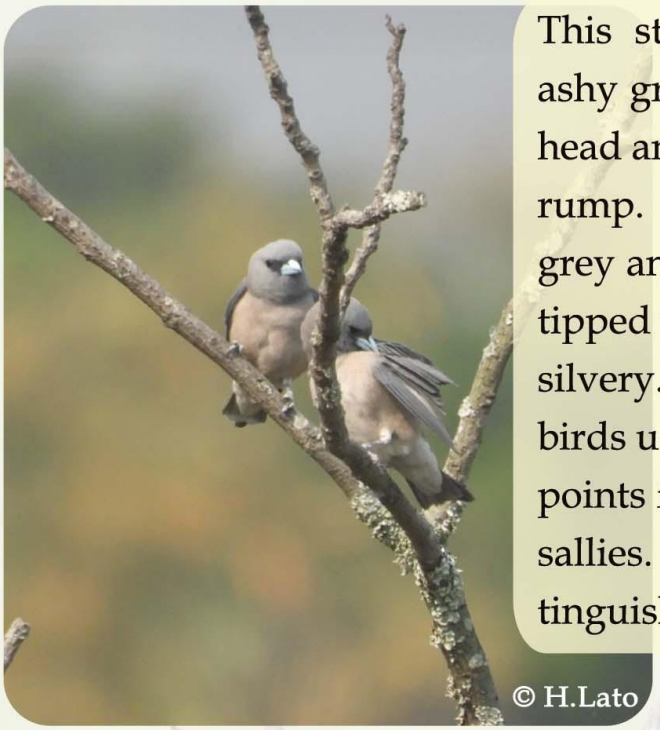


Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District.

Ashy Wood Swallow

Scientific Name: *Artamus fuscus*

Local Name : Sku Waw



This stocky woodswallow has an ashy grey upperparts with a darker head and a narrow pale band on the rump. The underside is pinkish grey and the short slaty black tail is tipped in white. The finch-like bill is silvery. The legs are short and the birds usually perch on high vantage points from which they make aerial sallies. Males and females are indistinguishable in the field.

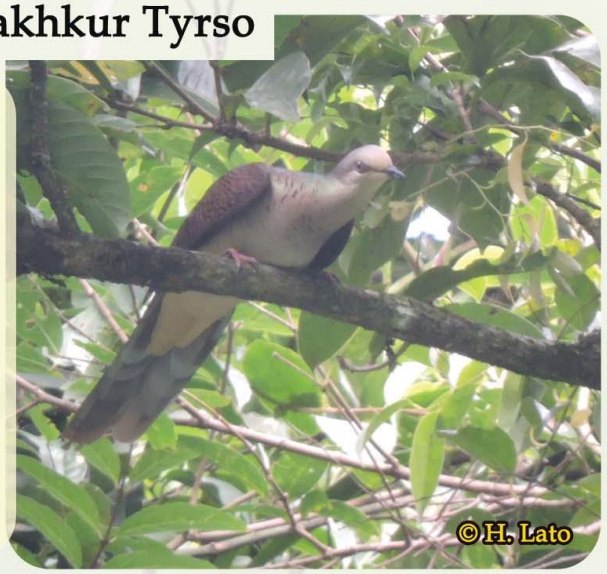
Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Barred Cuckoo Dove

Scientific Name: *Macropygia unchall*

Local Name : Lathkur Soo/Lakhkur Tyrso

The Barred Cuckoo Dove has a buff coloured throat and forehead which becomes pinkish grey at the crown its iris is yellow or pale brown, the beak is black and short, and the feet are red.



Location: Umngot Jarain, West Jaintia Hills District.

Bar Winged Flycatcher Shrike

Scientiific Name: *Hemipus picatus*

Local Name : Sim Siar Lieh



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

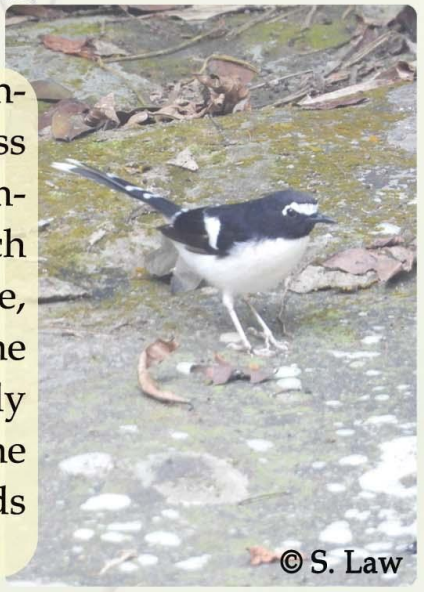
The bar-winged flycatcher-shrike is black capped with black wings that contrast with the white of the body. A white slash across the wing and a white rump stand out in contrast. Males are velvety black while females tend to be greyish brown. Both males and females have a brown back but the males have a black head.

Black Backed Forktail

Scientific Name: *Enicurus immaculatus*

Local Name : Sim Jri Khla

The species has a broad white stripe beginning just behind the eyes and running across its forehead. The crown and mantle are completely covered in black feathering, which extends down to the upper forehead, face, scapulars, throat, and sides of the neck. The underparts of the bird are white, sharply delineated from the black of the throat. The tail has a white tip and three white bands created by the ends of shorter tail feathers.



Location: Malidor River, East Jaintia Hills District.

Black Bulbul

Scientific Name: *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Local Name: Laroit Iong/Ead Ead



Location: Riatsiatsim Jowai.

The black bulbul is 24–25 cm (9.4–9.8 in) in length, with a long tail. The body plumage ranges from slate grey to shimmering black, depending on the race. The beak, legs, and feet are all orange and the head has a black fluffy crest. Sexes are similar in plumage, but young birds lack the crest, have whitish underparts with a grey breast band, and have a brown tint to the upperparts. They have a black streak behind the eye and on the ear coverts.

Black Crested Bulbul

Scientific Name: *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

Local Name: Sim Stem

The head of the Black Crested Bulbul is black while the rest of its body is different shades of yellow. Both the male and female are similar in plumage.



Location : Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Black Drongo

Scientific Name: ***Dicrurus macrocercus***

Local Name : Iyrwat /Sim Myrwat



It is an over-all black bird with a distinctive forked tail. The species is known for its aggressive behaviour towards much larger birds, such as crows, never hesitating to dive-bomb any bird of prey that invades its territory. Smaller birds often nest in the well-guarded vicinity of a nesting black drongo.

Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Black Hooded Oriole

Scientific Name: ***Oriolus xanthornu***

Local Name : Sim Iongkhlieh

The Black Hooded Oriole is Brilliant Golden yellow with jet black head, throat and Upper Breast, and black patterning in wings and tail.

The black-hooded oriole's flight is somewhat like a thrush, strong and direct with some shallow dips over longer distances.



Location : Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Black Naped Monarch

Scientific Name: *Hypothymis azurea*

Local Name : Sim Salia Duma



Location : Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

The adult male black-naped monarch is about 16 cm long, and is mainly pale azure blue apart from a whitish lower belly. It has a black nape and a narrow black gorget. The female is duller and lacks the black markings. Its wings and back are grey-brown. However, several geographically separated breeding populations differ in the extent and shade of markings.

Blue Pitta

Scientific Name: *Hydrornis cyaneus*

Local Name : Sim Thohbriw stem khlieh

The blue pitta grows to a length of about 23 cm (9 in). It has a yellow forehead and crown and a bright orange nape. A bold black stripe passes through the eye and there is a less well-defined, short stripe on the chin. The male has a blue back and tail and a pale bluish breast, speckled with black. The female has a grey back and a pale grey breast, speckled with black. The bill is dark grey and the legs are pale pink.



Location : Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Blue Rock Thrush (Male Non- Breeding)
Scientific Name: *Monticola solitarius*
Local Name : Sim Syrtiaw



Location: Brichyrnot East Jaintia Hills District

The blue rock thrush is a starling-sized bird with a long slim bill. The breeding male of the nominate subspecies is unmistakable, with all blue-grey plumage apart from its darker wings. Females and immatures are much less striking, with dark brown upperparts, and paler brown scaly underparts.

Blue Rock Thrush (Male Breeding)

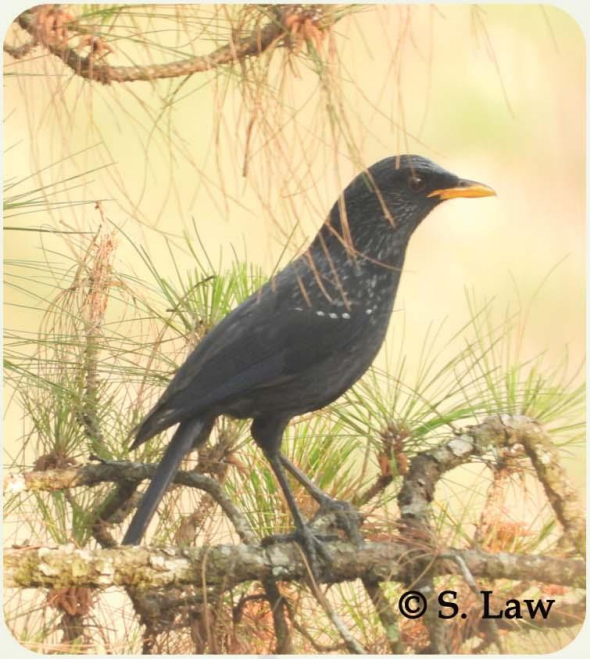


Location: & Kongong, East Jaintia Hills District

Blue Whistling Thrush

Scientific Name: *Myophonus Caeruleus*

Local Name : Sim Syntung Latyab



Location: Salaroh, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

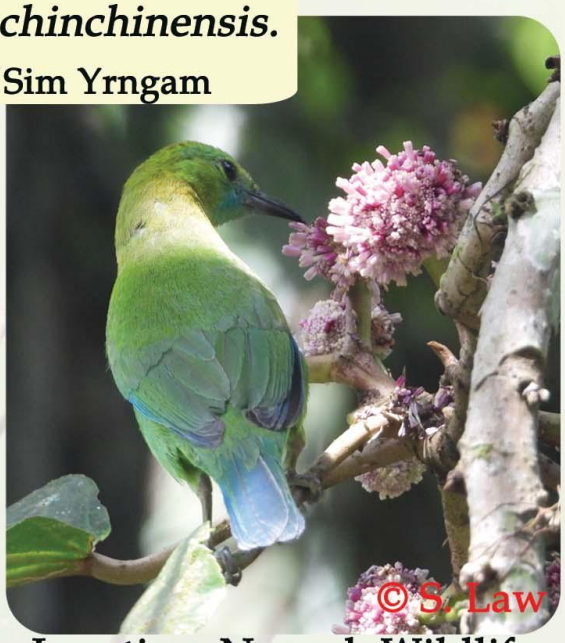
This whistling thrush is dark violet blue with shiny spangling on the tips of the body feathers other than on the lores, abdomen and under the tail. The wing coverts are a slightly different shade of blue and the median coverts have white spots at their tips. The bill is yellow and stands in contrast. The inner webs of the flight and tail feathers is black. The sexes are similar in plumage.

Blue Winged Leafbird

Scientific Name: *Chloropsis cochinchinensis.*

Local Name: Sim Kbiat Ladaw Heh/Sim Yrngam

The male is green-bodied with a yellow-tinged head, black face and throat. It has a blue moustachial line. The female differs in that it has a greener head and blue throat, and the young birds are like the female but without the blue throat patch.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Blue Winged Minla

Scientiific Name: *Actinodura cyanouroptera*

Local Name : Sim Phur Philai/Sim Phlang



Location: Salaroh, Jowai,
West Jaintia Hills District.

A brightly colored bird of lowland and foothill forests. Usually travels in large groups, and is often a chief component of mixed-species feeding flocks. Adult is a powdery gray-blue overall with blue highlights on the wings and tail. The face and sides are tinged soft gray-brown.

Blue Throated Barbet

Scientific Name: Psilopogon asiaticus

Local Name: Iyllop/Thalabub

This bird has an aqua blue face and throat with a red crown. Overall green, it has a tiny red scrap near the chest.



Location: Khlieh khangmujot, Jowai,
West Jaintia Hills District.

Brahminy Kite

Scientific Name: Haliastur indus

Local Name: Khleiñ khiwir



It is an attractive bird with a chestnut plumage. It has a white head and breast that are faintly streakedand black wing tip. Mainly found in the river bank.

Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Brown Shrike

Scientific Name: Lanius cristatus

Local Name: Sim Pein Khyndaw/Lyrni

It is mainly brown on the upper parts and the tailed is rounded. The black mask can be paler in winter and white brow over it. The underside is creamy with rufous flanks and belly.



Location: Ionglang, West Jaintia Hills District.

Cattle Egret

Scientific Name: Bubulcus ibis

Local Name: Ruka



Location: Namdong A, West Jaintia Hills District.

In non-breeding season it has pure white plumage, with a short thick yellow bill. During breeding season it has rufous coloured head to neck and back with Orangish bill.

Chestnut Bellied Rock Thrush

Scientific Name: Monticola rufiventris

Local Name : Latyap wyrthoh

The Male Chestnut Bellied Rock Thrush is uniformly blue from the crown down over the wings, back and rump. It has red-brown under parts and a black throat. The Male have a brilliant blue with some blackish on mantle. The male fits the description of the nominate species, but the female is gray-brown with boldly scaled underparts and a whitish crescent behind the ear.



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District.

Chestnut Tailed Starling

Scientific Name: Sturnus malbaricus

Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District.



It has a dark grey upper parts and a chestnut tail. , rufous breast and under parts. The mane-like head is pale grey with a white throat.

Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Common Emerald Dove

Scientific Name: Chalcophaps indica

Local Name: Lathkur Iyrngam

It is a medium sized pigeon, the back and wings are bright emerald green. The head and underparts are dark vinous pink fading to greyish to the lower belly.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Collared Scops Owl

Scientific Name: Otusbakkamoena

Local: Dhoh

The collared scops owl is a small owl, although it is the largest of the scops owls. Like other scops owls, it has small head tufts, or ears. The upperparts are grey or brown, depending on the subspecies, with faint buff spotting. The underparts are buff with fine darker streaking. The facial disc is whitish or buff, and the eyes are orange or brown. There is a buff neckband. Both the sexes are similar in appearance. The flight is deeply undulating. This species is nocturnal but it can often be located by the small birds that mob it while it is roosting in a tree. It feeds mainly on insects.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District

Crested Serpent Eagle

Scientific Name: Spilornischeela

Local Name-Khlein Bam Syiar

This medium-large, dark brown eagle is stocky, with rounded wings and a short tail. Its short black and white fan-shaped nuchal crest gives it a thick-necked appearance. The bare facial skin and feet are yellow. The underside is spotted with white and yellowish-brown. When perched the wing tips do not reach until the tail tip. In soaring flight, the broad and paddle-shaped wings are held in a shallow V. The tail and underside of the flight feathers are black with broad white bars.



Location: Chyrmang, West Jaintia Hills District.

Common Hoopoe

Scientific Name: Upupa epops

Local Name: Sim Chun



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

It is an orange brown bird with black and white zebra marking on its wings. It has a royal fan like crest tipped with a pointed bill.

Common Kingfisher

Scientific Name: Alcedo atthis

Local Name: Sim Puh Dakha

It is deep blue and a green with deep rust coloured underparts, short stumpy tail and long straight pointed bill. The female is identical in appearance to the male except that her lower mandible is orange-red with a black tip. The juvenile is similar to the adult, but with duller and greener upperparts and paler underparts. Its bill is black, and the legs are also initially black.



Location: Lukha River, East Jaintia Hills District

Common Sand Piper

Scientific Name: Actitis hypoleucos

Local Name : Sim Khrok Khrok



Location: Lukha River, East Jaintia Hills District.

Greyish olive brown above white below with pale dusky breast and few dark streaks on fore head.

Common Stonechat or African Stonechat

Scientific Name: Saxicola torquata

Local Name : Sim Khrok Khrok

The males have a black head, a white half-collar, a black back, a white rump, and a black tail; the wings are black with a large white patch on the top side of the inner wing. The upper breast is usually dark orange-red, with a sharp or gradual transition to white or pale orange on the lower breast and belly depending on subspecies. In a few, black replaces the orange breast feathers in part or entirely.

Females have brown rather than black above and on the head with an indistinct paler eyebrow line, chestnut-buff rather than orange below, and less white on the wings. Both sexes plumage is somewhat duller and streakier outside the breeding season.



Location: Syntu Ksiar, Jowai, West jaintia Hills District.

Common Tailored Bird

Scientific Name: Orthotomus sutorius

Local Name : Sim Dit Dit



Location: Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District

These warblers are usually brightly colored, with green or grey upper parts and yellow white or grey under parts. They often have chestnut on the head. Tailorbirds have short rounded wings, short tails, strong legs and long curved bills. The tail is typically held upright. They are typically found in open woodland, scrub and gardens. Tailorbirds get their name from the way their nest is constructed. The edges of a large leaf are pierced and sewn together with plant fibre or spiderweb to make a cradle in which the actual grass nest is built.

Dusky Warbler

Scientific Name: Phylloscopus fuscatus

Local Name : Sim Phur Philai Liar

The adult has an unstreaked brown back and buff under parts.There is a prominent whitish supercillium and the bill is fine and pointed.



Location: Mooliksoo, Dulong, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Scientific Name: Motacilla Flava

Local Name : Tynnai Stem



Location: Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District

This wag tail spends much time walking. In the male the under part is yellow and the upper part is olive to green with dark ear coverts. The head may be grey, olive green or black with yellow or white supercillium. The female is grey above and white below.

Eurassian Cuckoo

Scientific Name: Cuculus canorus

Local Name : Titpu

It is greyish in colour, finer barring on whiter under-parts. Most commonly found in the open forests.



Location: Forest Colony, Moomon, Mihmyntdu, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills



Eurasian Cuckoo Juvenile

Flavascent Bulbul

Scientific Name: Pycnoctus flavescens

Local Name: Laroit



It has a greyish, slender body and long tail,yellow vent and whitish supraloral stripe.

Location: Mukhaialong, East Jaintia Hills District.

Forest Wagtail

Scientific Name: Dendronanthus indicus

Local Name : Tynnai Khlo

Olive upper part, double black breast-band yellowish –white wing bar, sighted in cleared forest.



Location: Niawkmai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Golden Throated Barbet

Scientific Name: Psilopogon franklinii

Local Name : Mutlu Iongkhmat/Thalabub



Location: Khloo Blai Sein Raij Tuber Community Reserve

Large green barbet with a broad black bandit's mask, a pale gray face, and a black-and-yellow crown. Yellow-orange throat patch is small and sometimes missed when seen poorly. Like most other barbets, sluggish and difficult to see, usually encountered foraging quietly or sitting still in the canopy.

Great Barbet

Scientific Name: Megalaima virens

Local Name : Iyllop Heh/Mutlu Iyrngam/Jyllop

Great Barbet is the largest barbet found in India with conspicuous yellow bill, blue-grey head, brown shoulders red vent and green upper parts. Call is an incessant and far-reaching.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Great Tit

Scientific Name: Parus major

Local Name : Jri Khla wyrthoh



Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Black breast centre and line down belly, greyish mantle, greyish –white breast sides and flanks, and white wing-bar. Wide spread in the hills.

Green-Backed Tit

Scientific Name: Parus monticolus

Local Name : Jri Khla Khian

Green mantel and back, and yellow on under-parts. It is a common bird found in the area. Sighted in an open forest.



Location: Forest Colony, Moomon, Mihmyntdu, Jowai,

Greenish Warbler

Scientiific Name: Phylloscopus trochiloides

Local Name : Sim Jik Jik



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Green on the back and pale below; has a strong white eyebrow which is broad behind the eye and goes all the way to the forehead. Usually has one broad pale wingbar.

Grey Backed Shrike

Scientific Name: Lanius tephronotus

Local Name : Lyrni

Gray crown and back contrast sharply with white throat, black mask and wings, and bright orange sides. Noticeably smaller than Long-tailed Shrike, with which it shares its range; unlike that species, lacks orange on the back. Regularly perches on exposed perches such as telephone lines, posts, and snags.



Location: Syntu Ksiar, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Grey Bush chat © H. Lato

Scientific Name: Saxicola ferreus

Local Name : Sim Khriat







Location: Tre Riat, Syntu Ksiar, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

It is a common resident and altitude migrant.The male is grey above, white supercilium with dark streaking, a white wing bar and black face mask. The female is brown with rusty tail. Found in Bushes and secondary growth.

Grey Capped Pygmy Woodpecker

Scientific Name: Dendrocopos canicapillus

Local Name : Sim Pooh Dein

This tiny grey capped pygmy woodpecker has a dark grey crown with red on the back of the head in male. The buff underparts are streaked with dark. Found in open forest.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Grey Headed Canary Flycatcher

Scientific Name: Culcicapa ceylonensis

Local Name : Sim Klong



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Is a colourful tiny bird with a grey head and breast, green upper part and bright yellow under parts.

Grey Hooded Warbler

Scientiific Name: Phylloscopus xanthoschistos

Local Name : Lakoit yrngam

Delicately beautiful small warbler with a greenish back, lemon-yellow underparts, a cinder-gray head, and bright white eyebrow stripes. Somewhat similar to Yellow-bellied Warbler, but note yellow instead of white throat. Forages actively in the upper levels of broadleaf and mixed montane forest, often in open patches. Sometimes descends to lower elevations in the non-breeding season, often turning up in foothill forest edges and gardens.



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Grey Peacock Pheasant

Scientific Name: Polyplectron bicalcaratum

Local Name: Ka Bro u Klew



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Head and neck brownish buff with short rowzled mop-like crest. Naked facial skin yellowish pink . Rest of upper plumage greyish brown greyish brown, spotted and barred with whitish on back, rump and upper tail-coverts. Mantle, wing-coverts, and feathers of broad fan-shaped tail studded with brilliant violet green-blue , white –rimmed eye spots or ocelli. Female is similar but duller and shorter tail.Found mainly in the dense primary forest

Grey sibia

Scientific Name: Heterophasi gracilis

Local Name : Sim Siar

Gray overall with a brown cast to the back, a dark head and back-and-silver panels on the wings. Underparts are pale with the throat being the whitest. Inhabits foot hills forest where itnis usually forage in the upper layers.



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District.

Grey Tree Pie

Scientific Name: Dendrocitta formosae

Local Name : Myrlek



Location: Dulong College Road, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

A long-tailed corvid found in lowland to submontane forests, parks, and gardens. Adults have black face, gray nape, brown back, pale belly, dark wings (with white patch visible in flight), orange undertail coverts, and long, black-tipped gray tail.

Himalayan Griffon

Scientific Name: Gyps himalayensis

Local Name: Syngkni

It is a huge brown vulture that turn almost white with age. Adult is sandy brown with pale featherless head. Usually seen singly or in groups gathers in large flocks at a carcass.



Location: Riaturiem, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills

Hume's Warbler

Scientiific Name: Phylloscopus humei

Local Name : Sim Kokirit



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai

Compact leaf warbler with two whitish wingbars (one broad and prominent), greenish-gray upperparts, an indistinct crown stripe, and conspicuous white tips to the innermost flight feathers. Bill and legs usually dark. Extremely similar to Yellow-browed Warbler, but grayer and "colder" overall, with less extensive orangish coloration on the lower bill. Also compare with Two-barred Warbler and Greenish Warbler, both of which lack a crown stripe and have more extensive orange on the bill.

Indian Roller

Scientific Name: Coracias benghalensis

Local Name : Sim Salia

The Indian roller is a stocky bird about 26–27 cm long. The breast is brownish in colour whereas the crown and vent are blue in colour. The primaries are deep purplish blue with a band of pale blue. The tail is sky blue with a terminal band of Prussian blue and the central feathers are dull green. The neck and throat are purplish lilac with white shaft streaks. The bare patch around the eye is ochre in colour. Rollers have a long and compressed bill with a curved upper edge and a hooked tip. The nostril is long and exposed and there are long rictal bristles at the base of the bill.



Location: Saphai, West Jaintia Hills District

Kalij Pheasant

Scientific Name: Lophura leucomelanos

Local Name : Nirai Kynthai



Location: Khloo Blai Sein Raij Tuber Community Reserve

It is widely distributed throughout the North Eastern Part of India. Both the sexes of the Kalij Pheasant have red facial skin and downcurved tail. Male has blue black underparts, and variable amounts of white on rump and underparts. Female varies from blue brown to reddish brown, with greyish buff fringes producing scaly appearance.

Lesser Coucal

Scientific Name: Centropus bengalensis

Local Name : Sim Pein Krem

This slightly smaller-sized and shorter-billed coucal has a very long hind claw, the longest within the genus. The overall plumage, as in many other coucals, is of a blackish bird with a long tail and rufous wings. The wing coverts also have pale shafts showing as whitish streaks on the brown feathers. The central upper tail coverts are barred and very long. The iris is darker brown and not the crimson red as in the greater coucal. Juveniles have black spots, bars and have a browner colour.



Location: Mukhaialong East Jaintia Hills District

Lesser Yellownape

Scientific Name: Picus chlorolophus

Local Name : Sim Pooh Dein stemkhlieh



Location: Pahar Umkiang, East Jaintia Hills District.

The Lesser Yellownape is a type of woodpecker. The upperparts are green apart from the bright yellow tufted nape. The neck and breast are green and the belly is whitish, finely barred with green. The rump and tail are blackish. The adult male Lesser Yellownape has a green head with a white throat. He has red markings above the eye and above the nape, and red moustachial stripes. Females have only a red patch above the ear coverts.

Little Pied Flycatcher

Scientiific Name: Ficedula westermanni

Local Name : Sim Liehkpoh

Male is strikingly unique with his bold black-and-white patterning. Female is unique in her plainness: somber gray-brown above with pale underparts and a slightly cinnamon tint to the rump. Sallies from exposed perches in the upper and middle levels of the forest and moves with mixed flocks in the non-breeding season.



Location: Dulong College Road, Jowai.



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Long Tailed Shrike

Scientific Name: Lanius schach

Local Name : Lorni



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

The long-tailed shrike is a typical shrike, favouring dry open habitats and found perched prominently atop a bush or on a wire. The dark mask through the eye is broad and covers the forehead in most subspecies and the whole head is black in subspecies tricolor and nasutus. The tail is narrow and graduated with pale rufous on the outer feathers.

Loten's Sunbird

Scientific Name: Nectarinia lotenia

Local Name : Sim Kbiat Syntu

Loten's Sunbird is similar to the Purple Sunbird but has a duller grey belly and a much longer, stronger down curved bill. Male has dusky brown belly and vent. Female dark Olive-green on upperparts; lacks supercilium and masked appearance of purple.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Maroon Oriole

Scientific Name: Oriolus traillii

Local Name : Sim Kbiat Syntu



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary.

The maroon oriole has maroon and black plumage with a black head, neck and wings with a blueish beak. The females have slightly darker bodies and the juveniles have lighter bodies. The adult male is glossy crimson-maroon in color, with black head, neck and wings and a chestnut-maroon tail. The females and immature males have a greyish-white underpart with black streaks.

Mountain Bamboo Patridge

Scientific Name: Bambusicola fytchii

Local Name: Iyngkhiar

The Mountain Bamboo Patridge has long tail, chestnut spotting on breast and upperparts, blackish spotting on flanks and buffish supercilium. The male *Bambusicola fytchii* are larger than the females.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Mountain Bulbul

Scientiific Name: Ixos mcclellandii

Local Name : Sim Choo



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

True to its name, tends to be found in the upper reaches of forested hills and mountains. Olive-green overall, with lighter buffy underparts and a streaky gray throat. Crested head, similar size, and pale throat can cause it to superficially resemble Chestnut Bulbul in poor lighting, but Mountain Bulbul has a longer-billed and paler-faced appearance.

Nepal Fulvetta

Scientific Name: Alcippe nipalensis

Local Name : Sim Lathpot

The Nepal Fulvetta have more pronounced pale eye-ring and black brow stripe, as well as warmer sepia tones on the wings and a white chin. Inhabits foothill to highland forests and edges, where it roves around in flocks, foraging in the middle and lower levels.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Olive Backed Pipit

Scientific Name: Anthus hodgsoni

Local Name : Sim Kred Kred



Small pipit with a greenish-brown back and heavily streaked breast and belly , with a distinctive facial pattern broad pale line surrounding the eye and a dark ear patch. Prefer more forest area than other pipit.

Location: Myntwa, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Orange Headed Thrush

Scientific Name: Zoothera sibirica

Local Name : Sim Ksiar

Adult has Orange head and underparts; male with blue-grey mantle, female with olive brown wash to mantle. Juvenile has buffish orange streaking on upper parts and mottled breast. The orange-headed thrush is omnivorous, eating a wide range of insects, earthworms and fruit.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Oriental Magpie Robin

Scientific Name: Copsychus saularis

Local Name : Sim Jri Khla Iong



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District.

A medium-sized robin with a broad white wingbar running from the shoulder to the tip of the wings. Note white outer tail feathers, particularly when in flight. Males sport black-and-white plumage while the females are grayish brown and white. Juveniles resemble females, but have a scaly head and upper parts. These birds are often seen in cultivated areas, open woodlands, and gardens.

Oriental Turtle Dove

Scientific Name: Streptopelia orientalis

Local Name: Lathkur

A dove with attractive plumage: rufous-scaled scapulars and wing coverts, dusky under-parts, and a black-and-white striped patch on the side of its neck made of silver-tipped feathers. There is a considerable variation in plumage in different subspecies.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Oriental White Eye

Scientific Name: Zosterops palpebrosus

Local Name : Sim Langdong Khmat



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District.

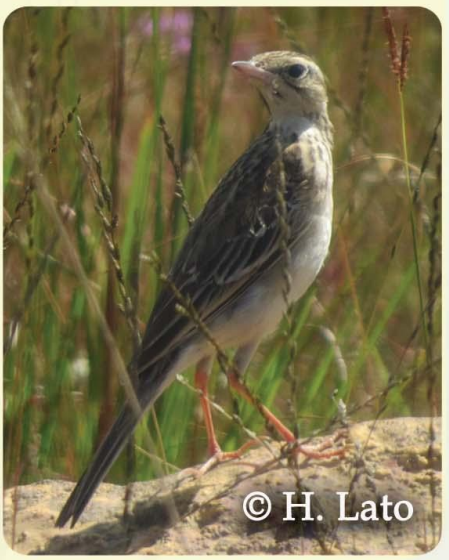
Oriental White Eyes are hyperactive little greenish bird with an off-white belly and white "spectacles." Found in a wide range of habitats, from mangroves to gardens to forest edge; generally favours more open forested areas, not dense tangles. Travels in flocks, sometimes mixed in with other species. Note light bouncing flight.

Paddyfield Pipit

Scientific Name: Anthus rufulus

Local Name : Sim Puhkba

The Paddyfield Pipit is one of the most common and widespread Pipits. They are of a sparrow-sized, resident pipit with brown plumage that varies in tones in different parts of its range. All birds have a bi-coloured bill with a curve to the tip of the upper bill. The breast is streaked and the upperparts have variable amounts of streaking. Very similar to Blyth's and Richard's Pipits, but relatively compact and has a more distinct eyebrow, fainter or no streaking on the back of the neck with a larger head and a shorter tail.



Location: Ialong, West Jaintia Hills District.

Pin Striped Tit Babbler

Scientific Name: Macronoun gularis

Local Name: Sim Mar Khmut



Location: Khloo Molikso Dulong Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

The species has a distinctive yellowish supercillium and rufous crown. The throate is yellowish with brown streaks.call is loud similar to tailor birds.

Plumbeous Water Redstart

Scientific Name: Rhyacornis fuliginosis

Local Name: Sim Siw de Por

Plumbeous Water Redstart is a small and sturdy songbird of fast-flowing streams and rivers. Regularly ventures into waterside human settlements, around dams, levees, and canals. Male is slaty gray-blue with a brilliant orange tail that is often fanned. Female and juvenile are gunmetal gray with scaly undersides and bright white on the upper half of the tail. High, whistled vocalizations can often be surprisingly audible, even over roaring water.



Location: Malidor River East Jaintia Hills District.

Red Vented Bulbul

Scientific Name: Pycnonotus cafer

Local Name: Laroit Iong/Lakoit



Location: Shangpung,
West Jaintia Hills District.

The red-vented bulbul is easily identified by its short crest giving the head a squarish appearance. The body is dark brown with a scaly pattern while the head is darker or black. The rump is white while the vent is red. The black tail is tipped in white. Sexes are similar in plumage, but young birds are duller than adults.

Red Wattled Lapwing

Scientific Name: Vanellus indicus

Local Name: Sim Tyrdiw Doit

Like other lapwings they are ground birds that are incapable of perching. The wings and back are light brown with a purple to green sheen, but the head, a bib on the front and back of the neck are black. Prominently white patch runs between these two colours, from belly and tail, flanking the neck to the sides of crown. Short tail is tipped black. In flight, prominent white wing bars formed by the white on the secondary coverts. Males and females are similar in plumage.



Location:Ionglang West Jaintia
Hills District.

Rufous Throated Partridge

Scientific Name: Arborophila rufogularis

Local Name-Khruit



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

A beautiful little gamebird of foothill and highland forests with extensive ground-level cover, where it moves about in medium-sized convoys through the dense undergrowth. Usually quiet, though sings melodically and loudly at dusk and dawn. Brightly-colored, even for a partridge; both sexes have a bright orange throat, a bluish-gray chest, and orange-and-white spotting on the sides.

Russet sparrow

Scientific Name: Passer cinnamomeus

Local Name: Sim China

A chunky little seed-eating bird with a thick bill, it has a body length of 14 to 15 cm (5.5–5.9 in). Its plumage is mainly warm rufous above and grey below. It exhibits sexual dimorphism, with the plumage of both sexes patterned similarly to that of the corresponding sex of house sparrow. Its vocalisations are sweet and musical chirps, which when strung together form a song.



Location: Syntu Ksiar, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Scarlet Minivet

Scientific Name: Pericrocotus speciosus

Local: Sim Dai Bei Dai Pa



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District

Brilliantly-colored forest bird, typically encountered in flocks. Coloration varies significantly throughout wide distribution, with males ranging from black-and-crimson and females are predominantly gray-and-yellow.

Siberian Stonechat

Scientific Name: Saxicola maurus

Local Name: Sim Set Set

Breeding male has a black head, broad white half-collar, and rusty-red chest. Non-breeding male is patchier, with a paler head and chest. Female is predominantly streaky brown above, with a weaker, less contrasting face and chest pattern.



Location: Mynkre, East Jaintia Hills District.

Silver Eared Mesia

Scientific Name: Leiothrix argentauris

Local Name: Sim Mar Khmut Stem



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District

Siver Eared Mesia is a 15-centimetre- (6-inch-) long bird is olive above and yellow below, with a black crown, silver ear patches, and some crimson on the tail.

Small Button Quail

Scientific Name: Turnix sylvaticus

Local Name- Latyut

The common buttonquail resembles the common quail. It has streaked sandy brown upperparts, buff underparts with black flank markings, and a plain face. In flight, a whitish wingbar contrasts with the grey wing. Sexes are similar, but immature birds are more spotted below.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Small Niltava

Scientific Name: Niltava macgrigoriae

Local Name : Sim Soo



Location: Khloo Blai Sein Raij Tuber Community Reserve

Size distinguishes this species from other Niltavas; coloration is quite similar to Large Niltava, which is double in size. Male Small Niltava is bright blue with the brightest patches on the shoulder and forehead. Female is brown with a white eye ring and a rufous tail and wingtips. Forages in the lower and middle levels of hilly and montane forests, usually singly.

Spangled Drongo

Scientific Name: Dicrurus hottentottus

Local Name- Sim Mehblang/Sim Brip Brip

A big, stocky, dark Drongo with highly iridescent wings and shiny feathers on breast and back of the neck. Note triangular tail with flaring tips that curl out sideways and a large, curved bill with which it probes for nectar in flowering trees. Adult male has black glossy plumage, with metallic blue-green iridescent "spangles". Long black tail is out curved and forked. Undertail coverts have whitish edges. Head is black. Black bill is heavy, with base bordered with black bristles. Eyes are red. Legs and feet are blackish. Both sexes are similar, with male slightly larger than female.

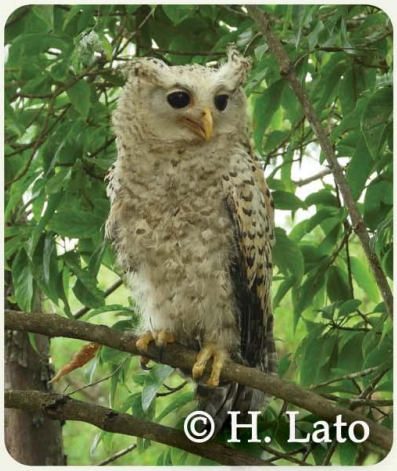


Location: Brichyrnot, East Jaintia Hills District.

Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

Scientific Name: Bubo nipalensis

Local-Dhoh/Khla Sim



Location: Umladang, West Jaintia Hills District.

The spot-bellied eagle-owl is overall a stark, grayish brown bird, with dark, coarse brown coloration over the back and upper wings. The throat and underparts are mainly pale fulvous in colour with black and white horizontal stripes along the flanks of the body that become broad spots on the abdomen and under tail coverts. On the wings, the primaries are dark brown with lighter brown stripes and the secondaries are more heavily barred with buff-brown coloration. The lores are covered in bristly feathers and the cheeks are brownish-white with black feather shafts. The large ear tufts slant off to the sides. Juvenile birds are distinct from adult birds, being a much paler grayish-cream overall with fairly heavy brownish barring.

Spotted Dove

Scientific Name: Streptopelia chinensis

Local-Lathkur Pyrsit/Lathkur Sangi

Spotted Doves are most recognizable by their black patch and white spots at the back of their neck. They are mostly light brown on their upper parts, with darker centers in the feathers on their back and wings. Their head is gray, and their neck and underparts are gray-brown, tinged with pink. When flying, their white-tipped tail is seen clearly. Males and females have similar plumage.



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills

Streaked Spiderhunter

Scientific Name: Arachnothera magna

Local- Jiarladaw



Location: Kudengrim, West Jaintia Hills District.

A large and noisy inhabitant of tropical and subtropical hill forests. Distinctive in its range; a large spiderhunter with a long, curved black bill and black streaking all over its yellow-green upperparts and lighter yellow underparts. Gleans invertebrates from foliage, but also hovers around and probes into flowers for nectar.

Striated Prinia

Scientiific Name: Prinia crinigera

Local Name : Pdia wyrthoh

A rather dully plumaged songbird of fields, grass-lands, forest edges, and farmland; often sparsely spread and difficult to find. Gray-brown above with a pale belly and blackish streaking on head and wings.



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Striated Yuhinia

Scientific Name: Yuhina castaniceps

Local Name : Sim Puhsyntu



Location: Shangpung, West Jaintia Hills District

Typical Yuhina: a small crested bird, usually encountered foraging in the upper and middle levels of broad-leaf forests in large flocks. Brown above and white below, with a brown patch behind the ear. Gray-headed birds are all but identical in appearance to Indochinese Yuhina, which barely overlaps in range.

Sultan tit

Scientific Name: Melanochlora sultanea

Local Name : Sim Stem Shyrtong

The sultan tit is a large songbird with a yellow crest, dark bill, black upperparts plumage and yellow underparts. The sexes are similar. The female has greenish black upperparts and yellowish throat. The young bird is duller than the adult and has a shorter crest.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

Tawny-Breasted Wren Babbler

Scientific Name: Spelaeornis longicaudatus

Local- Chok Chok/Sim Pooh Wieh



Location: Khloo Blai Sein Raij Kong-wasan Chyrmang Community Reserve, West Jaintia Hills District.

A small, rust-coloured bird with gray cheeks and white on the throat and belly. The upperparts are brown, and the rusty underparts lack the white streaks of other similar species. Skulks in under-growth and low vegetation in evergreen forests, forest edges, and bamboo thickets.

Tree Pipit

Scientific Name: Anthus trivialis

Local- Chyrkiah Lum

This is a small pipit, which resembles meadow pipit. It is an undistinguished-looking species, streaked brown above and with black markings on a white belly and buff breast below. It can be distinguished from the slightly smaller meadow pipit by its heavier bill and greater contrast between its buff breast and white belly. Tree pipits more readily perch in trees.



Location: Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Velvet Fronted Nuthatch

Scientific Name: Sitta frontalis

Local Name: Sim Krup Blue



Location: Forest Complex, Mihmyntdu, Moomon Jowai, West Jaintia Hills

It is violet-blue above, with lavender cheeks, beige underparts, yellow eyes, and a whitish throat. The bill is red, and there is a black patch on the forehead and lores which is well developed in adults and less so in younger birds. Adult males can be told apart by the black superciliary stripe that runs above the eye and over the head, towards the nape. Females lack the supercilium and have a warmer underpart colour. Juveniles are duller versions of the adult lacking the black frontal band.

Verditer Flycatcher

Scientific Name: Eumyias thalassina

Local Name : Sim Bam khniang

This species is named after its distinctive shade of copper-sulphate blue and has a dark patch between the eyes and above the bill base. The adult males are intense blue on all areas of the body, except for the black eye-patch and grey vent. Adult females and sub-adults are lighter blue. Juvenile has orange buff spotting, with turquoise cast to upperparts and underparts.



Location: Tpep Pale, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Whiskered Yuhina

Scientiific Name: Yuhina flavicollis

Local Name: Sim Thot Thot



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Distinguished-looking small songbird with a brown mohawk of a crest. Brown above and white below with an orange nape and a small black mustache stripe. Slender white eye crescents give it a "spectacled" appearance on top of a whiskered one. Like other yuhinas, a very social bird, often seen foraging in the lower and middle levels of hilly broadleaf forests, sometimes with other species.

White Capped Redstart

Scientific Name: Chaimarrornis leucocephalus

Local Name: Sim Iuspong/Sim Thom Thom

Chunky, brightly-coloured redstart found along rushing boulder-strewn mountain streams. Black with a wine-red belly and tail and a blazing white cap; in poor lighting, appears all dark, save for the cap. Both the Sexes are similar in appearance. Frequently flicks tail up and down and flares it open while perched on a streamside rock or stump.



Location: Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

White Throated Kingfisher

Scientific Name: Halcyon smyrnensis

Local Name: Jien de Pyrthieh



Location: Lukha River

The adult White Throated Kingfisher has a bright blue back, wings and tail. Its head, shoulders, flanks and lower belly are chestnut, and the throat and breast are white. The large bill and legs are bright red. The flight of the white-throated kingfisher is rapid and direct, the short rounded wings whirring. In flight, large white patches are visible on the blue and black wings. Both the Sexes are similar in appearnce, but juveniles are a duller version of the adult.

White Wagtail

Scientific Name: Motacilla alba

Local- Tynnai/Dak Wah

Distinctive but variable: all plumages are some bold combination of black, white, and gray. Shows considerable variation in plumage across the world, but never has a clear, thin and contrasting eye-brow like White-browed or Japanese Wagtail. Occurs in varied open habitats, from wild grassy areas and wetlands to paved car parks and grassy lawns. Usually seen as singles, pairs, or small groups walking and running around, pumping the long, white-sided tail up and down.



Location: Syntu Ksiar, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District.

Yellow Browed Warbler

Scientiific Name: Phylloscopus inornatus

Local Name: Sim Jak Jak

Small, active warbler with greenish upperparts, white underparts, distinct pale yellowish eyebrow, and distinct pale wingbars (upper wingbar short and less distinct). Overlaps in range with many other warbler species; compare especially with Hume's Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, and Two-barred Warbler. Breeds in mid- to high-elevation forests and winters in a wide range of wooded and scrubby habitats, where usually rather active; sometimes hovers to pick bugs from leaf tips.



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.

Yellow Tit

Scientiific Name: Machlolophus aplonotus

Local Name: Sim Thok Thok Stem

The only crested tit in most of its range. Black front with yellow cheek and yellow eyebrow. Yellowish-green upperparts, white-spotted wings, and yellow-and-black underparts. Females and juveniles are duller, with shorter crests, central stripe thinner and incomplete, and yellowish parts becoming dull white.



Location: Salaroh Wildlife Complex, Jowai.