

Notable bird records from Bangladesh from July 2002 to July 2013

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Details are given of 38 species new for Bangladesh which were recorded between July 2002 and December 2013. New sightings and information are given for a further 86 species that either have few records since 1978, or for which there have been major changes in known status, or for which there is uncertainty over status, or which are globally threatened and for which a status update for Bangladesh is warranted. In addition one species of doubtful occurrence is discussed, and the status of globally threatened and near threatened species is updated where appropriate. This period has seen an increase in the number of active Bangladeshi birdwatchers, several surveys for threatened species, the advent of digital photography to document sightings and, most recently, a series of ringing camps where mist-netting revealed the presence of secretive passerines in reed-scrub habitat in the north-eastern wetlands.

INTRODUCTION

Since the summary of the status of birds in Bangladesh (Harvey 1990), two papers (Thompson *et al.* 1993, Thompson & Johnson 2003) have detailed notable bird records, and a carefully revised national checklist and discussion of unconfirmed records has been published (Siddique *et al.* 2008). The purpose of this paper is to update information on the status of rarer birds in Bangladesh for the 11-year period from July 2002 to December 2013 (henceforward 'this period').

Species discussed in this paper fall into three main categories:

- (1) new for Bangladesh in this period (marked †);
- (2) those previously assumed to occur but for which neither specimens nor documented observations are available or which had not been recorded for many years before 1978 (see below) and which have been rarely recorded since June 1993;
- (3) threatened and Near Threatened species for which changes in status have been found during this period.

Details of all records since July 2002 are given for species with up to ten records since 1978. For those which have been found to be more frequent general details of status and peak counts are given; and in some cases first records for regions of the country are detailed. The year 1978 marked the start of observations in Bangladesh by David L. Johnson and Md. Ali Reza Khan. Prior to then, there are few if any descriptions available for species claimed and there was a lack of field guides and identification literature available in Bangladesh; therefore 1978 has been treated as the start of 'modern' field observation and recording of birds in the country (Thompson *et al.* 1993).

It should be noted that 'new' species for Bangladesh is a broad definition because in many cases previous lists, for example Rashid (1967), included species which were assumed to occur but for which specimens or documented observations were not available. In addition, Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*, a species for which there are recent claims but which is not proven to have occurred in Bangladesh, is discussed (see below).

This period has seen an increase in the number of active Bangladeshi birdwatchers, and the formation of the Bangladesh bird club (Bbc) has encouraged the documentation and circulation of unusual records, several surveys for threatened species, the use of digital photography to document sightings, and a series of ringing camps that revealed the presence of secretive passerines in reed-scrub habitat—the results of those surveys are reported in detail in Round *et al.* (2014). Several papers and notes have already been published covering first sightings in this period; for completeness these records are included in this paper but without repeating details or descriptions.

Records in the following list are related to regions of Bangladesh (north-west, south-east, etc.). This geographical arrangement is a revised version of the regions used in Harvey (1990) and the boundaries of these regions are shown in Figure 1, along with the locations of the 92 sites mentioned in the text. Place names follow current usage in official documents and maps in Bangladesh, but it should be noted that there are often alternative transliterations in common usage.

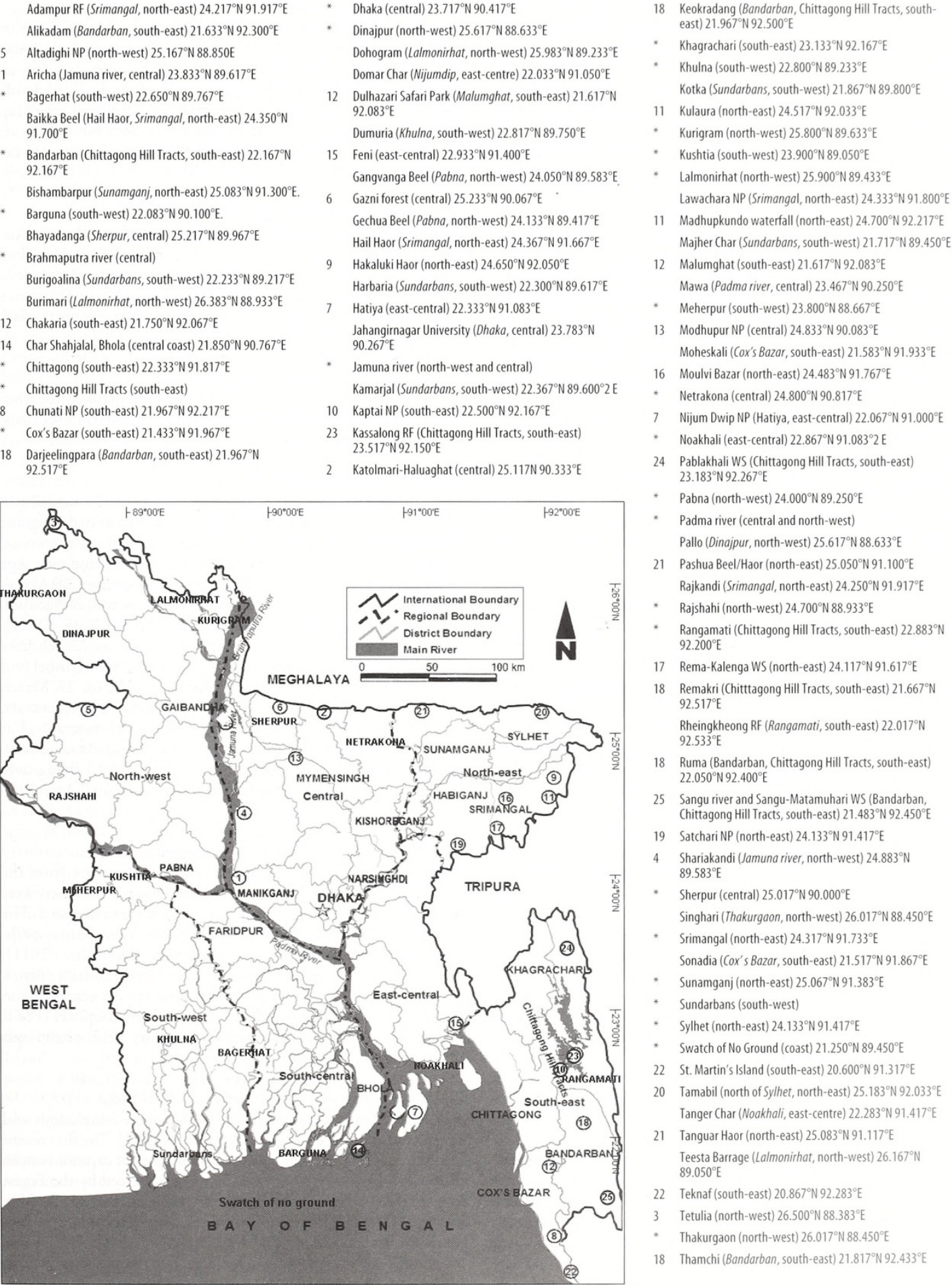
In the following list, BirdLife International (2013) is followed for the species order, scientific names and global threatened status; the latter is indicated where appropriate. Where the threat status in Bangladesh is different, it is indicated following IUCN Bangladesh (2000) and this is followed by a comment on the status.

The records reported here are largely sight records, but in each case have been made by at least one observer with several years of field experience in the region. Where possible field notes have been collated and are stored with PMT or SUC. There is often additional documentation (photographs and tape recordings), and in some cases birds have been caught, measured and released.

The initials of the observer's name are indicated after records and the full names of all contributors are given here: Abdullah Abu Diyan (AAD), Abu Bakar Siddik (ABS), Alex Lees (AL), Andrew Pierce (AP), Ali Reza Hayder (ARH), Adnan S. Ali (ASA), Arend van Riessen (AvR), Bashir Ahmed (BA), Bisharga Das (BD), Chris Craig (CC), C.M. Reza (CMR), Christoph Zöckler (CZ), Dilip Biswas (DB), Enam Talukder (ET), Enam Ul Haque (EUH), Faysal Ahmed (FA), Farhad Pavel (FP), Ishrat Jebin (IJ), Jalal Ahmed (JA), Jeremy Bird (JB), John O'Malley (JOM), James Pender (JP), Munir Ahmed (MA), Mohammad Foysal (MF), Majeda Huq (MH), M. Monirul H. Khan (MK), Mohsin Kabir Miron (MoK), M. A. Muhi (MM), Nathan Charles (NC), Nick Dymond (ND), Naimul Islam (NI), Nazim Uddin Khan Prince (NP), Omar Shahadat (OS), Paul M. Thompson (PMT), Philip D. Round (PDR), Parvin Sultana (PS), Ronald Halder (RH), Reza Khan (RK), Rob Martin (RoM), Rubaiyat Mansoor (RuM), Rabiul Rabi (RR), Rainer Schutt (RS), Shamim Ahmed (SA), Simon Carter (SCa), Shimanto Dipu (SD), Sirajul Hossain (SH), Sharif Hossain Sourav (SHS), Sajid Iqbal (SI), S.I. Shohel (SIS), Simon Mahood (SMa), Sadananda Mandal Fatik (SMF); Samiul Mohsanin (SMo), Sontaya Manawattana (SMt), Sue O'Malley (SOM), Sanjar Rahul (SR), Shibli Sadik (SS), Sahad Siddique (SaS), Sayam U. Chowdhury (SUC), Tim Inskipp (TI), Tania Khan (TK), Tareq Onu (TO), William Jones (WJ), Zahangir Alom (ZA), Zamiruddin Faisal (ZF).

The initials NP, RF and WS after a place name stand for National Park, Reserve Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary, respectively.

Figure 1. Map of Bangladesh showing locations mentioned in the text. Locations shown by name are indicated with a *; locations given a number are indicated by that number; remaining locations are near or within the italicised named location. Coordinates not appropriate for rivers or very large sites.



NEW SPECIES AND NOTABLE RECORDS

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*

Rare breeding resident. Critically Endangered in Bangladesh. Although widely reported after Simson (1882) in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, only one sighting was reported from Modhupur NP (central) in Thompson & Johnson (2003). Since 2009 a small population has been found in Kazipara, Tetulia Upazila (sub-district), Panchagar district, in the far north-west, adjacent to the international border (Chowdhury 2011). Here surveys have estimated a small population of up to 50 birds, several have been photographed, and two nests were found (Sourav 2014). In 2013 one abandoned nest was found on 29 June and one active nest was found on 21 August, both in tea gardens in this area; both had four eggs (MK). Presumably the birds here are part of a larger population that uses the surrounding Indian land and could also occur in other sub-districts of Panchagar. Local people interviewed by MK in January 2012 reported that this species also occurs in Singhari in western Thakurgaon (north-west). The status of this species in other areas remains unclear, but at best it is very rare: in the south-east in the Chittagong Hill Tracts there is one record—a male was seen on 11 November 2004 along the Sangu River (RH).

Blue Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

Presumed rare resident. The third recent record was in 2002 at Kotka grassland, Sundarbans, south-west (Khan 2005). The fourth record and first for the north-west was one flushed from harvested rice stubble while the observer approached a Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger* on 27 December 2006 at Pallo, Dinajpur district (JP). It showed striking bright red colouration around the tail, and gave a purring *rrrrrbh/brrrrrr* call.

Grey Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

Rare or very localised resident. Critically Endangered in Bangladesh. Feathers were collected by EUH from tribal trappers who ate a bird in February 2003 in Alikadam, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), and local people at different locations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts reported to SUC that it survives in well-wooded areas of regenerating land after *jhum* (shifting cultivation). One new location for this species was added during this period, in Kaptai NP, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) one was seen in early May 2010 (MK, SS), and another in 2013 (RR, NP), and it has been heard on several visits by various observers.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* †

Vulnerable. Vagrant. The first for Bangladesh was a single adult at Hakaluki Haor (north-east) on 19 February 2011; see Thompson (2011) for details and photographs.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*

Vagrant. After the first records—two males and a probable female (Thompson & Johnson 2003)—the third to fifth records were males, all in Tanguar Haor (north-east): one on Hatirgatha Beel on 20 February 2011 (SUC), one on Lechumara Beel on 31 December 2012 (SUC, MK, RK, SD, RH) and one there on 22 February 2013 (RH).

Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*

Critically Endangered winter visitor, declining and now rare. The status of this species, for which Bangladesh has been one of the main wintering areas, was reviewed by Chowdhury *et al.* (2012). They found that it has declined from an average of 99 per year between 2001 and 2005, to an average of fewer than eight per year between 2006 and 2011. None was recorded during winter 2012–13 despite the main wetlands in the north-east where it previously

occurred (Tanguar and Hakaluki Haors) continuing to hold large numbers of other waterfowl.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* †

The first record for Bangladesh was a bird captured by a fisherman and photographed by CMR at St Martin's Island on 19 April 2008; full details of its identification and photographs are given in Thompson *et al.* (2013). This appears to be only the third South Asian record: Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) noted two May specimens from Pakistan and Sri Lanka; in addition Giri *et al.* (2013) reported two photographed in West Bengal, India, not far from the Bangladesh border in April 2013.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* †

Rare winter visitor. The only previous (unconfirmed) claim was from midwinter waterbird surveys summarised in Li & Mundkur (2004). Pender (2010) details the first four records for Bangladesh from: Gowrinagor Mat and Govinpur Beel, Meherpur district (south-west) close to the Indian border, Tanguar Haor (north-east) and Faridpur (south-west).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Vagrant. The second record was of four photographed together swimming on the Jamuna River near Aricha (central) on 5 February 2012 (SUC, JP, MF, OS).

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

Vagrant. With only two records between 1977 and 2002 (Thompson & Johnson 2003), this species has remained a vagrant but with an increase in sightings, almost all from the coast. The seven records in this period comprise: one flying over Aga Thakurpara village, Barguna district (south-west), on 26 March 2004 (EUH); four flying over Sundarbans mangroves, Burigoalini, Munshiganj, Shatkira (south-west), in February 2005 (EUH); one in a field at Rupgonj, Narayanganj, Dhaka, on 27 February 2006 (SR); one photographed along Moheshkhali channel and Bakkhali river, Cox's Bazar (south-east coast), on 28 March 2008 (EUH, SR); five seen at Mawa, Padma River (central), on 20 November 2009 (RH); eight seen and photographed at Domar Char, Nijum Dwip, Noakhali district (south central coast), on 20 November 2012 (SUC, SMo, SCa); and 14 flying over Doleshawar, South Keranigonj, Dhaka (central), on 7 May 2013 (MF).

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* †

Vagrant. Although reported in the nineteenth century from the south-west (Cripps 1878) and north-east (Hume 1888), there were no recent confirmed records and it was considered extirpated. The first recent record was one seen flying at Kotka, Sundarbans (south-west), on 9 October 2009 by many observers (Chowdhury 2011); the second was one on the Padma River, Godagari, Rajshahi district, on 27 January 2011 (SD); and the third was one on a sandbank in the Jamuna River, Pabna (north-west) on 27 December 2011 (PMT, PS) and again at the same location on 1 January 2012, when it was photographed (SUC, MF, OS).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* †

Near Threatened. Vagrant. Data Deficient in Bangladesh and considered extinct (Thompson & Johnson 2003). The first recent record came in December 2009 when local people captured one in Hakaluki Haor (north-east) and it was transferred by the Forest Department to the animal collection in Dulhazari Safari Park. Also, at Nagua Dhulia, Hakaluki Haor, three immatures were seen and photographed on 8 March 2010 (EUH, SMo, MF, TK, BA). These birds are presumed to have wandered from the nearest populations in India on the Ganga or Brahmaputra floodplains.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* †

Rare winter visitor. Although first recorded in the nineteenth century by Cripps (1878), Simson (1882) and Hume (1888), and subsequently included in most national lists, we were unable to trace any previous recent well-documented records. There has been a spate of winter records since 2011 in three large wetlands, all in the north-east. The first was one in Tanguar Haor on 7 and 21 February 2011 (EUH, RH, ET, SH, ZF, SUC), one (almost in breeding plumage) was in Chodainna Khal, Tanguar Haor, on 12 March 2011 (MK), and three were there on 20 March 2011 (TK, MA). In 2013, 12 were at Hatirgatha Beel, Tanguar Haor, on 8–11 February (SUC, MK, SD), and 26 were counted there on 6 March (Round *et al.* 2014). At Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal, a flock of 25 on 11–12 February 2013 (PMT) had increased to 30 on 26 February 2013 (PDR); and in Hakaluki Haor three were seen on 9 November 2013 (PMT).

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Winter vagrant. The fourth record was of one captured by local trappers at Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), in early November 2010; initially it was held in a local private zoo, but was then released back into the haor on 12 November 2010 (EUH, PMT).

Malaysian Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*

Rare resident. Although there are a number of sightings from eastern forests and it has been regarded as resident (Siddique *et al.* 2008), the first proof of breeding came in this period from four sites. A juvenile was seen in Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), in March 2006 (EUH); a juvenile was seen in Karamjal, Sundarbans (south-west), on 16 May 2008 (MK); and a nest was found in Lawachara NP (north-east) in May 2010 (TK, MA, MK) from which three young are believed to have fledged. In Kaptai NP, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), there were three breeding records: a nest was found in Bangchhari on 7 June 2010 (MK); a juvenile was seen along a stream on 2 June 2012 (MK); and a fledgling was seen on 23 November 2013 (EUH).

Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*

No confirmed records. The uncertain status of past reports of this species was discussed in Thompson & Johnson (2003). Since then there have been sightings and photographs of a few egrets structurally identical to and with the same bare-parts colouration as Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, but with grey or mixed grey and whitish plumage, from Hakaluki Haor (north-east) in February 2010 and one photographed in Moulvi Bazar in August 2011 (both EUH). PDR (*in litt.* 2012) has advised that similar egrets are regular in Thailand and are Little Egrets, and we have concluded that this is the case also in Bangladesh. Hence there are no confirmed records of Western Reef Egret.

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

Vagrant. There is one previous confirmed record of a white-phase bird (Thompson & Johnson 2003). During 1–4 January 2010 two dark-phase birds were found and photographed on St Martin's Island, Cox's Bazar district (south-east), the most south-westerly point of Bangladesh, lying 8 km off the Myanmar coast (EUH, SUC, MH). These birds were reported by MK and several other observers to have remained up to the end of that month.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* †

Vagrant or rare passage migrant. Although included in a few lists and publications for Bangladesh including Rashid (1967), there had been no confirmed documented records. The first record was a flock of about 200 seen and recorded by video and still photography (reproduced in Halder 2010) in late November 2007 at Madhupur Lake and tea estate, Srimangal (north-east) (RH).

Identifications were based on obvious males seen well, and female-plumaged birds in the same flock were presumed to be this species. In October 2009 at Farua, Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) a flock of 6–7 was observed and photographed flying north-east (RH). This species is recorded as a rare passage migrant elsewhere in South Asia, usually in flocks, including the south Assam hills to the north of Bangladesh and the Himalayas mostly in autumn, with some in spring (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), so these records are consistent with this pattern.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* †

Vagrant. The first record was one seen from a boat just off the southern tip of Hatiya Island, Noakhali (central coast), on 13 March 2013 (WJ, PDR, SMO). When first seen it was flying very close to the surface of the sea in hunting mode with swift flight on narrow wings and passed alongside the boat, continuing towards a flock of small waders on a nearby shore. It was clearly a very small falcon with no obvious head or facial markings other than brown streaking on the head and breast, and uniform upperparts showing some grey, with no subterminal band to the tail; these features ruled out Common Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*. It was probably a first-year bird. Other possible confusion species can also be ruled out: the narrow wings, small size and slight build immediately excluded Peregrine *F. peregrinus* seen on the same trip; it was not long-winged enough for Northern Hobby *F. subbuteo*, and did not show that species's strong face-pattern; and its tail was too short for Red-necked Falcon *F. chicquera*. WJ has regular annual experience of this species in the UK, and PDR past experience. Although regular in parts of Pakistan and north-west India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), there are only scattered records from Nepal, and no previous records from the coasts of the Bay of Bengal.

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

Critically Endangered. Rare resident. This species remains under severe threat in Bangladesh. Khan (2013) estimated that the population had fallen from just over 1,900 in 2008–09 to just over 800 in 2011–12, and that in 2009–10, out of 32 nests monitored, only five were successful, fledging five young in total. In 2010–11 eight young fledged from 31 nests. The highest number of nesting pairs (13–14) remain in the north-east, where a small nesting colony has been protected in a tea estate in Moulvi Bazar district since 2012 (TK, MA): there were nine active nests, six of them successfully fledging six young in 2012, but only seven (all unsuccessful) nests in 2013. A small population also survives in the northern part of the Sundarbans mangrove forests (south-west), where up to 10 individuals are regularly seen. In addition to the above records, the following are the largest individual flocks recorded in this period: 23 on a cattle carcass at Hail Haor (north-east) on 12 February 2005 (PMT); about 55 in Kalachara Tea Garden, Srimangal (north-east), in September–October 2009, of which several were reported to be dead, suggesting continued impacts of diclofenac (EUH, SUC, SMO, CMR, SD, ZF); and 45 on a cattle carcass in Dumuria, Khulna (south-west), on 1 August 2010 (NI). In addition to the wild population, Dhaka Zoo has five individuals, including a breeding pair. According to the keepers and monitoring by EUH, eggs have been laid three times since 2000; two eggs hatched and the offspring have survived and remain in captivity.

Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*

Scarce localised winter visitor. The only previous published record was in 2001 (Thompson & Johnson 2003). During this period, sightings of this species increased so that it now appears to be annual in small numbers, mostly in the north-east. All records are of immature birds, most often associating with the few remaining White-rumped Vultures. Early documented records (all from the

north-east unless stated) include: four on a carcass on the west side of Hail Haor on 12 February 2005 (PMT); three with one White-rumped Vulture drying out after a storm on the east side of Hail Haor and later circling over Srimangal town on 29 March 2009 (PMT); two on a carcass near Srimangal on 16 February 2011 (PMT, EUH); and two soaring over Bodormokum, Teknaf (south-east), on 8 January 2011 (SUC). Khan (2013) reported 16 sightings during 2008–12, from the north-east, central and north-west. Since 2008 birds have regularly been recorded each winter at a roosting site in a tea estate, Moulvi Bazar district (north-east), where a maximum of 21 were recorded in 2012 (Khan 2013), usually being present from late November to March (TK, MA).

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Vagrant. The only record in this period—the third—was one observed on the west side of Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), near a carcass with White-rumped Vultures and Himalayan Vultures on 12 February 2005 (PMT).

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Near Threatened. Vagrant. There are only two previous documented records (Thompson *et al.* 1993, Thompson & Johnson 2003). During this period all records involved injured or exhausted immatures, most of which were taken into captivity/care. As of 2013, Dhaka Zoo has three individuals and other local zoos have a few more. Observations in the field are limited to the following: a subadult that several times tried to take flight but did not succeed and appeared to be ill was seen and photographed on 16 January 2009 near Modhupur NP (central) (NC); one landed on a house at Bishambarpur, Sunamgonj (north-east), during the night in January 2013, and was caught by the house owner—it had lost a substantial number of flight feathers and was unable to fly when it was handed over to the Forest Department which placed it in the care of TK. She nursed it back to health, with advice from a range of vulture experts, and once its flight feathers had re-grown it was released at Moulvi Bazar on 26 April 2013.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Vagrant. The fourth record and the first since 1992 was an immature photographed in Sundarbans (south-west) in early November 2009 (RH, photograph reproduced in Halder 2010).

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Vagrant. The fourth record was an immature seen at close range perched in trees near the edge of the National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka (central), on 23 January 2009 (PMT, AvR).

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Regular winter visitor. There were multiple sightings by many observers of up to 11 in a day, mostly from chars (sandy islands) along the main rivers (Padma and Jamuna) during this period, which indicate that this species is a regular visitor.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

Vulnerable. Rare winter visitor. Previous records are from the central and south-east regions. In this period there was one record from the north-west: two adults flying over deciduous forest at Phulbari, Dinajpur, on 3 February 2005 (MK); and three records from the north-east: an immature at Baikka Beel sanctuary, Hail Haor, on 13 January 2007 (PMT), one adult photographed in Hail Haor on 15 March 2012 (RH), and an immature photographed in a tea estate in Moulvi Bazar district in mid-November 2012 (TK, MA). An adult was along the Katolmari Haluaghat road (central) on 1 February 2006 (JP). An adult on a char in the Padma River near Rajshahi (north-west) on 28 January 2007 (JP, EUH) and an immature photographed over Jamuna River chars near Aricha

(central) on 11 December 2009 (PMT, RH, SH) were in more typical habitat.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Vagrant. One immature was seen in Kassalong RF, Rangamati district, on 29 September 2011 and a single adult at Ruma, Bandarban district, on 20 November 2011, both in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east). These are the second and third confirmed records (both MK); the first record was from coastal forest in the south-east (Thompson & Johnson 2003). The lack of other records suggests it is a wanderer from hills in neighbouring Myanmar or India, or possibly a rare resident in this remote and ornithologically under-explored area.

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* †

Vagrant. Although included in Rashid (1967), there was no evidence of any confirmed records from Bangladesh and the nearest were from Meghalaya. The first record was one photographed in Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), close to the borders with India and Myanmar on 1 December 2009 (RH). A second was photographed in Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts, on 22 November 2010 (MK).

Slaty-legged Crane *Rallina eurizonoides* †

Rare resident or monsoon visitor. Although listed in Rashid (1967), there were no documented records, and the closest locations where it has been recorded are in India: Assam valley, and as a winter visitor/migrant to the Kolkata region. A record attributed to RK was published in Bangladeshi newspapers, including a photograph, reported as dating to August 2005 or 2006 from Satchoiya village, Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat district (south-west), and one was seen in a betel nut grove in the same village on 15 August 2008 (RH, SUC). One was photographed in Modhupur NP (central) on 26 June 2009 (MK), and in October 2010 one was observed on a tidal creek at Kotka, Sundarbans (south-east) (RH). The characteristic breeding calls of two birds were also heard in deciduous forest, Altadighi NP, Naogaon (north-west), on the evening of 7 July 2013 (MK). As these records are from the breeding season (as documented elsewhere in its range) and the first record was reportedly of a bird at a nest, it seems likely that this secretive species is a rare breeder which may be resident or a monsoon visitor to wooded habitat.

Yellow-legged Buttonquail *Turnix tankii*

Vagrant. The second to sixth recent records were: two seen on 1 May 2008 at Kazipara, Tentulia (north-west) (RH, SUC), and one there in October 2009 (SHS); one photographed at Jahangirnagar University (central) on 06 May 2009 (MK); one photographed at Ekuria near Dhaka (central) on 13 October 2013 (ABS); and one photographed at Hashdhora, Bhayadanga, Sherpur (central), on 12 October 2007 (ZA).

Indian (Eurasian) Thick-knee *Burhinus (oedinemus) indicus* †

Rare resident. Although this species has been included in several lists for Bangladesh (e.g. Rashid 1967, Harvey 1990) no detailed sightings appear to have been documented. There were at least ten observations in this period, all but one from the north-west. At Kazipara, Tetulia Upazila (sub-district), Panchagar district, one was seen on 17 May 2008 (SUC, AAD); a pair at a nest containing one egg, on dry ground, were in the same area on 6 April 2009 (MK), one was seen on 11 September 2009 (SUC, BD) and two were photographed on 10 September 2011 (TK, MA). At Tipai Mukha, Rajshahi, two were photographed in late February 2011 (RH, EUH). About four were seen in March 2012 at Teesta Barrage, Lalmonirhat (RH). A maximum of six were seen along the Atria River, Patnitala, Naogaon, in December 2012, July 2013 (when a pair may have been nesting) and December 2013 (all FA, also MK

in July). Lastly, in the south-west, a flock of about 35 was seen and some photographed in a large riverine char area with limited cultivation due to land disputes on the Padma River, Kushtia and Pabna districts, on 2 and 16 December 2013 (SMF, SIS). While the last observers suggested that the birds might be resident, most of that area is inundated in the monsoon. Overall this would appear to be a regular but rare breeding resident, probably with seasonal movements, found in lands with low-intensity agriculture in the north-west.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Vagrant. The fourth and fifth recent records comprised: three photographed in Majher char, Sundarbans (south-west), on 15 January 2013 (SUC, CZ, AAD), and two seen on Shahjalal char (central coast) on 17 January 2013 (EUH).

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Regular rare winter visitor. This species appears to be increasing; five earlier records were detailed by Thompson & Johnson (2003). Since 2003 the highest count from a site where this species had been previously recorded was 22 in Chattannar Khal, Tanguar Haor, on 8–11 February 2013 (SUC, MK, SD). New locations in the north-east include: 11 in Hakaluki Haor on 19 February 2011 (PMT, BA, IJ, SR), and two sightings from Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, in winter 2011–12 (PMT, EUH). There were also the first records from the under-watched north-west where it may prove to be regular: two with Grey-headed Lapwings *V. cinereus* at Gangvanga Beel, Pabna, on 29 December 2011 (PMT), a record flock of 73 at Dohogram, Lalmonirhat, on 20 January 2012 (MK), and four at Gechua Beel, Pabna, on 26 January 2013 (PMT).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

Near Threatened. Rare winter visitor. There were only two records between 1993 and 2002. Since 2003 there have been four records: one at Jamtal Creek, Kotka, Sundarbans (south-west), on 30 December 2005 (JP); 46 on Damar Char, Nijum Dwip, Noakhali (central coast), on 28 March 2010 (JB, AL, RoM, RH)—this is the highest number ever recorded from Bangladesh (Bird *et al.* 2010a, b); two on Sonadia Island, Cox's Bazar (south-east), on 5 April 2010 (SUC, JB); and five again at Damar Char on 12 March 2013 (WJ, PDR, SMO).

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*

Endangered. Scarce winter visitor. Although there was only one record between 1992 and 2002 (Thompson & Johnson 2003), during this period intensified coastal shorebird surveys have revealed its continued presence and the largest numbers since 1988, but from only two key shorebird sites. Twenty-eight were counted on Sonadia Island, Cox's Bazar (south-east), on 11 March 2010 (JB, AL, SUC) and 19 on Damar Char, Nijum Dwip, Noakhali (central coastal area), on 28 March 2010 (JB, AL, RoM, RH) (Bird *et al.* 2010a, b). Up to five individuals were regularly seen on Sonadia Island during regular winter shorebird monitoring between 2011 and 2013 (SUC, MF). At Damar Char six were seen in a mixed flock of waders on 15 January 2011 (EUH, MK, SUC, OS) and one on 19 November 2012 (SUC, SMO, SCA).

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

Critically Endangered. Scarce winter visitor. Regularly seen on Sonadia Island, Cox's Bazar (south-east), between October and April, following sighting of 13 there on 23 February 2009 (EUH). Monthly counts during 2010–13 by the Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project (SUC, MF) include: up to 26 during southward migration (November), up to 18 in winter (December–February) and up to 27 during northward migration (March) (Bird *et al.* 2010a, b). The other main location is on the

central coast, at Damar Char, Nijum Dwip, Noakhali, where 23 were counted on 28 March 2010 (JB, AL, RoM, RH) and one on 1 April 2012 (SUC, MF) (Bird *et al.* 2010a, b), and four were at Tanger Char, Noakhali, on 19 March 2011 (EUH, OS, BD). The only other sighting during this period was two birds at Bodormokum (Shahpuri Dip), Teknaf (south-east coast), in winter 2009–11, but none was recorded there during surveys in 2012 or 2013 (SUC, MF).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria* †

Vagrant. On 14 April 2013 a bird in what appeared to be first-summer plumage was seen and well photographed swimming and in flight from a boat at Najirgong ferry-ghat, Sujanagar, Pabna district, in the Padma River (central) (SD). Full details are given in Alam & Chowdhury (2013). Although listed as possibly occurring in what is now Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), there are no previous confirmed records, and this species is a vagrant to South Asia for which this is only the fifth record, there being a specimen from Kolkata market, and sightings in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Pakistan (Alam & Chowdhury 2013).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* †

Vagrant. The first record was one seen at Nijum Dwip, Noakhali district (east-central coast), on 22 January 2006 (TI, EUH). This is a winter visitor to coastal South Asia, and has been recorded previously in Orissa (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), making this sighting the most easterly in South Asia.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*

Endangered. Rare resident or vagrant. This species is now very scarce in Bangladesh, compared with the mid-1990s when it could be regularly seen along the Jamuna River (PMT pers. obs.); see Sykes (2010) for a discussion of its recent decline. The only record in this period was on the Jamuna River near Shariakandi, Bogra (north-west), where two were seen and photographed together on 25 January and on 11 February 2011 (SD, EUH, RH, ZF, SUC). Targeted searches by SUC on the main rivers in 2011–12 (Chowdhury *et al.* 2014) failed to find the species. Claimed sightings from coastal sites during this period (from Sonadia and Cox's Bazar) are considered to have been Whiskered Terns *Chidonias hybrida*.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare passage migrant or vagrant. A single bird at Belekardia, Sonadia Island (south-east), on 26 November 2010 appears to be the first winter record of the species (PDR, ND), which is occasionally recorded as a scarce spring passage migrant in coastal waters and also the north-east. It may have been overlooked in other seasons among Whiskered Terns.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* †

Rare winter visitor. The first record was a bird photographed on / over the Swatch of No Ground—the offshore waters south of the Sundarbans and central coast in January 2006 (RuM). In early March 2011 at least seven were seen and photographed in the same area (RH), and on 30–31 December 2013 four were seen and photographed from a survey boat in the same area during cetacean surveys (EUH, OT, SA). Although it is regular off the west coast of South Asia as far east as Sri Lanka (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), its presumed regular presence in small numbers in winter in Bangladesh territorial waters represents a considerable range extension.

Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall* †

Vagrant. Although its known distribution extends to the hills of Meghalaya, India, and it was listed by Rashid (1967) and included in Husain (1979), there were no confirmed or documented records. The first record was a male in Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east), on 24 March 2006 (PMT). It was seen well, both flying, when

its long tail was obvious, and perched when, despite being partially obscured by vegetation, the green sheen to the nape and pale face below the level of the bill and eye contrasted with the brown upperparts and unbarred underparts. Presumably it had wandered from the hills of India, since there are no other records from this well-watched forest.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*

Rare visitor or resident. Critically Endangered in Bangladesh. There were only two records between 1977 and 2002. Since 2003 there have been seven records. Five were seen in Kaptai NP, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 24 July 2009 (MK, SS) and two at the same site on 15 September 2011 (SMo, SS); eight near Thanchi, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 9 July 2009 (RH); and a roosting flock of 16 in Borthali, Rheingkhong RF, Rangamati, on 27 September 2009 (MK). The only records away from the south-east were a flock of about 30 on the road between Srimangal and Kulaura (north-east) on 13 October 2010 (JP, SMF, MM), two at Satchari NP (north-east) on 16 June 2013, and one in the same area on 5 July 2013 (TK, MA, MK).

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*

Rare resident. The fourth to eighth recent records were all from the north-east and comprised: four at Satchari NP on 27 March 2005 (MK), one male at Lawachara NP on 21 April 2006 (MK), two at Satchari NP on 14 December 2008 (RH), one at Rema-Kalenga WS on 28 June 2011 (MK) and one seen several times amongst a mixed flock of about 30 *Treron* sp. at Satchari NP in August 2013 (MK, TK, MA).

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Scarce local visitor or resident. Two records were documented from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Thompson & Johnson (2003). There are many subsequent records from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) which suggest it may be a regular local resident there. A flock of 20 were photographed in Darjeelingpara, Bandarban, in March 2006 (EUH); in Farua and Alikhyang, in Rangamati, in 2009, and in Bakali, Bandarban, in 2010 there were several sightings of small flocks (RH). In several years there were many sightings of flocks of up to 22 birds at locations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, mainly during November to March (MK).

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Near Threatened. Rare resident. A regularly used breeding site in a large tree in Burimari Bazar, Lalmonirhat (north-west), was found in 2005; it was occupied until 2012 when the tree was felled. About 50 birds were seen in this area on five visits (RH, EH). Records away from this site are limited: a few birds were in deciduous forest at Phulbari, Dinajpur (north-west), on 3 February 2005 (MK). Three records in Sherpur (central)—a nesting pair at Sribardi on 30 January 2008 (ZA, MK), three in flight at Gazni forest on 31 December 2008 (MK), and two at a nest hole on 27 November 2009 (ZA). Two were seen at Joyramkora Mission, Haluaghat (central), on 8 November 2009 (JP), and one in the heavily degraded sal *Shorea robusta* forest at Modhupur NP (central) on 31 October 2010 (MK) was the second record there. Two in the National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka (central), on 6 October 2011 (SMo, SMa), and four (two adults and two immatures) seen and photographed several times from March 2012 and throughout 2013 in a garden in Bailey Road and around Ramna Garden, Dhaka city (central) (JA, SHS), may have been escapes.

Grey-headed Parakeet *Psittacula finschii*

Rare, status uncertain. Although first recorded by Tytler (1852) in what is now Bangladesh, his route lay outside suitable habitat for this species and its inclusion in several lists for Bangladesh is not

supported by identification notes, nor have any specimens been traced (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The scope for confusion with other parakeet species means that its status is uncertain. The recent field records with supporting evidence are all from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east): many flocks at Meghla, Bandarban, on 12 July 2009 (MK); a single female at Rheingkhong RF, Rangamati, on 27 September 2009 (MK); about 15 photographed along the Keokradong Trail in Bandarban district on 14 March 2010 (RH); and a single and a flock of eight at Sajek, Rangamati, on 30 September 2011 (MK). In the north-east at least six in captivity in a Khasia ethnic village in Kulaura on 30 December 2010 were reported by their captors to have been collected from a nest in a large tree in a nearby tea garden (RH, SUC), and a female (photographed) in a private collection in Srimangal in April 2011 was reported to have been obtained in that region (SHS).

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Localised seasonal visitor. Treated as of uncertain recent occurrence by Thompson & Johnson (2003), as the only record between 1977 and 2002 in Dhaka could have involved escaped cagebirds. There was at least one similar record from the National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka (central), in the current period (SUC). However, during this period there were several records from the far west of the country, confirming its occurrence and suggesting that it is a scarce visitor in the monsoon, presumably attracted by fruit and rice crops. On 20, 22 and 23 August 2004, flocks estimated at 140 birds on the first two evenings and 240 on the third were observed flying east over Meherpur (south-west, close to the international border) presumably on their way to roost (JP), and a pair was seen at the same site on 10 July 2005 (JP). There are three further records from Meherpur district: two over Nil Kuti, Amjupi, on 29 August 2005 and one at Bhoirab River on 1 December 2006, while at Nil Kuti on 13 July 2007 flocks totalling about 40 birds were watched feeding on spilt grain in an abandoned field (all JP). One was seen at Jahangirnagar University (central) on 28 November 2009 (MK); six were on a char in the Padma River near Rajshahi (north-west) on 8 July 2010, and 12 flew over the zoo towards the river in Rajshahi on 12 July 2010 (both JP, ZA).

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Scarce local mainly summer breeding visitor. All records in this period were from the north-east evergreen forests. There were a series of sightings from Satchari NP: one on 7 April 2006; a female checking a nest of Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* for egg-laying on 7 July 2007; a female on 10 June 2011 (all by MK); and a male photographed on 20 June 2010 (PMT, RH, JP, SUC) was in the same tree as a male Asian Emerald Cuckoo *C. maculatus* (itself a scarce migrant although with several past records from this site). Singles were seen in Lawachara NP on 1 May 2009 and 26 June 2011 (both MK). At least 10 observations (all by TK and MA) from Lawachara NP, Satchari NP and Adampur RF between 2010 and 2013 during April, May and June, including four males and a female together at Adampur, confirm that this species is regular in these forests at least in the early monsoon.

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis*

Rare resident. The only records since 1996 of this probably declining species are: one in Teknaf WS (south-east) on 1 May 2007 (MK), one in Lawachara NP (north-east) on 7 August 2008 (Chowdhury 2011), one in captivity in Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), which was confiscated and put in the local Bandarban zoo (RH), and one in Satchari NP (north-east) on 19 September 2012 (MA, TK).

Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupa* †

Rare local resident. This species was first recorded from the

Sundarbans mangrove forests (south-west) in 2000 (Neumann-Denzau & Denzau 2003). Four sightings during 2002–2003 were discussed by Khan (2005). Subsequently there have been several other sporadic sightings in the Sundarbans documented by photographs, indicating that it should be considered a scarce resident there.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*

Rare winter visitor. The only records in this period were a single bird flying with Asian Palm Swifts *Cypsiurus balasiensis* in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar (south-east), on 24 January 2006 (MK), a flock of seven over Roangchari, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 28 November 2008 (MK), one over Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 13 January 2010 (JND, PMT), and two flying low over the same site on 21 December 2011 in overcast conditions (PMT).

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

Locally common winter and passage migrant. Although only one previous record (Thompson & Johnson 2003), in this period there have been regular sightings, all from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east). Many small to medium-sized flocks were seen in different hilly areas between September and March from 2005 to 2013 (MK). Two of a flock of about 20 were photographed over Tiger Hill, Bandarban, on 15 December 2007 (AAD). Several flocks were seen in the Sangu valley, Bandarban, in May 2013 (SUC), and there were two sightings there in late 2013 (SUC); a flock of 30 or more were flying around a forest patch in the same area in October 2013 (RH), with further reports from the same area. This suggests that it is locally common mostly as a winter visitor and migrant to the hills and remaining forested valleys of this remote part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts; whether it nests in this area is not known.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

Vagrant. The third to fifth records since 1977 comprised about 15 seen and photographed at Bilaichari, Rangamati district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 20 September 2009, a flock seen there in September 2011 (RH), and two (male and female) seen flying above the hills in Ruma Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 14 April 2013 (MK).

Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules*

Near Threatened. Vagrant. The second and third recent records, both from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), comprised one perched in a tree on the bank of a ditch in forest on 25 December 2007 in Pablakhali WS, Rangamati (MK), and one along a small shaded sandy-bedded forest stream in Kassalong RF in October 2013 (RH).

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* †

Rare, possibly resident. Although included in several lists for Bangladesh, apparently based on Rashid (1967) and Ripley (1982), there were no definite past records, and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) did not trace any specimens. The first confirmed record was of two seen at Remakri Khal, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), in February 2003 (EUH); subsequently one was seen on the Sangu River, Chittagong Hill Tracts, in November 2004 (RH), and three singles were seen along Remakri Khal in mid-April 2013 (MK). A few birds may be resident in the only suitable habitat along the larger rivers flowing through forest in this very remote area.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*

Near Threatened. Rare resident/visitor. Critically Endangered in Bangladesh. Reports from local people were summarised in Thompson & Johnson (2003). The second to fourth documented

records were: one over forest along the Sangu River, Sangu-Matamuhuri WS, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), in November 2004 (RH), one at the same site on 30 October 2005 (MK), and one in Kassalong RF, Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts, on 14 May 2006 (MK). These two remote areas contain the last relatively intact larger patches of evergreen forests in Bangladesh and this species may be regular in both. Skulls were found in villages and local people reported frequent sightings and breeding in both areas during 2013 (SUC).

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus* †

Vagrant, possible former resident. Although previously recorded from what is now Bangladesh by Blyth (1852) and Hume (1888), the only recent confirmed record is one photographed at Darjeelingpara, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 23 December 2007 (MM, SI). In 2013 local people reported that it is a rare visitor (possibly also breeding) in the Sangu-Matamuhuri WS and in Kassalong RF, Chittagong Hill Tracts (SUC).

Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus*

Scarce local resident. There has been considerable confusion in the literature about this species in South Asia. Paynter (1970) collected a single adult female woodpecker in 1958 from the Sundarbans (south-west) mangrove forests, but tentatively identified it as Laced Woodpecker *P. vittatus*, thereby causing the latter to be added to the Bangladesh and South Asian avifauna (Harvey 1990 and others). However, Rasmussen (2000) reviewed this specimen record and concluded that it refers to a Streak-breasted Woodpecker. The species's continued presence in the Sundarbans, where it is scarce but regularly recorded, has been confirmed by recent observations in 2001–2 (Khan 2005) and several subsequent observers and photographers—it was seen during 12 out of 18 visits between 2009 and 2013 (all SUC).

Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia*

Rare resident. The fourth and fifth recent records were both from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east): one male was seen in Keokradong Range, Bandarban, on 22 November 2010 and again (probably the same individual) on 17 November 2011; and a female was beside Remakri Khal, Ruma, Bandarban, on 14 April 2013 (all MK).

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

Vulnerable. Scarce local resident. Only two records were reported in Thompson & Johnson (2003), although one indicated breeding. Since 2003, there have been regular sightings by several observers, mostly from Kaptai NP as it is more frequently visited by birdwatchers, but also from the remaining forest patches and protected areas north and south of Cox's Bazar (south-east)—Medhakachopia NP, and Sangu-Matamuhuri RF, Chittagong Hill Tracts (SUC). A pair engaged in courtship in mid-May 2009 and a pair was seen at a nest hole on 23 March 2012, both at Kaptai NP (MK). Remarkably, one was seen in Chittagong city (south-east) in August 2012 (EUH). Elsewhere the only records were in the north-east: a single in Satchari NP on 26 March 2010 and a single in Lawachara NP on 26 April 2010 (both MK). These records suggest that this species is able to survive even in degraded areas, as long as some large trees remain. The lack of other sightings indicates that only wandering birds may occur in the relatively well-watched forest of the north-east.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarismus dalhousiae* †

Rare resident. Although recorded by Hume (1888) from greater Sylhet, there were no further observations of this resident of hill forests until three records in this period, all from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east): one in Naikhongchari, Bandarban, on 4

September 2010 (RH); a flock of eight in Keokradong Range, Bandarban, on 22 November 2010 (MK); and a nest found in Sangu-Matamuhuri WS on 11 May 2013 (SUC).

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

Uncommon winter visitor. Thompson & Johnson (2003) documented four sightings, the first from South Asia. Since then almost all records have been from Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east): two on 22 November 2009 (PMT), three on 22 December 2011 when one was photographed (PMT), one on 2 March 2012 (ND, PMT), and two females on 23 November 2012 (PMT, EUH, TK, MA), in each case showing grey-brown upperparts with a paler rump. The first records from the south-east were from Kaptai NP: a flock of 15 on 26 November 2013 and a flock of six the following day (PDR, EUH, SMO, SMt, TO). In addition, MK reported several sightings during this period in Madhupur NP, Lawachara NP and Rema-Kalenga WS (north-east), all in winter. It would appear that this species and Ashy Minivet (see below) have become more regular winter visitors in recent years, particularly in Lawachara NP, but this is the more regular of the two species and has in the past probably been under-recorded. Both species usually associate with flocks of Rosy Minivet *P. roseus*.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Rare winter visitor. Thompson & Johnson (2003) documented the first three sightings. Since then it has been found to be a rare but regular visitor mostly to eastern forests. In the north-east, sightings in this period at Lawachara NP comprised one female on 8 February 2004, two females on 22 November 2009 and a female on 12 November 2010 (all PMT), in each case showing uniform grey upperparts; one in Adampur RF, Moulovibazar, on 18 November 2013 (SUC, TK, RR, NUP); and six at Satchari NP on 23 December 2013 (SUC, TK, NUP). In the south-east, in Kaptai NP a female was seen on 20 November 2011 (SUC, SS) and another was there on 23 November 2012 (SUC); three were in Dulahazra Safari Park on 17 January 2012 (SUC); and three were in Bangdaba, Eidgor, Cox's Bazar, in November 2012 (SUC, MF). It is possible that some of these sightings may refer to misidentified Swinhoe's Minivets, as they were not seen well. PDR (*in litt.*) suggests that, based on habitat use in Thailand, Swinhoe's Minivet might be expected to be the more frequent in inland forest, while Ashy Minivet may prefer coastal forest, and the only coastal records of the two species in Bangladesh are of Ashy Minivet.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioideus* †

Vagrant. Although included in some Bangladesh lists (Harvey 1990, Husain 1979), there were no documented records. The first recent record was an adult seen in Meherpur on both sides of the Boirab River (south-west) between 1 and 23 August 2004 (JP, SMF, MM). The chestnut rump and dark grey crown blending into a narrow black mask extending across the fore-crown, distinguishing it from similar species, were noted. A juvenile was seen near Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east), on 23 February 2008 (MK), and another juvenile was at Kesrigul Tea Estate (near Madhupkundo waterfall) on 13 October 2010 (JP, MM, SMF), with probably the same individual photographed at the same location on 30 December 2010 (RH, SUC). An adult was seen in Rheingkhelong RF, Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 26 September 2009 (MK). While past records from the south Assam hills (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) are relatively close to the north-east, Meherpur appears to be the most westerly location recorded for this species and the date was outside the expected winter season.

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* †

Vagrant. Although included in Rashid (1967), there were no documented records. The first record was on 5 February 2004: a

male was well seen in a tea estate near Srimangal (north-east) (PMT, PS). Greenish wings and mantle contrasting with yellow underparts, the narrow black nape and red bill which was not noticeably thick were noted. The second record was one photographed at Tanguar Haor (north-east) on 22–25 February 2010 (SUC, RH, MK, ET). This species is a visitor or possibly resident in the hills of Meghalaya (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), and had presumably wandered from there.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Rare winter visitor. The third and fourth records were singles over Tanguar Haor (north-east) on 30 January 2005 (JP) and over Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 14 January 2007 (PMT).

Rufous-rumped Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis*

Near Threatened. Rare resident. Thompson & Johnson (2003) reported only four recent records, although several birds were seen in most cases; three of these records were from Tanguar Haor (north-east). During this period the only record was one photographed just after a shower when it emerged onto the stump of a bush to dry out at Pashua Haor (north-east) on 23 February 2009 (RH). Mist-netting in Tanguar and nearby Pashua Haors in 2012 and 2013 failed to reveal any (Round *et al.* 2014). Wet grassland and sparse reeds have been cleared and are becoming scarce even in Tanguar Haor, despite protection as an Ecologically Critical Area and a Ramsar site.

Asian Stubtail *Urospehena squameiceps*

Vagrant. The third and fourth sightings were of one photographed at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east), on 2 January 2011 (Chowdhury 2014), and probably more than one (based on where it was heard) recorded in Satchari NP (north-east) on 21 and 27 December 2013 (TK).

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major* †

Vagrant. The first record was one caught during mist-netting at Pashua Haor (north-east) on 16 February 2012 (Round *et al.* 2014). The closest breeding populations are in the Himalayas, Meghalaya and neighbouring parts of north-east India (Kennerley & Pearson 2010). The second record was of one mist-netted and ringed at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 27 November 2013 (ND, SUC, IJ, OS, TK).

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea* †

Rare winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), there appears to be no documented record of this species; however, it occurs in the neighbouring hills of Meghalaya (Kennerley & Pearson 2010). The first records came from mist-net surveys with three caught in Pashua Haor (north-east) on 12 February 2012, two caught in Tanguar Haor on 19 February 2012 and one caught in Tanguar Haor on 8 March 2013 (Round *et al.* 2014).

Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* †

Vagrant. Although listed by Rashid (1967) there is no documented record of this species. The first record is one caught during mist-netting at Tanguar Haor (north-east) on 24 February 2012 (Round *et al.* 2014). The nearest previous record is from the Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India, which overlook the site (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*

Scarce local winter visitor. A total of 13 were caught during mist-netting at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal district, Pashua Haor and Tanguar Haor (all north-east) in December 2011 and February 2012. Round *et al.* (2014) provides full details and a discussion of the identification and status of this and the next species in Bangladesh.

David's Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* †

Scarce local winter visitor. A total of 12 were caught during mist-netting in Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal district, Pashua Haor and Tanguar Haor (all north-east) during December 2011 and February 2012 (Round *et al.* 2014). This species has been recently split from Spotted Bush Warbler *B. thoracicus*, and both appear to be present in similar numbers in the same wetlands. Past published sight records and field photograph records from Bangladesh assigned to 'Spotted Bush Warbler' before David's Bush Warbler acquired species status should be considered as referring to either species.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

Rare winter visitor. The only recent records were of one seen in short grass at Pashua Haor (north-east) on 15 January 2010 (PMT, ND, EUH, JP), one photographed at Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 17 December 2010 (MA), one at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, on 7 January 2011 (RH), and sightings in Hail Haor and Tanguar Haor (north-east) during winter 2012–2013 (MK). The lack of mist-net captures in apparently suitable habitat suggests that this species is rarer than other warblers in the same habitat or is able to elude capture.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

Locally common winter visitor. Thompson & Johnson (2003) noted a number of sight records from the haors of north-east Bangladesh, although there were no photographs or specimens. Since then a limited number of sightings were made by several observers in the north-east haors, with photographs of one in the field taken at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal district, on 26 December 2010 (SUC) and Hail Haor on 13 December 2010 (TK). Two were caught at Baikka Beel on 4 and 5 December 2011 (with further sightings there), and 24 were caught during mist-netting at Tanguar Haor in February 2012 and March 2013 (Round *et al.* 2014). Singles were seen at Char Shahjalal, Bhola (south-west), on 20 January 2009, and at Kochikhali, Sundarbans, on 29 November 2012 (MK).

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* †

Scarce winter visitor. Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Sarker & Sarker (1988), Thompson & Johnson (2003) concluded that one 1996 record with photographs was inconclusive. During this period one was photographed from Char Shahjalal, Bhola (south-west), on 20 January 2009 (MK), and was considered to be this species by P. C. Rasmussen (*in litt.*), and subsequently it was confirmed as a scarce winter visitor in the wetlands of the north-east. A total of 19 were caught during mist-net surveys and identified from measurements and photographs: three in Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, during 4–6 December 2011, 10 in Tanguar Haor (north-east) during 20–26 February 2012 (where it was outnumbered 2:1 by Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus*) and a further 10 at these sites in 2013. Full details are in Round *et al.* (2014), except for four caught at Baikka Beel in November 2013 (ND, IJ, SUC, OS, TK).

Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus* †

Data Deficient. Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh, and South Asia outside north-west India was one caught and identified from measurements and photographs at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 5 December 2011. Round *et al.* (2014) gives full details of this record.

Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama* †

Vagrant. The first and probably the most easterly record, was one caught during ringing at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 7 March 2011 and identified from measurements and photographs (PDR, AP); full details in Round *et al.* (2014).

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* †

Vagrant. This species was previously listed for Bangladesh but with no details of any records (Sarker & Sarker 1988). It is likely to be a regular but rare winter visitor in the north-west, having been recorded in neighbouring Indian states (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), and may have been overlooked among Yellow-browed Warblers *P. inornatus*. The first record was one at Pallo, Osmanpur, Dinajpur district (north-west), on 26 December 2011 (Pender 2013).

Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Rare winter visitor or passage migrant. The status of this species has not been adequately determined although the first published record is Cripps (1878). Harvey (1990) listed it as recorded in north-west, north-east and central in six months of the year, but we believe this was partly in error, and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) did not include Bangladesh in its range, indicating that they did not trace any specimens. Prior to this reporting period there was a sighting from Satchari NP (north-east) (D. L. Johnson *in litt.*). The only detailed record in this period was on 27 and 28 April 2010 in Rajshahi town (north-west) where one was watched closely (JP). Compared with other leaf warblers it was larger, with a large bill, and a bold light yellow supercilium. It may be rarer than previously thought, or overlooked among Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*, a common winter visitor.

Green-crowned Warbler *Seicercus burkii***Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*****Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus***

Fairly common winter visitor and two localised winter visitors respectively. Prior to 2002 and the splitting of the former Golden-spectacled Warbler (Alström & Olsson 1999), no attempt was made to differentiate birds of this complex. Since 2002, PMT has kept notes on all sightings at two main sites and identified them as far as possible to species. Excluding those not identified, records are: National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka (central), *burkii* seen on 10 dates and *tephrocephalus* on one date (in direct comparison with two *burkii*); Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east), *burkii* seen on 12 dates, *whistleri* on six dates and *tephrocephalus* on four dates. At the closest, all three species breed either in the Himalayas or in the hills of north-east India, but further records supported by capturing birds may be needed to determine their respective status in Bangladesh.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Vagrant. The second record was one photographed and well observed at the north end of Hail Haor, Moulvi Bazar district (north-east), on 15 November 2011 (MA, TK); the only previous record was in 1991. The taxonomy of the *S. curruca* group is complex (Olsson *et al.* 2013), and here we follow Inskipp *et al.* (1996) and have not attempted to allocate this or the previous record (Thompson *et al.* 1993) to any of the taxa within this complex, some of which are treated as separate species in several works.

Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* †

Rare winter visitor. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967), Husain (1979), Khan (1982), Ripley (1982) and Harvey (1990), there are no detailed records on which this is based. At its closest, it occurs in Meghalaya (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). One was found persistently calling and creeping around a logfall near a well-used track in Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east), on 20 December 2011 (PMT). It remained in the same area and was seen and photographed by several observers up to the last sighting on 7 March 2012 (MK). While this species can be secretive, the fact that this bird could be readily found from its calls for several months, but had never previously been heard or seen in this site, which is the best-watched forest in Bangladesh, suggests that it was

a vagrant and is not resident. This is the lowest-altitudinal record for this species, because the highest ground in Lawachara NP does not exceed 50 m. Subsequently, this species was photographed on three occasions at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east), on 16 March 2012 (SUC, TK), 20–21 February 2013 (MK), and on 16 November 2013 (SUC, RR, NP). While this may be the same returning winter visitor, it may have been overlooked in the past.

White-hooded Babbler *Gamporhynchus rufulus*

Rare resident. Since the two records in Thompson & Johnson (2003), all records have again been from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), as follows: Darjeelingpara, Bandarban, in early April 2011 (RH); a flock heard in Sangu-Matamuhuri WS, Bandarban, on 8 May 2011 (SUC); an adult and a juvenile in Sajek, Rangamati, on 30 September 2011 (MK); a single seen in Kassalong RF, Khagrachori, on 3 October 2011 (MK); and two adults beside Remakri Khal, Ruma, Bandarban, on 14 April 2013 (MK).

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*

Rare resident. There is only one previous record. About 20 were seen along the Keokradong trail, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 13 March 2010 (RH). Medium to large flocks were also seen in the Keokradong range in November 2010, February 2011, November 2011 and October 2012 (all MK).

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*

Rare resident. This species retains its status, with the only records since 2000 being in Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) with four seen on the Keokradong trail on 12 March 2010 (RH); and further sightings of one or two birds in the Keokradong range on 23 November 2010, 18 February 2011, early October 2012 and 14 April 2013 (all MK). Note: these records relate to *S. castanea sensu lato*, although some authors have split this into three species, and no attempt has been made here to identify birds to lower taxa.

Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus* †

Vagrant. The first record was one photographed in a flock of about 20 *Sturnus* sp. at Harbaria, Sundarbans (south-west), on 26 October 2009 (RS), with the second record a year later from Modhupur NP (central) on 31 October 2010 (MK). These records suggest it could be a rare passage migrant. There are a few scattered records from elsewhere in South Asia including Nepal and the Andamans (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Rare winter visitor. The third record and first since 1992 was a flock of six on St Martin's Island (south-east) in January 2010 (RK), and the number increased to an exceptional 25 at the same site on 19 February 2010 (SMo). Subsequently one was on Shajalal Char (central coast) on 17 January 2011 (MK), with another there on 18 January 2012 (EUH, TK, MA); one was photographed at Rema Kalenga WS (north-east) on 15 March 2012 (ARH, SaS); one was at Kochikali, Sundarbans (south-west), in late October 2012 (RH); and a flock of eight was at St. Martin's Island (south-east) on 10 January 2012 (SUC).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Rare winter visitor. The first record since 1991 and only the fourth recent record was an adult bird seen at Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east) on 26 December 2010 (MK). It called while perched on a roadside acacia for several minutes before flying off.

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* †

Vagrant. The first record was one adult in the campus of Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka (central) on 29 January

2006 (MK, ET, ZA, SMo, DB). Full details are in Khan (2006) of what is probably the lowest altitude sighting of this Himalayan and montane forest species.

Eurasian Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Vagrant. The third recent record was of several in Gazni forest, Sherpur (central) on 5 January 2007 (MK). One was in the National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka (central) from 16 December 2008 (PMT) to the end of January 2009, which was seen by many observers. At Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east) one was seen in winter 2010–11 (TK, MH), and one (possibly the same bird returning to winter) was at the same site in December 2011 where it was caught and ringed on 5 December (Round *et al.* 2014) and last seen on 21 December (PMT). One was in Ruma, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) on 17 February 2011 (MK). The bird caught at Baikka Beel was identified to *Z. d. dauma* from South Asia, but other sight records were not distinguished from *Z. d. aurea* which is treated as a separate species by some authors.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

Rare passage migrant. The only records for this period were from the unusual habitat of parks in urban Dhaka (central) where both were photographed: the seventh record was one feeding on figs in Ramna Park on 28 October 2011 (OSM, MoK), and a first year female was in the National Botanical Gardens on 1–2 November 2013 (PMT, SUC, RH).

Purple Cochoa *Cochoa purpurea*

Vagrant. The second record was an adult chased by a group of 6–7 Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* in mid-air at Bolipara, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) on 23 October 2005 (MK).

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

Scarce winter visitor or resident. There were six previous records, but with several records in this period it is no longer considered a rarity. Singles were seen at its most favoured site, Lawachara NP (north-east) on 24 March 2006 (PMT) and a male on 2 March 2012 (ND, PMT); one was seen at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east) on 2 January 2011, where there were two further records in 2012 (SUC), and it was also recorded at Adampur RF (north-east) in November 2013 (SUC, MK, TK). In the south-east a few were seen at Ruma, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts in April 2013 (MK), and at least three were heard singing along streams in Kaptai NP in November 2013 (PDR).

White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*

Localised winter visitor. The second record was of four rescued from bird-trappers in Hakaluki Haor (north-east) in February 2009 (EUH). A male was photographed at Hail Haor (north-east) on 15 December 2010 (TK, MA). It has since been proved to be a regular winter visitor to wetlands in the north-east. Eighteen were caught during mist-netting at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal between December 2011 and November 2013 (Round *et al.* 2014; ND, IJ), here it was more frequent than Siberian Rubythroat *L. calliope*. Three were caught at Pashua Haor on 12 and 14 February 2012; and three were caught at Tanguar Haor on 21 and 25 February 2012 (Round *et al.* 2014).

Firethroat *Luscinia pectardens*

Rare winter visitor. There was only one previous confirmed record (Thompson *et al.* 1993), although a probable immature male was seen at Tanguar Haor in February 1996 (P. Thompson pers. obs.). In total, 11 have been caught during mist netting surveys of north-eastern wetlands: seven were caught at Pashua Haor between 12

and 16 February 2012, two at Tanguar Haor on 20 and 25 February 2012 and a further two at Tanguar Haor on 7 and 8 March 2013. Further details are given in Round *et al.* (2014). It would appear this is a regular winter visitor to swamp forest and wetland scrub habitat in the large wetlands (*haors*) of the north-east. In addition the first records from the south-west comprised a first winter male and a female seen together at Karamjal, Sundarbans on 26 November 2012 (MK).

Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant. There were four previous published records since 1978 (Thompson & Johnson 2003). A male was in the National Botanic Gardens, Dhaka (central) from 15 April 2011, and was joined by a female from 20–24 April (PMT, several observers, photographed); a male was seen at the same location on 6 October 2011 (SMo, SMA); and a female was photographed in Lawachara NP (north-east) on 1 March 2012 (MK) and 21 April 2012 (PMT).

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* †

Vagrant. Although listed by Rashid (1967) and Husain (1979), there were no confirmed records of this species which normally winters in South-East Asia but has occurred as a vagrant in Assam (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The first bird identified was a female caught in Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east) on 2 March 2013 (SMo, ND, AP). Subsequently a female or first year male was seen at the same site on 5 December 2013 (ND), and a male was in Satchari NP (north-east) from 11 December 2013 to the end of the year (TK, MA); further details are given in Mohsanin *et al.* (in prep.).

Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Vagrant. The third record was a female caught in an area of swamp trees and bushes during mist-netting at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east) on 29 November 2013 (ND, SUC, IJ, OM). Neither this nor the previous observations have distinguished between *T. c. rufilatus* and *T. c. cyanurus* which are now treated as separate species by some authorities. The wing (81 mm) and tail (64 mm) measurements of the 2013 bird suggest that it might be *rufilatus* which Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) state is longer-tailed than *cyanurus*, but this requires further investigation.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*

Vagrant. The second record was one on 13 October 2010 at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east) (JP, SMF). The observers were walking along the river above the waterfall when a large forktail was watched for 20–40 minutes at various distances, perched on the ground, feeding and in flight. It had a black unspotted mantle, white extending across the crown and a black breast—the latter two features ruling out Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus*. JP had prior experience of this species in Thailand.

White-throated Bushchat *Saxicola insignis* †

Vulnerable. Vagrant. Although listed as possible by Rashid (1967), and also included in Husain (1979) and Khan (1982), there are no documented records for Bangladesh. The first record was a female photographed in a tea garden near Madhupur Lake and tea estate, Srimangal (north-east) in late November 2007 (RH, JOM, SOM). Identification was based on well-marked buffy wingbars, a prominent buffy supercilium, and robust large-billed appearance. This scarce and declining species winters in the Himalayan foothills where the nearest known location is Jalpaiguri, West Bengal (BirdLife International 2001).

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*

Rare winter visitor or resident. Only one recent record from 1990

(Thompson *et al.* 1993). In 2009 a small population was found by JP on chars in the Padma River close to the international border and Rajshahi town (north-west), with several sightings of up to seven birds between 6 March 2009 and 4 January 2012. Most sightings were in the spring (March–April), but on 3 June 2011 a male and female were seen suggesting that it is resident and may breed in the area.

Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni*

Rare winter visitor. The fifth record and first for the south-east was a male on the Keokradong trail, Bandarban district, Chittagong Hill Tracts on 14 March 2010 (RH), while the sixth record was a female caught and ringed at Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east) on 25 February 2013 (Round *et al.* 2014).

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* †

Vagrant. Although listed for Bangladesh by Rashid (1967) and Ali & Ripley (1987), there are no definite previous records of this species, although it occurs in nearby Meghalaya. The first record was of a female photographed at Ramgar, Khagrachari, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) on 15 or 16 January 2010 (RH), the second a male photographed near Keokradang, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) in March 2010 (RH). These birds had presumably wandered from the hills of north-eastern India, where it is resident.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*

Vagrant or rare passage migrant. There was one previous record (Thompson & Johnson 2003). The second was in Lawachara NP (north-east) on 13 October 2004 (PMT); its white eye ring, moustache stripes, long bill, pale legs, buffy wing bar, warm brown tail and brownish breast were noted. There were at least four birds in spring and one autumn sighting: one was in the National Botanic Gardens, Dhaka (central) on 22 April 2011 (BD), two were seen together at Kaptai NP (south-east) on 24 March 2012 (MK), one was in Satchari NP on 12 April 2013 (RR) (where TK saw this or another more than once), and one was at Kaptai NP on 20 September 2013 (MK).

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata*

Rare winter visitor. The fourth to at least sixth records were a male photographed at Adampur, Rajkandi RF (north-east) on 25 February 2012 (TK, MA) with a male, presumably the same, in the same spot on 29 March 2012 (MK) and one female (but possibly two more heard) in the same location in February 2013 (several observers); and both a male and female photographed at Satchari NP (north-east) on 12 and 26 December 2013 (TK, MA).

Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*

Vagrant. There is only one previous record (Thompson *et al.* 1993). The second record was a male photographed in Adampur RF (north-east) on 21 December 2011 (TK, MA).

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*

Rare winter visitor. Since the two previous records (Thompson & Johnson 2003), mist-netting and recent observations suggest this secretive species is more numerous than had been thought. All but one record are from the north-east. At Pashua Haor, singles on 11, 12 and 16 February 2012, and at Tanguar Haor a single on 25 February 2012 were all caught during mist-netting in scrubby wetland habitat (Round *et al.* 2014). In addition single males were photographed in Adampur RF on 21 December 2011 (TK, MA) and 2 March 2012 (MK), and in Lawachara NP on 1 and 7 March 2012 (MK); and a male and female were seen and photographed at Kaptai NP (south-east) on 30 November 2013 (EUH, PDR).

Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira*

Vagrant. The second record was an immature male in treetops in Lawachara NP (north-east) on 28 November 2008 (PMT), the third was a male photographed at the same site in April 2010 (RH).

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*

Rare winter visitor. There are only four previous records. In this period a male was photographed at Naikanchari, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) in late March 2009 (RH), a male was photographed in Adampur RF (north-east) on 27 February 2012 (TK, MA), and one in February 2013 at the same site (TK, MA, MK). However, records in late 2013 suggest that it may be more abundant: this species was heard on three days in Kaptai NP, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east) in November 2013 (PDR), and in December 2013 at Satchari NP (north-east) at least three were seen and photographed (TK, MA).

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* †

Vagrant. Although listed as possibly occurring by Rashid (1967), there were no confirmed records. The first record was a male photographed in Satchari NP (north-east) on 22 November 2013 and present in the same area of forest through the remainder of the year (TK, MA, SR). It showed typical features of dark blue upperparts, an orange-rufous throat, breast and flanks fading into a white belly, and did not have a sufficiently robust bill for Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magirostris*. This species is a scarce winter visitor or possible resident in the hills of north-east India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), so although this record is from a lower altitude, it is not unexpected.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*

Vagrant. The third to fifth records were of a female photographed in Lawachara NP, Srimangal (north-east) from 31 December 2011 to 31 January 2012 (MA, TK), a female photographed at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east) on February 2012 (SUC), and another female seen in Adampur RF (north-east) on 23 February 2013 (MA, MK).

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*

Rare winter visitor. A male in Kaptai NP (south-east) on 25–29 November 2011 (ND) was the fifth record and the first outside Sylhet division. A male was photographed at Madhupkundo waterfall, Kulaura (north-east) on 8 January 2012 (MA, TK, MK), and a female (presumably the same wintering bird) was photographed from the same location on 26 February 2012 (SUC), 23 February 2013 (MK), and on 16 November 2013 (SUC).

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

Vagrant. Thompson *et al.* (1993) reported only two recent sightings in the 1980s. Unexpectedly a male was photographed in an urban location, Ramna Park, Dhaka (central), in October 2012 (DH), and its identity established when the picture was posted on the internet (SUC).

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* †

Vagrant. Although reported from Sylhet by Hume (1888), there were no subsequent records. The first recent record was a male in breeding plumage feeding on the flowers of a koroi *Albizia* sp. tree in a village near Kurigram town (north-west) in May 2008 (EUH); its red mantle and tail feathers were unmistakable. This area is close to the northern border, but at around 100 m altitude is well below the normal altitudinal range of this species. Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) note that immatures disperse to lower hills, but an adult male so far from the Himalayas in the breeding season is exceptional.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Rare but increasing resident. This species was rarely recorded, with most past records from the border at Tamabil (Thompson & Johnson 2003), but since 2008 there have been increasing numbers of sightings from several locations. In the north-east there were several sightings in Sunamganj and Sylhet, including nest building on 8 July 2012 (SUC, MK), and one on the Moulvi Bazar road, Srimangal, on 25 February 2011 (CC) was notable. A flock of about 20 was found in the Aricha area (central) in January 2008 (RH), and several were seen in Netrakona district (SUC). A thriving colony was found in Rangpur town (north-west) in 2012–13 (EUH), and several observers recorded this species from other towns in this area including Ponchogor and Bogra (SUC).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Rare winter visitor. The first records for 18 years were two on 17 March 2010 at Fakura Char, Feni, and a flock of 15 at Chandia Char, Feni (east centre), on 18 March 2010 (JB, AL, SUC, RoM). This suggests that the delta may be a regionally important wintering or passage site for a species that is uncommon to rare anywhere in the east of the Indian subcontinent (Lees *et al.* 2011). The only other records in this period were one from what previously had been more typical habitat in Bangladesh—freshwater wetlands in the north-east—one at Poroti Beel, Hakaluki Haor, on 19 February 2011 (PMT), and a few in the unusual habitat of hill areas at Ruma, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts, the first for the south-east, on 18 November 2011 (MK).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus*

Rare winter visitor. There are five previous records, the last two being from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Thompson & Johnson 2003). The only records in this period were five in Chunati NP (south-east) in March 2004 (EUH); a flock of at least 10 at Farua, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), in September 2010 (RH); several small flocks (of up to 10 birds) in the higher hills of Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts, in November 2010, February 2011 and November 2011 (MK); and a female on Shahjalal Char (central coast) on 17 January 2013 (EUH, TK, MA).

Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani* †

Vagrant. The first record was a male photographed at close range on a small channel in mangroves at Hiron Point, Sundarbans (south-west), on 29 November 2012 (ASA). The photographer reported that there were 9–10 people in a small rowing-boat and the bird landed on the boat three times in five minutes, each time for 10–15 seconds. It was unafraid of humans; the photographer was sitting in the front row, hardly 1 m away. Identification was made when the photographs were posted on the internet, and was straightforward as this was an adult male at close range. The only question, considering how confiding it was, was whether the bird could be an escape, but the location is remote from human habitation and there is no evidence of this species in captivity in Bangladesh. This record is considerably east of the normal wintering range which extends as far as peninsular India, but vagrants have been recorded in Vietnam (Wright 2009), Hong Kong and Japan (Robson 2008).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Rare winter visitor. There are three previous recent records. During this period, one was on rice stubble at Gowrinagor Mat, Meherpur (south-west), on 4 January 2009 (JP), one was at Cox's Bazar (south-east) in January 2010 (RH, SUC), one was photographed at Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), on 29 November 2011 (MA, TK), and one was in Kaptai NP, Chittagong Hill Tracts (south-east), on 24 November 2012 (SUC, MF, ZF, SR).

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
Endangered. Rare and declining winter visitor. This formerly locally common winter visitor has become very scarce. There were only three records in this period. At Baikka Beel, Hail Haor, Srimangal (north-east), two were present on 21 March 2006 and a flock of about 30 on 18 April 2007 (PMT), suggested spring passage migration. These were the only sightings during 55 visits to this site by PMT during 2001–2013; by comparison PMT recorded it on six out of nine visits to Hail Haor during 1986–2000. At least two were seen and photographed in grasslands on Khurma Tea Estate, Moulvi Bazar (north-east), on 20 November 2013 (SUC, TK, and others).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* †
Vagrant. The first record for Bangladesh was reported by Chowdhury (2011): a group of three photographed at Kotka, Sundarbans (south-west) on 10 October 2009 (RH, ZF, SUC).

DISCUSSION

The above 125 species (excluding the Western Reef Egret no longer considered to have been reliably recorded) fall into three categories: (1) long-distance migrants which occur as vagrants, or which are regular visitors and were overlooked in the past (48 species); (2) altitudinal or local migrants which breed within the subcontinent and which may be regular in small numbers or are vagrants from the Himalayas and adjacent hill states of north-east India (45 species); (3) species which are likely to be rare residents since they are not known to make regular movements, although in most cases there is no definite evidence of breeding (31 species). In addition, 19 species discussed in Thompson *et al.* (1993) or Thompson & Johnson (2003) continue to be present in Bangladesh without a change in their status and cannot be considered to be rarities, Table 1 summarises their status since 2002.

Recent fieldwork has concentrated on the north-east haors, coastal wetlands, and moist evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of the east side of the country. About 24% of the species discussed here are typically found in inland wetlands, 10% are most typical of coastal wetlands (including mangroves), 31% are typical of eastern forests, and 35% were found in a mix of habitats including open country, urban parks and wooded areas.

Four large haors in the north-east are particularly significant sites. Tanguar Haor, where 15 notable species were recorded, covers 9,527 ha and hosts internationally significant concentrations of wintering waterbirds. It is protected as Bangladesh's second Ramsar site, but important patches of reeds that were cleared in the early 2000s are yet to be restored. Baikka Beel, where 16 notable species were recorded, is exceptional for being a community-managed sanctuary of only 170 ha within the 12,000 ha of Hail Haor wetland. Following restoration of swamp vegetation and protection since 2003, a wide range of wetland-dependent species now visit the site. Pashua Haor, where nine notable species were recorded, covers about 4,000 ha and in the past was important for waterfowl; remnant areas of swamp forest and swamp scrub are significant for wintering passerines. However, the area is now overfished and lacks any formal protection, although it has been proposed as a site for habitat restoration and community conservation. Hakaluki Haor covers over 18,000 ha and was declared an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) by the Bangladesh Government in 1999; although less fieldwork has been conducted here, seven notable species were recorded, but conservation efforts have yet to control regular hunting and poisoning of waterfowl. The avifauna, management and threats to three of these wetlands are discussed further in Round *et al.* (2014).

Substantial fieldwork has been conducted in coastal areas in this period, particularly Sonadia Island, Nijum Dwip NP and adjacent areas; although relatively few notable species were recorded these islands hold globally significant populations of endangered shorebirds and form part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

Table 1. Summary of the status of species considered to be noteworthy in past reviews but regularly recorded in 2002–2013.

Species	Status
Falcated Duck <i>Anas falcata</i>	Regular winter visitor in small numbers mainly to north-east haors
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	Regular winter visitor in sizeable flocks at Tanguar Haor with small numbers in other wetlands
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Common winter visitor
Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Scarce winter visitor mainly to chars in the main rivers
Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personatus</i>	Scarce resident restricted to Sundarbans mangrove forest
Brown Wood Owl <i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	Local resident in central and east region forest
Ruddy Kingfisher <i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	Scarce resident restricted to Sundarbans mangrove forest
Great Barbet <i>Megalaima virens</i>	Resident restricted to Chittagong Hill Tracts
Grey-capped Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	Local resident in central and east region forest
Blue-naped Pitta <i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	Scarce resident in north-east and Chittagong Hill Tracts forest
Mangrove Pitta <i>Pitta megarhyncha</i>	Scarce resident restricted to Sundarbans mangrove forest
Nepal House Martin <i>Delichon nipalense</i>	Local winter visitor or resident in Chittagong Hill Tracts
Graceful Prinia <i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Local resident on chars with tall grasses in the main rivers
Yellow-bellied Prinia <i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Scarce local resident, mostly in grassy areas by rivers in/near Sundarbans; one record from a char in Jamuna river in this period
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	Uncommon to locally common winter visitor to wetland thickets in north-east as shown by mist-net studies
Large Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucos</i>	Local resident in east region forests
Snowy-browed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	Scarce regular winter visitor to east region forests
Orange-bellied Leafbird <i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Resident restricted to Chittagong Hill Tracts
Thick-billed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum agile</i>	Local resident in east region forests

Sonadia Island was declared an ECA in 1999 and has been proposed as a Ramsar site. Recent projects on the island have successfully restored mangroves and mitigated shorebird hunting. However, there are proposals to construct a deep-water port at Sonadia Island which may have a severe impact on the value of the island for shorebirds and other wildlife. Although Nijum Dwip was declared a national park in 2001 and has been proposed as a Ramsar site, in the absence of a management plan conservation work has been limited, and livestock grazing appears to be a significant threat to its wildlife.

Two small forest patches in the north-east are particularly important: Lawachara NP covering 1,250 ha with 19 noteworthy species, and Satcheri NP covering 243 ha with 12. These small areas remain the most accessible biodiverse areas of evergreen forest (a mixture of natural forest and old plantations) remaining in Bangladesh. Both have been protected as national parks since 1996, and since 2003 collaborative management (or 'co-management') has been established between Forest Department and local communities. Management plans were developed in the mid-2000s, but have only been followed partially and are due to be updated. Visitor centres, trails and other facilities have been constructed, and visitor numbers have increased substantially—in Lawachara NP for example from 28,575 in 2007 to an average of over 100,000 per year during 2010–13. Half of the revenue collected is returned for use by the communities, with the rest retained by government. But high visitor levels increase disturbance to parts of these small forests, and still local people from nearby villages and tea estates continue to cut firewood and some trees for timber (although this has reduced over the last decade).

In addition two large and very different areas are of particular note for species covered in this paper. Sixteen of the species were recorded in the Sundarbans where over 600,000 ha of mangrove forests are protected. The entire area was the first Ramsar site designated in Bangladesh and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and still remains relatively intact and safe for its distinctive avifauna. However, a 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant has been proposed 14 km north of the Sundarbans at Rampal, and would be a potential long-term threat to the forest and its birds. The Chittagong Hill Tracts cover a large part of south-east Bangladesh. Although extensively deforested and difficult of access, the area still holds important evergreen forest patches where most of the 35 species of note recorded here were found, particularly in Bandarban district, including the remnant forests in the remote Sangu valley, and the relatively accessible Kaptai NP.

This period has seen a modest increase in interest in nature and birds in Bangladesh. Digital photography has enabled more people to document their sightings for subsequent identification and has broadened interest in birds. A new batch of researchers have undertaken important studies focusing on threatened species, and the Bangladesh bird club has initiated a mist-netting programme based on annual camps in the north-east wetlands. All these initiatives have contributed to the new records summarised here. We hope that this expanding knowledge and interest can be harnessed to strengthen conservation of key sites for Bangladesh's diverse avifauna.

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