

Wardlaw-Ramsey found it not uncommon on the thickly wooded slopes of the Karen Hills east of Tounghoo (S. F., VI., 394). Dr. Armstrong obtained a pair on 1st January in low scrubby jungle near Elephant Point, Rangoon (S. F., IV., 334), and Hume remarks (S. F., XI., 268) that he has received three other specimens from the neighbourhood of Rangoon.

It has been doubtfully recorded from Mooleyit in Central Tenasserim.

To sum up :—It is found locally and in small numbers as a summer visitor to a portion of the western central Himalayas ; it is abundant as a winter visitor to Assam ; in Burmah it is local and scarce.

HUGH WHISTLER, F.Z.S.,

DHARMSALA, 20th September 1922.

INDIAN POLICE.

No. XX.—A NOTE ON THE EASTERN RED-LEGGED
FALCON (*ERYTHROPUS AMURENSIS*).

Living about 50 miles north of Taunggyi, the Headquarters of the Southern Shan States, I have noticed this year towards the end of April and the beginning of May, the visit, during migration, of numerous specimens of this pretty hawk.

The birds are very gregarious, feeding, in parties of at least 30 individuals, on flying termites, settling on the ground to pick them up and also catching them in their claws in the air as other birds. The country here is dry and very bare of trees ; mostly grass and some scrub.

Sitting on the open verandah of the house, which seems to be in the line of evening flight of the Jungle Crows going to roost in the trees near a village in the neighbourhood, I counted well over 100 of these little hawks going over in company with the crows on the 3rd of May ; they were then flying S.-W., about 30 yards up singly and in parties of upto 5 or 6 in number, evidently going to roost with the crows. On the 4th I noticed that there were fewer and on the 5th only a few solitary birds and now on the 10th none are to be seen anywhere.

LAWKSAUK, SOUTHERN SHAN STATES,
BURMAH, 10th May 1922.

P. F. WICKHAM,
P.W.D.

No. XXI.—NOTE ON THE NESTING HABITS OF THE
SPOTTED BABBLER (*PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS*).

While up at the little hill station of Yercaud, in the Salem District, last hot weather, I had the good fortune to find two nests of the Spotted Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*). One on the 21st of April and the second on the 3rd of May. In both cases the nests were placed on the ground in amongst dead leaves which were similar to those used for roofing the nests over with, making them extremely hard to find. The first nest I found by putting the bird off the nest ; I at first thought it was a rat running away amongst the dead leaves as it went off at such a pace, but, after getting some distance off, it commenced tumbling about amongst the dead leaves when I saw that it was a bird and was obviously trying to attract me away from a nest. I then made a minute search and at last discovered the nest with 3 eggs in it which were in an advanced state of incubation. I had not a gun with me at the time but went back the next day to shoot the bird but failed and the day after this the bird had deserted the nest.

In the case of the second nest I was seated on a shooting stick under some tall forest trees when my attention was attracted by something running about in the leaves, closer examination showed it to be a bird tumbling about in the leaves as though injured and at times hiding in amongst the leaves only showing its head. I then looked about and found that I was sitting within 2 feet of

the nest which contained 2 fresh eggs. I subsequently shot the bird when going into the nest and sent the skin to the Secretary, B. N. H. Society, for identification. The nests were constructed in a hollow in the dry leaves and were hooded over on three sides leaving a small entrance facing down hill, and were so well camouflaged that unless one obtained a view of the entrance it would be impossible to find the nest. The actual nest was a shallow cup lined with grass and fine roots.

The eggs found in the two nests vary a bit. Those found in the first nest have a greenish-white back ground and are very profusely spotted with dark brown spots and blotched with purplish-grey. The eggs in the second nest have a far lighter back ground being nearly white and are finely spotted all over with brown and purple-grey spots.

VELLORE, NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT,
14th July 1922.

C. B. BEADNELL.

NO. XXII.—LIST OF SMALL GAME SHOT IN MHOW DURING 1921 AND 1922.

I enclose a detailed list of small game shot by me in the past 1921-1922 season for inclusion in your records if of sufficient interest :—

Duck.

Gadwall	..	211			
Red-headed pochards	11		Red-crested		White-eyed
Tufted	..	28	pochards. ..	4	pochards. ..
Nukhta	..	1	Spot bill	..	2
Pintail	..	2	Shovellers	..	50
					Total duck ..
					345

Teal.

Common	..	57	Gargany	..	47	
Cotton	..	20	Whistling	..	6	Total teal ..
						130

Various.

Sandgrouse (pintail)	201	Quail	..	19	
Partridges (mostly painted.)	53	Pigeons	..	8	Various ..
		Florican	..	6	3
Hares	10	Snipe	..	679	

Making a grand
total of 1,454

The jhils were mostly well filled with water except in a small area between Indore and Fatehabad, and on the whole snipe were plentiful but duck were very scarce except on the largest jhils. The Gadwall is the commonest duck here but this year's bag shows an unusually high percentage; Widgeon are usually scarce, but were more plentiful than usual; Pintail, Red-headed Pochard and Common Teal were exceptionally scarce. On one occasion I saw a female Mallard in another officer's bag, and this was the only one seen by me alive or dead. Geese are rarely seen here but early in February a flock of about 25 passed me in easy range when motoring, but I could not distinguish the species as I was driving.

The first snipe was shot on September 24th and a few Whistling Teal were seen on the same day.

MHOW,
8th May 1922.

F. C. L. GRIEVE,
MAJOR, R.F.A.



Beadnell, C. B. 1923. "Note on the Nesting Habits of the Spotted Babbler (Pellorneum Ruficepa)." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 29, 292–293.

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