

No. 555. STURNOPASTOR CONTRA. *Pied Myna*.

Abulka-maina, Ablak-maina [H.]. Abulka [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Pied Myna is a very common and permanent resident. It is not inclined to unite in separate flocks, but joins with the Common and Bank Mynas. Like the former, it is particularly partial to native villages. It breeds from the end of May to the end of July, but most eggs are laid in June shortly after the first fall of rain. The nest is a shapeless bundle of straw, rags, paper, grass, &c., lined with feathers, and having a hole at the side. If a babool—preferentially one in the middle of a native village—is handy, it is selected, but almost any tree will do if that fails. The eggs are usually three or four, sometimes five, light to fairly dark blue in colour, and rather glossy.

Average of 13 Lucknow eggs 1·09" × ·77"

Measurement of largest egg 1·14" × ·80"

„ smallest egg 1·06" × ·75"

No. 561. SIPHIA PARVA. *European Red-breasted Flycatcher*.

This Flycatcher is fairly common during the cold weather, frequenting mango-topes, gardens, and trees along the railway-lines. It is an active little bird, constantly darting from its perch, and returning after a moment or two to the same spot. It departs about March, or, according to Reid, not until April.

No. 562. SIPHIA ALBICILLA. *Eastern Red-breasted Flycatcher*.

I have not shot many of these little Flycatchers. They look so pretty that, in common with many other species, I have spared them, as a rule. It is impossible to distinguish between *S. parva* and *S. albicilla*, unless the bird is in the hand, and probably I have often confounded the two. Reid says that he thinks one is about as common as the other, and I expect that he is not far wrong.

No. 575. *CYORNIS RUBECULOIDES.* *Blue-throated Flycatcher.*

Reid recorded this bird as "only a cold-weather visitor, numerically rare and seldom seen, except perhaps in the guava-groves and gardens about Lucknow. In the District it is occasionally met with in mango-topes, frequenting low branches, or often small shoots projecting from the trunks of the trees, from which it sallies forth after insects, rarely returning to the same perch, and seldom to the same tree."

I have only seen the bird once, and that was in my garden at La Martinière College.

No. 576. *CYORNIS TICKELLI.* *Tickell's Blue Flycatcher.*

According to Reid, this species is commoner than the last. I have no note of having seen it, and my impression is that both species are of rare occurrence in Lucknow.

No. 579. *STOPAROLA MELANOPS.* *Verditer Flycatcher.*

Only a cold-weather visitant, of course, and never, I think, very abundant. Reid gives the better wooded parts of the Division, the Horticultural Gardens, and the Wingfield Park—where, if I remember right, I have seen it on one or two occasions—as the localities it chiefly affects.

No. 588. *ALSEONAX LATIROSTRIS.* *Brown Flycatcher.*

I have no note of having actually come across this bird. Reid has recorded it as occurring during the "rains," but he had "no record or recollection of having seen it at other seasons."

No. 592. *CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS.* *Grey-headed Flycatcher.*

This Flycatcher visits the Division in large numbers during the cold weather. It shews great partiality for mango-topes.

No. 598. *TERPSIPHONE PARADISI.* *Indian Paradise Flycatcher.*

Shah-Bulbul [H.]. Rock-Bulbul [Anglo-Indian boys].

A permanent resident, generally spread over the wooded portions of the Division, but far from numerically abundant.

It breeds in June and July, as I have seen the eggs. Unfortunately the only nest I actually found myself was destroyed by heavy rain. It was in a mango-tree about ten feet from the ground. Reid, however, got the eggs here, and says :—"On the 6th of June last (1881), I took a nest and four eggs from a low branch of a mango-tree. The eggs, of a delicate white salmon-colour, were minutely spotted with red, and ringed with similar spots at the large end." These four eggs averaged $\cdot 80'' \times \cdot 58''$.

No. 601. *HYPOTHYMIS AZUREA*. *Indian Black-naped Fly-catcher*.

I am very ignorant concerning our migratory Flycatchers, as, during their stay here, whenever I have spare time, I am on the jheel shooting rather than in the tope collecting. According to Reid this species is not common. "It does not seem to care for mango-topes, in which I have never seen it ; but in forest-looking tracts, with plenty of under-wood or shrubs, it may occasionally be seen, generally two or three together."

No. 604. *RHIPIDURA ALBIFRONTATA*. *White-browed Fantail-Flycatcher*.

This pretty little bird with its plaintive note is common all over the Division, chiefly, I think, in mango-groves, but also in avenues and gardens. It is, of course, a permanent resident. It is interesting to watch it darting from a branch after insects, returning to its perch and spreading out its tail. It breeds, I think, twice—in March or early April, and again in the "rains." The nest is a most delicate little inverted cone of fine grass, coated with cobwebs, and is placed *on* the branch of a tree—generally a mango, but sometimes a guava or other species. Reid has given an excellent account of the nest-building, which is worth quoting :—"The place selected was a horizontal and slender mango branch about six feet from the ground, at a point where the branch terminated and three slender uprights started. In this fork they commenced the nest by twisting spiders-webs round the main or horizontal stem upon which

their tiny structure was destined to stand. Next morning the nest was but little bigger than, and almost as neat and compact as, a large acorn-cup, and entirely unconnected with any of the upright twigs. During the next two days good progress was made, and on the fifth day the nest was a perfect full-sized skeleton, having its sides firmly attached to the three perpendicular twigs. The process of thickening the sides of the nest then commenced, and in thirteen days, counting from the beginning, the nest was completed. On the fifteenth day it contained two eggs of a creamy-white colour with a zone of brownish spots at the thick end of each."

I have taken several nests and have always found the full complement of eggs to be three, though once I took four in a clutch. They are very like miniature Shrikes' eggs, white with a faint brownish tinge, and a ring of brown and purplish spots.

Average of 12 Lucknow eggs	·62" × ·49"
Measurement of largest egg	·67" × ·50"
„ smallest egg	·57" × ·47"

No. 608. PRATINCOLA CAPRATA. *Common Pied Bush-Chat*.
Kala Pidha [H.].

The Pied Bush-Chat is not very numerous, though I believe that it is a permanent resident. I have seen it chiefly in dhak-jungle, and ravine-like ground covered with scrub. I have never found the nest, though I have had its discovery recorded. It is possible, however, that the fabric may have belonged to *Thamnobia cambaiensis*.

No. 610. PRATINCOLA MAURA. *Indian Bush-Chat*.

A common winter visitor, coming in October and leaving in April. Reid's opinion that it is a very wary bird is not in accordance with my experience; but it is very restless, continually flitting from bush to bush, and is sometimes difficult to shoot on this account.

No. 613. *PRATINCOLA INSIGNIS. *Hodgson's Bush-Chat*.

I shot a large Bush-Chat near Ataria, about twenty miles north from Lucknow, in the early spring of 1897, but

known as the Shama in Lucknow, where, though not numerous, a few are always to be found amongst old ruins. It breeds from March to July; but most eggs, I think, are hatched by the end of April. A couple of pairs or so always frequent the main building of the Martinière, making their nests in the dormitories, in spite of the frequency with which they are robbed. I have been unlucky with their eggs; the only specimens which I have found were in a nest in a ravine near Cawnpore. Once or twice I have found young birds. The few eggs which I have seen have been light blue, sparsely spotted with yellow-brown or brownish red.

Average of 8 Lucknow eggs	·80" × ·61"
Measurement of largest egg	·81" × ·61"
„ smallest egg	·78" × ·60"

No. 644. *RUTICILLA RUFIVENTRIS*. *Indian Redstart*.

Lalgonda [H., *teste* Reid]. Devil-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

A very common winter visitor, arriving in September or earlier, and staying on into May.

No. 647. *CYANECULA SUECICA*. *Indian Blue-throat*.

Cut-throat [Anglo-Indian boys].

Very common in the cold weather, especially so in the crops lying along the river-banks.

No. 661. *THAMNOBIA CAMBAIENSIS*. *Brown-backed Indian Robin*.

Dama [H., and Anglo-Indian boys].

A very common and permanent resident. It has a pretty song in the breeding-season, and, at this period, as remarked by Reid, it has the habit of "dancing about all the time with its wings in a trailing position and its tail erect."

It breeds from March to July, making a Robin-like nest of grass, moss, hair, &c., in holes in buildings, walls, ravines, or occasionally amongst the leaves of the aloe and cactus. The eggs, three, or occasionally four, in number, are white or greenish white, rather thickly spotted and blotched with reddish brown, chiefly at the larger end. In the nests of



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