

## A Checklist of the Resident Avifauna around the Ramakrishna Mission Boys Home, Rahara, West Bengal

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The Ramakrishna Mission Boys Home campus of Rahara is located in Barrackpore subdivision of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. It is situated (Latitude: 22°43' N, Longitude: 88°22' E) under Khardah municipality and within the part of area covered by Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.

The study was conducted during the month of September to December, 2015, in and around the Ramakrishna Mission Boys Home campus, which is approximately 2 square kilometers. The entire visual recording of avifauna was done by the help of binoculars and digital cameras. Birds were identified up to their lowest possible taxonomic category by the help of standard literature (Ali & Ripley, 1983).

It was observed during the study period that the various trees like banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), betel nut (*Areca catechu*), debdaru (*Polyalthia longifolia*), gulmoohar (*Delonix regia*), sirish (*Albizia samani*), shimul (*Bombax ceiba*), mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) etc. were mostly favored by the residential avifauna for their nest building and foraging sites.

Though the study site is located within an urbanized area and very close vicinity to Khardah railway station, but still a list of 35 residential species of birds representing 20 families was recorded during the study period. A list of birds representing members including their taxonomic family, common name and scientific name is given in Table 1.

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### Reference

Ali, S. & Ripley, S. B. 1983. *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Bombay Natural History Society, Oxford University Press: 183 pp.

**Table 1. Avifauna recorded at Rahara, W. Bengal.**

Family and Common name	Scientific name
Family: Accipitridae	
1. Pariah Kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>
Family: Alcedinidae	
2. Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
3. White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Family: Apodidae	
4. Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Family: Ardeidae	
5. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
6. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
7. Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
8. Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Family: Capitonidae	
9. Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
Family: Columbidae	
10. Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
11. Indian Ring Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
12. Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
13. Yellow-legged Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>
Family: Corvidae	
14. Indian Tree pie	<i>Dendrocyta vagabunda</i>
15. House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
16. Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Family: Cuculidae	
17. Crow Pheasant	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Family: Dicruridae	
18. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Family: Meropidae	
19. Green Bee Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Family: Motacillidae	
20. Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
21. Forest Wagtail	<i>Motacilla indica</i>
Family: Muscicapidae	
22. Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>

23. Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
24. Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Family: Nectariniidae	
25. Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>
Family: Oriolidae	
26. Black headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
27. Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Family: Phalacrocoracidae	
28. Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
Family: Picidae	
29. Lesser Golden Backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Family: Ploceidae	
30. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Family: Psittacidae	
31. Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Family: Pycnonotidae	
32. Red Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Family: Sturnidae	
33. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
34. Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
35. Pied Myna	<i>Sturnus contra</i>

## Letters

I thank you for sending me a copy of BIONOTES which has republished my piece on TNA [Dr. T.N. Ananthakrishnan].

You may be aware that TNA died last October.

—Dr. A. Raman

School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences,  
Faculty of Science, Charles Sturt University,  
Orange NSW 2800 (AUSTRALIA).

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During the floods at Chennai, we were here at our village near Tenkasi. But Prakash had problems at Chennai. He is in the 1st floor. Ground floor was into water upto 4 feet. All families in ground floor vacated. After 3 or 4 days only normal life returned. Prakash had damages in his car, bike, electricity meter, telephones etc. He spent Rs 50,000/- or so to repair them. Fortunately, there was no loss of life in their locality. Drinking water, food, electricity, mobile connections etc were not there for 24 to 48 hours. Somehow things are

improving now.

Our village had rains but there was no flood. But there was flood water in the river.

—R.M. Sundaram

Retd. Joint Director (Entomology)

Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme,  
CHENNAI - 600047.

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