

## Birds of Narcondam Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands with an Updated Checklist

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### Abstract

The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago consists of 572 islands, Islets, and rocky outcrops with extending over 800 km. The studies on the avifauna of Narcondam Island carried out by the authors for a period of five months starting from January 2020 to May 2020. Total of 95 species belonging to 31 families and 11 orders were recorded during the period of study. Of these, 11 species are new records to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and thirty species new report to Narcondam Island.

**Keywords:** Andaman, Avifauna, Checklist Narcondam Island

### Introduction

The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago consists of 572 islands, islets and rocky outcrops and extending over 800 km, and known for their rich biodiversity (Saldanha, 1989; Tikedar, 1984; Vijayan *et al.*, 2000; Jayaraj and Andrews, 2005). These are truly oceanic islands, never having been connected to the mainland during Pleistocene glaciations (Ripley and Beehler, 1989). These islands were once a part of the Asian mainland but got detached some 100 million years ago during the Upper Mesozoic Period due to geological upheaval. The existing groups of islands constitute the physiographic continuation of the mountainous ranges of Naga and Lushai Hills and Arakan Yoma of Burma through Cape Negrais to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and southeast of Sumatra. The chains of these islands are in fact the camel backs of the submerged mountain ranges projecting above the sea level running north to south between 6° 45' and 13° 30' N latitudes and 90° 20' and 93° 56' E longitudes with an extent of 8,249 km<sup>2</sup>. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands can be broadly divided into two groups, namely, the Andamans and the Nicobars. The Andaman group has 324 islands, of which 25 are inhabited and the Nicobar group is made up of 28 islands, of which 13 are inhabited (Jayaraj and Andrews, 2005). These two groups are separated by the Ten-degree Channel which is about 150 km wide 400 fathoms

deep. Average annual temperature varies from 24° C to 28° C. The elevations range from 0 to 732 m at Saddle Peak in North Andaman and 642 m at Mount Thulier in Great Nicobar Island. The rainfall is slightly higher in Nicobar with an annual average of 3000 to 3500 mm. The Continental Shelf of these islands encompasses an area of 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> with an EEZ of 8149 km<sup>2</sup>. The mean annual temperature of the Islands ranges from 24 to 28° C. Precipitation is slightly higher in the Nicobar Island group with an average annual rainfall of 3000 to 3500 mm. Zoo-geographically, Andaman and Nicobar Islands occupy a unique position close to the 'Indo-Malayan region', which is considered to be a 'faunistic centre' from which other subdivisions of the Indo-west Pacific Region recruited their fauna. The fauna of the archipelago is also distinct from that of the mainland India and exhibit strong bio-geographical affinities towards the Southeast Asian countries.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands constitute a globally important biodiversity hotspot. Due to isolation from the mainland, the endemism is very high in all taxa including avifauna (Rao *et al.*, 1980; Das, 1999a, 1999b and Andrews, 2001). This archipelago is one of the Endemic Bird Areas (EBA), nineteen sites were identified as Important Bird Areas (IBA), and thirty species are considered endemic to these islands (Stattersfield *et al.*, 1998). Ornithology

in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a long history and it was started by many British researchers during the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century (Blyth, 1845, 1846a, 1846b, 1863 and 1866; Walden, 1866, 1873; Barbe, 1846; Flower, 1860; Tytler, 1864, 1867; Beavan, 1867; Tytler, 1867; Ball, 1870, 1872, 1873; Hume, 1873a,b, 1874a, 1874b, 1876; Prain, 1892; St. John, 1898; Butler, 1899a, 1899b, 1899c, 1900, Cory, 1902; Richmond, 1902; Wilson, 1904; Osmaston, 1905, 1906a,b,c, 1907, 1908, 1932, 1933, 2001; Wickham, 1910; Fleming, 1911; Whitehead, 1912; Oberholser, 1915, 1917, 1919; Ferrar, 1931; Stapylton, 1933, 1934a,b; Whistler, 1940; Gibson-Hill, 1949; Thothathri, 1962; Abdulali, 1964, 1965, 1967a,b, 1976, 1977, 1978a,b, 1979, 1981a,b; Voous, 1965; Thangam, 1966; Bailey *et al.*, 1968; Abdulali and Grubb, 1970).

More recently, many researchers have contributed to knowledge of the avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Das, 1971; Mukherjee and Dasgupta, 1975; Dasgupta, 1976; Whitaker, 1976, 1985, 2000; Frith, 1978; Ali, 1980; Saha and Dasgupta, 1980; Bhaskar, 1981a,b; Altevogt and Davis, 1981; Mees, 1981; Mukherjee, 1981; Ali and Ripley, 1983, 1987; Hussain, 1977, 1984, 1991, 1992; Tikader, 1984; Saldanha, 1988, 1989; Balakrishnan, 1989; Ripley and Beehler, 1989; Steadman, 1991; Kazmierczak, 1991; Santharam, 1991,1996, 1997; Sebastian, 1991; Anon., 1992, 1996, 2004a,b,c, 2008; Sankaran, 1993, 1995a,b,c,d,e, 1997, 1998a,b,c,d,e, 2001, 2005; Sankaran and Vijayan, 1993; Vijayan, 1993,1996, 1999, 2006, 2007; Chandra and Rajan, 1994a,b; Chandra and Kumar, 1994; Prakash *et al.*, 1994; Saxena, 1994; Davidar *et al.*, 1995, 1996, 2001 and 2007; Prakash, 1995; Robertson, 1995; Wahal, 1995; Davidar, 1996; Davidar *et al.*, 1996; Prashanth and Veenakumari, 1996; Unnithan, 1996; Vijayan, 1996, 2007; Thiollay, 1997; Grimmett *et al.*, 1998; Rasmussen, 1998, 2000, 2005a,b,c; Stattersfield *et al.*, 1998; Relton, 1999; Sankaran and Sivakumar, 1999; Gandhi, 2000; Sivakumar, 2000, 2003a,b, 2007; Yoganand and Davidar, 2000; Vijayan *et al.*, 2000; Vijayan *et al.*, 2000, 2005; Vijayan and Sankaran, 2001; Dasgupta *et al.*, 2002; Sivakumar and Sankaran, 2002, 2003, 2005a,b; Ali, 2003, 2007; IIRS, 2003; Kulkarni and Chandi, 2003; Vivek and Vijayan, 2003; Yahya and Zarri, 2002a,b; Islam and Rahmani, 2004; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005; Ezhilarasi and Vijayan, 2006; Ashraf,

2006; Andrews *et al.*, 2006; Samaraweera, 2006; Pande *et al.*, 2007; Pande, 2007; Vijayan and Ezhilarasi, 2007; Sankaran and Manchi, 2008; Mamannan, and Vijayan, 2009; Manchi and Sankaran, 2009; Bhopale, 2010; Sivaperuman *et al.*, 2010, 2012; Sundaramoorthy, 2010; Pande *et al.*, 2011; Rajan and Pramod, 2011a,b,c, 2013; Manchi, 2013; Raman *et al.*, 2013; Gokulakrishnan *et al.*, 2014; Manchi and Kumar, 2014; Rajeshkumar *et al.*, 2014; Thompson, 2014; Zaibin *et al.*, 2014; Gokulakrishnan *et al.*, 2015; Gokulakrishnan and Sivaperuman, 2016; Praveen *et al.*, 2016; Sridharan *et al.*, 2017).

Among the 32 Asian hornbill species (Poonswad *et al.*, 2013), the Narcondam island is unique for the occurrence of the Narcondam Hornbill *Rhyticeros narcondami*, which is endemic to Andaman Islands (Ali and Ripley, 1987). The Narcondam Hornbill is considered an endangered species according to the IUCN red list threatened Species (IUCN, 2020). It is listed as a Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

## Methods

### Study area

The study was carried out at Narcondam Island Wildlife Sanctuary (6.8 km<sup>2</sup>), situated in the oceanic island of volcanic origin (13°30'N and 94°38'E), Northeast of the main Andaman group of islands in the Bay of Bengal, about 180 km west of the Burmese mainland, a small island rises abruptly from the sea. It is located about 240 km northeast of Port Blair in the South Andaman Islands, and about 125 km east of North Andaman. The nearest island is North Andaman, while Coco Island of Myanmar is about 96 km (Pal *et al.*, 2007; Raman *et al.*, 2013). The Narcondam Hornbill found only on this Island which was declared an Important Bird Area (Islam and Rahmani, 2004). Narcondam Island, rising to 706 M above msl (Pal *et al.*, 2007), is an island with the second highest peak.

Field surveys were conducted for a period of five months starting from January 2020 to May 2020 and observations were carried on a fixed path on average 1km radius at each station by using the line transect method (Gaston, 1973; Burnham *et al.*, 1980). The birds were observed during the peak

hours of their activity from 0530hr to 1030hr. Observations were also made during other times of the day as per convenience. Bird species were identified using field guides (Grimmett *et al.*, 1998; Robson, 2011; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012). The common and scientific names of the birds given in the checklist followed by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005), the Order and Family followed by Bird Life International (2019).

## Results and discussion

### Avifaunal diversity in Narcondam Island

A total of 95 species belonging to 31 families and 11 orders were recorded during the period of study (Table 1). These include 11 new records to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and thirty species new report to Narcondam Island (Hume, 1873; Prain, 1892; Osmaston, 1905; Abdulali, 1971; Hussain, 1984; Abdulali, 1974; Sankaran & Vijayan, 1993; Pande, *et al.* 2007; Raman *et al.*, 2013; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012). According to (IUCN, 2019), two species listed under Near Threatened (Nicobar Pigeon and Alexandrine Parakeet) and one species are

categorized as Endangered (Narcondam Hornbill). Of the recorded species, 18 were residents, seven were residents with local movement, nine were passage migrants, 55 were winter migrant and four were summer migrants (Table 1). The feeding guilds composition of birds in the study area showed highest in the insectivore and understory insectivores (21) in each category, followed by Aquatic land-dwelling feeder (15), Aquatic feeder (9), Canopy insectivores (7), Frugivores (6), Carnivorous (5), Aerial feeder (4), Piscivores (2), Aquatic aerial feeder (2), and each Frugivores with insectivore and Nectarivore–insectivore (1) (Table 1).

BirdLife International identified 218 endemic bird areas, of these nineteen are found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Birdlife International, 2000) and Narcondam Island is one of the Endemic Bird areas. Besides, the Narcondam Hornbill, ten endemic subspecies were recorded namely, Black Baza, Andaman Emerald Dove, Green-Imperial Pigeon, Alexandrine Parakeet, Asian Koel, Andaman Glossy Swiftlet, Edible-nest Swiftlet, Hooded Pitta, Andaman Olive-backed Sunbird and Andaman Hill Myna.

**Table 1. List of birds recorded from Narcondam Island**

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
<b>Pelecaniformes</b>					
<b>Ardeidae</b>					
1	Pacific Reef-Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i> (Gmelin, 1766)	LC	R	AF
2	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus, 1758	LC	PM	AF
3	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i> (Wagler, 1829)	LC	PM	AF
4	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	LC	R/LM	AF
5	Chinese Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i> (Bonaparte, 1855)	LC	WM	AF
6	Javan Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	LC	WM	AF
7	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	R/LM	AF
8	Malayan Night-Heron	<i>Goraschius melanolophus minor</i> Hachisuka, 1926	LC	R/LM	UI
9	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	LC	WM	AF
10	Chestnut Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	LC	R/LM	AF

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
<b>Accipitriformes</b>					
<b>Accipitridae</b>					
11	Black Baza <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Aviceda leuphotes andamanica</i> Abdulali, 1817	NE	R/LM	C
12	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (Gmelin, 1788)	LC	R	C
13	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i> (Temminck & Schlegel, 1845)	LC	WM	C
14	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	WM	C
15	Grey-faced Buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i> (Gmelin, 1788)	LC	WM	C
16	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> (Temminck, 1821)	LC	PM	C
<b>Gruiformes</b>					
<b>Rallidae</b>					
17	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus insularis</i> Sharpe, 1894	LC	R	ALDF
18	Eastern Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i> (Pallas, 1776)	LC	WM	ALDF
19	Slaty-legged Crake	<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i> (Lafresnaye, 1845)	LC	R	ALDF
20	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Lewinia striatus obscurior</i> (Hume, 1874)	LC	R	ALDF
21	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	LC	WM	ALDF
22	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	LC	R/LM	ALDF
<b>Charadriiformes</b>					
23	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i> Pallas, 1776	LC	WM	ALDF
24	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> Lesson, 1826	LC	WM	ALDF
25	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	PM	ALDF
<b>Scolopacidae</b>					
26	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	WM	ALDF
27	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	WM	ALDF
28	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Linnaeus, 1758	LC	WM	ALDF
29	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	WM	ALDF
30	Sanderling	<i>Ereunetes albus</i> (Pallas, 1764)	LC	WM	ALDF
<b>Glareolidae</b>					
31	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i> J.R. Forster, 1795	LC	WM	ALDF
<b>Laridae</b>					
32	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i> Raffles, 1822	LC	R/LM	AAF
33	White-Winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (Temminck, 1815)	LC	PM	AAF

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
34	<b>Columbiformes</b>				
35	<b>Columbidae</b>				
36	Emerald Dove <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Chalcophaps indica maxima</i> Hartert, 1931	LC	R	UI
37	Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Hermann, 1804)	LC	R	UI
38	Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	NT	R	UI
39	Green-Imperial Pigeon <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Ducula aenea andamanica</i> (Abdualali, 1964)	LC	R	F
40	Pied Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	LC	R	F
	<b>Psittaciformes</b>				
	<b>Psittaculidae</b>				
41	Alexandrine Parakeet <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Psittacula eupatria magnirostris</i> (Ball, 1872)	NT	R	F
	<b>Cuculiformes</b>				
	<b>Cuculidae</b>				
42	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i> (Vigors, 1832)	LC	WM	I
43	Chestnut-winged Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	LC	WM	I
44	Himalayan Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i> Blyth, 1843	LC	WM	I
45	Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	LC	WM	I
46	Asian Koel <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea dolosus</i> Ripley, 1946	LC	WM	F
	<b>Caprimulgiformes</b>				
	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>				
47	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i> Temminck & Schlegel, 1844	LC	WM	I
	<b>Apodidae</b>				
48	Andaman Glossy Swiftlet <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Collocalia esculenta affinis</i> Beavan 1867	LC	R	Af
49	Edible-nest Swiftlet <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus inexpectatus</i> Hume, 1873	LC	R	Af
	<b>Coraciiformes</b>				
	<b>Alcedinidae</b>				
50	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	WM	P
51	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	LC	WM	P

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
<b>Coraciidae</b>					
52	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis gigas</i> Stesemann, 1913	LC	R	I
<b>Bucerotiformes</b>					
<b>Bucerotidae</b>					
53	Narcondam Hornbill <sup>E</sup>	<i>Rhyticeros narcondami</i> (Hume, 1873)	EN	R	F, I
<b>Passeriformes</b>					
<b>Pittidae</b>					
54	Hooded Pitta <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Pitta sordida abbotti</i> Richmond, 1903	LC	R	UI
55	Blue-winged Pitta	<i>Pitta moluccensis</i> (Muller, 1776)	LC	SM	UI
<b>Hirundinidae</b>					
56	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Linnaeus, 1758	LC	WM	Af
57	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i> Linnaeus, 1771	LC	WM	Af
<b>Motacillidae</b>					
58	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	LC	WM	UI
59	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla leucopsis</i> Gould, 1838	NE	WM	UI
60	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tshutschensis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	LC	WM	UI
61	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall, 1771	NE	WM	UI
62	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i> Pallas, 1776	LC	WM	UI
63	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i> (Pallas, 1811)	NE	WM	UI
64	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	LC	WM	UI
<b>Campephagidae</b>					
65	Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i> (Raffles, 1822)	LC	WM	I
<b>Laniidae</b>					
66	Philippine Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus lucionensis</i> Linnaeus, 1766	LC	WM	I
<b>Turdidae</b>					
67	Eyebrowed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i> Gmelin, 1789	LC	WM	UI
68	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i> (Latham, 1790)	LC	PM	UI
69	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i> (Latham, 1790)	LC	SM	UI
70	Siberian Thrush	<i>Geokichla sibirica</i> (Pallas, 1776)	LC	WM	UI
<b>Muscicapidae</b>					
71	Siberian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora cyane</i> (Pallas, 1776)	LC	WM	UI
72	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola stejnegeri</i> (Parrot, 1908)	LC	WM	I

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
<b>Cisticolidae</b>					
73	Eastern Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i> (Pallas, 1776)	LC	WM	I
<b>Sylviidae</b>					
74	Lanceolated Warbler	<i>Locustella lanceolata</i> (Temminck, 1840)	LC	WM	I
75	Black-browed Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i> Swinhoe, 1860	LC	WM	I
<b>Phylloscopidae</b>					
76	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i> (Blyth, 1842)	LC	WM	I
77	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> (Blyth, 1842)	LC	WM	I
78	Arctic Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i> (Blasius, 1858)	LC	WM	I
79	Greenish Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> (Sundevall, 1837)	LC	WM	I
80	Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i> Swinhoe, 1860	LC	WM	I
<b>Muscicapidae</b>					
81	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i> (Raffles, 1822)	LC	WM	CI
82	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i> Gmelin, 1789	LC	PM	CI
83	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i> (Pallas, 1811)	LC	WM	CI
84	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i> (Hay, 1845)	LC	WM	CI
85	Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i> (Vigors, 1831)	LC	SM	CI
86	Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i> (Hodgson, 1845)	LC	SM	CI
<b>Monarchidae</b>					
87	Amur Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone incei</i> (Gould, 1852)	LC	WM	CI
<b>Passeridae</b>					
88	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	LC	PM	UI
<b>Nectariniidae</b>					
89	Olive backed Sunbird <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Cinnyris jugularis andamanicus</i> (Hume, 1873)	LC	R	N, I
<b>Emberizidae</b>					
90	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i> Pallas, 1776	LC	PM	UI
91	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i> Pallas, 1776	LC	PM	UI

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	Residential Status	Foraging Guild
<b>Sturnidae</b>					
92	Andaman Hill Myna <sup>ENS</sup>	<i>Gracula religiosa andamanensis</i> (Beavan, 1867)	LC	R	F
93	Purple-backed Starling	<i>Agropsar sturninus</i> (Pallas, 1776)	LC	WM	I
<b>Oriolidae</b>					
94	Slender-billed Oriole	<i>Oriolus tenuirostris</i> Blyth, 1846	LC	WM	F
<b>Dicruridae</b>					
95	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> Vieillot, 1817	LC	WM	I
96	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus salangensis</i> Reichenow, 1890	LC	WM	I
97	Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectens</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	LC	PM	I

Residential Status: R - Resident; R/LM - Resident with local movements; WM - Winter Migrant; PM - Passage migrant; SM - Summer migrant; Residential status followed by (Ali & Ripley, 1983; Rasmussen & Anderton, 2012; Sivaperuman *et al.* 2018).

IUCN Threatened status of the birds given in the checklist is as per IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Birdlife International 2019).

Foraging: Aerial feeder (Af), Aquatic feeder (AF), Aquatic land-dwelling feeder (ALDF), Aquatic aerial feeder (AAF), Bark surface feeders (BSF), Canopy insectivores (CI), Carnivorous (C), Frugivores (F), Nectarivore - insectivore (NI), Omnivore (O), Piscivores (P), Insectivore (I), Understorey insectivores (UI) (Raman *et al.*, 1998).

E- Endemic; ENS - Endemic Subspecies

### New record to the Narcondam Island

- Grey Heron:** One single individual sighted on the way to light-house on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- Javan Pond-heron:** This heron was seen along the coast and also near the police barracks in the Month of May 2020. The bird was actively feeding in the water edge along with Chinese Pond-heron.
- Striated Heron:** A few individuals were seen feeding over the coast near the landing point & western side of the coast in May 2020.
- Malayan Night-Heron:** on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, one individual was sighted from main water source nallah and another individual from police barrack.
- Chestnut Bittern:** This was sighted in February-May 2020; a total of five individuals were seen near the police barrack.
- Black Baza:** One individual was seen soaring over the western side forest area in the month of April.
- Japanese Sparrowhawk:** This bird was reported during February-April 2020 and only one individual was seen near the police barrack.
- Oriental Honey-Buzzard:** One individual was recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 near the police barrack.
- Eastern Baillon's Crake:** A single bird was sighted in February 2020 near the police barrack.
- Slaty-breasted Rail:** One single individual was seen on the way to light-house on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- Ruddy-breasted Crake:** Two individual was recorded in February-April 2020 near the police barrack.
- Watercock:** Two individuals were sighted in February-April 2020 near the police barrack.
- Sanderling:** One individual was seen at landing point, along the shoreline and it was reported during February-April 2020.
- Red Collared-Dove:** The dove species was seen resting in a Police Barrack of on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- Large Hawk-Cuckoo:** This Cuckoo was sighted in three different locations on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. This was resting in tree near police barrack, A second bird was sighted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the



main water source nallah and third individual was seen from the western side of the island.

16. **Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo:** This Cuckoo was sighted at three different locations on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, it was spotted resting in tree near to the police barrack, second time was sighted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the main water source nallah, the third individual was seen to the western side of the island.
17. **Citrine Wagtail:** One individual was seen feeding on rocks along the coast of landing point & western side coastal areas on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
18. **Ashy Minivet:** Two individuals were seen perched on tree and feeding over the canopy during March-April 2020. Again, this bird was observed for main water source nallah and another individual from police barrack.
19. **Siberian Blue Robin:** This robin male & female sighted at three different locations during February to May, 2020, such as near police barrack, main water source nallah and western side of the island.
20. **Common Stonechat:** Male & female sighted on April to May, 2020 and this bird was resting in an herb near to the police barrack.
21. **Lanceolated Warbler:** The bird was sighted on 31<sup>st</sup> March 31, 2020 and this was resting in a tree near to the police barrack.
22. **Black-browed Reed-Warbler:** One individual was seen feeding over the herb near the landing point.
23. **Daurian Starling:** Daurian Starling were observed on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from the western side of the island.
24. **Amur Paradise-Flycatcher:** During March-May 2020 observed from the main water source.
25. **Blue-throated Flycatcher:** Two individual was sighted during February-April 2020 near to the main water source nallah.

26. **Little Bunting:** This was seen near the police barracks on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020; 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
27. **Purple-backed Starling:** Two individuals were seen perched on tree and feeding over the canopy on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
28. **Black Drongo:** This bird was sighted in three different locations on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, and this was resting in a tree near police barrack, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the main water source nallah and third was seen to the western side of the island.
29. **Ashy Drongo:** This was sighted at three different locations on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, one was resting in tree near police barrack, the second bird was sighted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the main water source nallah and thirds was seen to the western side of in this island.
30. **Crow-billed Drongo:** One single individual was seen on the way to light-house, on 07 May 2020.

#### **New record to Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1. **Common Buzzard:** A flock of five individual were sighted near to the light-house, 700M elevation hill top (13°26.961' N; 94°15.880 E), near barrack (13°27.126'N; 94°16.546' E) during this January to April.
2. **Chestnut-winged Crested Cuckoo:** Chestnut-winged Crested Cuckoo was sighted at three different locations on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 an adult bird was sighted near to the police barrack (13°27.126' N; 94°16.546' E), and observed for about 10 minutes through binoculars for about 5 – 10 mts. The second bird was sighted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the main water source nallah (13°26.5089'N; 94°16.1370' E), the third individual was seen to the western side of the island (13°27.656' N; 94°15.935' E). This bird species breeds in Himalayas (Grimmett *et al.*, 2011) and migrate along the Eastern Ghats in its southward migration with exhausted individuals often being discovered in the vicinity of homes (Krishnan, 1954; Raju, 1979). During October, this was reported from Point Calimere, winter in the Western Ghats (Comber, 1901). According to

the available literature, this species has not been recorded from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Grimmett *et al.*, 2011; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012; Praveen *et al.*, 2018).

3. **Scaly Thrush:** On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 0600 hrs observed feeding grass on the ground near to the police barrack (13°27.126'N; 94°16.546' E). The observed individual was olive brown upper body, whitish under body with heavy blackish scales, two buffy-white bands on underwings and white-tipped outer tail feathers and this was not reported from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012; Robson, 2008).
4. **Paddy-field Pipit:** On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 0600 hrs, observed resting on grass and open rocky near to the police barrack (13°27.126'N; 94°16.546' E). The breast is streaked and the upperparts have variable amounts of streaking.
5. **Dark-sided Flycatcher:** One individual was seen resting in mango tree branch near to the police barrack (13°27.221'N; 94°16.411'E) on 27 April 2020.
6. **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher:** On 23 March 2020, we have sighted in three different locations and this was feeding caterpillar near to the police barrack (Lat: 13°27.221'N; Long: 94°16.411'E). A second bird was sighted on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Light House (Lat: 13°27.607' N; Long: 94°15.751 E). Third bird was sighted on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 near the main water source nallah (13°26.5089'N; 94°16.1370' E).
7. **Ferruginous Flycatcher:** On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, bird was spotted and observed from the main water source nallah (13°26.5089'N; 94°16.1370' E). The bird was salty grey cast to head, pale eyeing, rufescent rump, upper tail coverts and tail, rusty rufous fringes on coverts tertials and rusty-buff breast and flanks.
8. **Black-faced Bunting:** On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 one individual of Bunting was sighted near to the police barrack (Lat: 13°27.221'N; Long: 94°16.411'E).

The bird was seen actively feeding grass seeds on the ground among other species such as Little Bunting.

9. **Slender-billed Oriole:** Slender-billed Oriole from the water source nallah on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (13°26.5089'N; 94°16.1370' E). The bird is distinguished from the Black-naped Oriole on the basis of its long, slender, slightly curved bill and narrower nape band (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012).
10. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** A total of 19 species of birds were introduced to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from mainland India during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Lever 1987; Sankaran and Vijayan 1993), among them the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was introduced in the year of 1866. According to Rajan and Pramod (2013), there is no further recent reports of this species in Andaman Islands. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 this bird was sighted near to the police barrack (Lat: 13°27.221'N; Long: 94°16.411'E) and observed regularly about ten days in the same location. The sighting of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow from this island after a gap of 154 years and it is new recent site record to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
11. **Orange-headed Thrush:** Orange-headed Thrush is a medium-sized bird having 12 subspecies in South-east Asia (Clement *et al.*, 2000) of which five subspecies are restricted to south Asia and two are endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, *Zoothera citrina andamanensis* from Andaman, *Zoothera citrina albogularis* from Nicobar (Ali and Ripley, 1983; Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012). *Zoothera citrina gibsonhilli* was seen on 30<sup>th</sup> March 30, 2020, and this was drinking water at near police barrack. These birds are breeds in the southern Burma to southern Thailand, and winters further south at lower levels in the Thailand Peninsula, on islands in the Gulf of Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Avifaunal studies in Narcondam Island have long history and this island received attention after the discovery of Narcondam Hornbill by Hume (1873). Of

the 62 species of hornbills found in the world, Narcondam Hornbill has the smallest global geographic range and found only on Narcondam. Prain (1892) carried out an investigation to explore the fauna and flora in Narcondam and Barren Islands, and reported eighteen species of birds, land snake, water monitor, skink, sea turtle and few invertebrates from this island. Cory (1902) made a short visit to study the Narcondam Hornbill. Osmaston (1905) has reported seventeen species of birds and few other vertebrates such as fruit bats, rats, water monitor lizard, skink and snake. First detailed study on feeding, breeding Narcondam Hornbill and population estimate of Narcondam Hornbill has been carried out by Sankaran (1998) who estimated about 330 to 360 individuals. Recently, Raman *et al.* (2013) made a rapid expedition to Narcondam Island and reported 17 species of fishes, two species of sea cucumber, 13 species of spiders, eight species of butterflies, eight species of reptiles, 28 species of birds and two species of mammals.

Our data increases the understanding of some of the rare and poorly known bird species from the Narcondam Island. This paper provides the updated checklist and information on the new records on the avifauna. The present findings stress the significance of periodical ornithological surveys in Narcondam Island for updating the avifaunal biodiversity not only for new records also but for better management and conservation. This five-month expedition to the Narcondam Island has yielded eleven new records to Andaman and Nicobar Island and three new report to Narcondam Island. The Narcondam Island is one of the remotest islands in the Andaman group, because of isolation and remoteness, they are also more likely to harbor high levels of endemic species. Only few expeditions have been carried out in Narcondam Islands by various group of scientists over the past 150 years and most of the team has stayed only few hours and day, except Late Dr. Ravi Sankaran who has stayed about three months to study the breeding ecology of Narcondam Hornbill. The present expedition is the 14<sup>th</sup> since A. O. Hume's expedition of 1873 that resulted in the discovery of the Narcondam Hornbill. The Narcondam Island has a complex and varied geological history that has resulted in a diverse and highly endemic fauna. It is important to continue and updating the knowledge on the distribution

of bird communities in Island ecosystem, which provides the building blocks for ongoing and future research. Contributions like the present reports provide a record of change in the status and distribution of the island avifauna.

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