



Short Communication

FIRST RECORD OF OCCURRENCE OF RUDDY BREASTED CRAKE (*PORZANA FUSCA*) FROM SINDH, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Ruddy Breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) is a widely distributed Species reported from Punjab and KPK already, but it was not recorded from Sindh. The current study reported its occurrence in Sindh at Lugh Lake which is a Wildlife Sanctuary supporting the largest number of waterbirds in Sindh during the migratory season. During the present survey March and April, 2019, 51 avian species were recorded in this area along with Ruddy Breasted Crake which has not been reported previously from Sindh.

Keywords: Ruddy Breasted Crake, Lugh Lake, distribution, water birds.

INTRODUCTION

Based on land area, Sindh is the third largest province of Pakistan with a great variety of wild fauna and flora. Large numbers of birds have been recorded due to the presence of a variety of aquatic ecosystems in Sindh while the abundance of arid lands and deserts in Sindh supports large number of species of mammals and reptiles. Lugh Lake is a Wildlife Sanctuary and an important wetland which attracts a wide variety of waterbirds in the migratory season.

Ruddy Breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) has not been reported before from Sindh. It is a freshwater bird with wide distribution both within country and internationally. This species is found throughout Himalayan region, North East India and South India. This species occurs in Pakistan only in Salt range of Punjab and in KPK and is absent from Sindh (Roberts, 1991).

After Roberts (1991-92), the distribution and status of birds was given by Grimmett *et al.* (2008). They deal with 670 Birds of Pakistan. Recently, Ghalib *et al.* (2018, 2018a) reported 420 species of birds from Sindh. All these workers have not mentioned Ruddy Breasted Crake to be occurring in Sindh. So the present study reports the new record of occurrence of this species from Sindh.

Ruddy Breasted Crake is found in marshes and swampy wetlands. It became active mainly during dusk and early morning and can be seen more on banks as compared to inside water body. It is good swimmer but

avoids swimming and spends most of its time on banks and seems to prefer rice fields. Ruddy Breasted Crake is omnivorous which feed on variety of food, it feed on a variety of small invertebrates especially aquatic insects, mosquitoes and their larvae, and insect pupae, as well as snails, and some vegetable matter such as succulent roots, seeds, sedges and marsh plants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Line transect method was used to investigate the avian diversity in present study area. Distance was covered in line by predetermined route and birds were observed on either side of observer. During this survey, birds were identified by sight and sound with an estimate of distance when first detected. Birds that were seen flying over the study area (aerial species) were not recorded. We tried to avoid double counting of birds in a point count or within a transect section by using careful observation and common sense.

RESULTS

In this study, 51 species of birds were recorded at Lugh Lake during March and April, 2019 (Table 1). On 27th March 2019, at the time of dusk, Ruddy Breasted Crake was recorded at Lugh Lake, Kambar Shahdakt, Sindh (27°30'37"N, 68°12'04' E). During the survey, Ruddy Breasted Crake was seen at a distance of 20-25m in dense vegetation (Fig. 1).

No Threatened/Near-threatened was recorded from the site. All the Species presently recorded from there are Least Concern (LC) as per IUCN (2019).

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Fig. 1. Ruddy Breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) (Photo Credit: Yasir Pechuho).

Table 1. Checklist of Birds recorded at Lugh Lake during March and April, 2019.

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status
1	Aisan Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	Least Concern
2	Ashy Crowned Finch Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	LC
3	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	LC
4	Black Crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC
5	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	LC
6	Black Winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	LC
7	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	LC
8	Byth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	LC
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	LC
10	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	LC
11	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	LC
12	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	LC
13	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	LC
14	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	LC
15	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	LC
16	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC
17	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	LC
18	Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	LC
19	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	LC
20	Green Bee eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	LC
21	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	LC
22	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	LC
23	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	LC
24	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	LC
25	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias bengalensis</i>	LC
26	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	LC
27	Laughing dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	LC

28	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	LC
29	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	LC
30	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC
31	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	LC
32	Paddy Field Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	LC
33	Paddy Field Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	LC
34	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	LC
35	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	LC
36	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	LC
37	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio indicus</i>	LC
38	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	LC
39	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	LC
40	Rufous-vented Prinia	<i>Prinia burnesii</i>	LC
41	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	LC
42	Streaked throated Swallows	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	LC
43	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	LC
44	Water Cock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	LC
45	White-cheek Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	LC
46	White throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	LC
47	White tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	LC
48	Wire tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	LC
49	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	LC
50	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	LC
51	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	LC

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