

SOME OF OUR COMMON BIRDS

1. LITTLE CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax niger* **63 cms.**

Field Characters: A glistening black duck like water bird with a longish stiff neck, compressed bill sharply hooked at the tip. A small white patch on throat. Sexes alike. Found singly, or in flocks at water bodies from the coast to the Western Ghats.

Habits: Found in inland fresh water bodies, creeks and also brackish marshy areas. Often seen perched upright on a rock or a stake near water, drying itself with outstretched wings.

Food: Lives exclusively on fish, which it chases and captures under water, being an expert diver and submarine swimmer.

Nesting: November to February *Nest:* A shallow twig structure like a crow in trees usually in mixed colonies of egret, storks etc. *Eggs:* 4 -5, pale bluish green, with chalky surface

2. PADDY BIRD or POND HERON *Ardeola grayii* **46cms.**

Field Characters: An egret like marsh bird chiefly earthy brown when at rest, with glistening white wings, tail and rump flashing into prominence immediately it flies. In breeding season acquires maroon hair-like plumes on back and long white occipital crest. Sexes alike

Habits: Found wherever there is water, even in midst of populous towns, also on sea coast, tidal mudflats, mangrove swamp etc.

Food: Frogs, fish, crabs and insects. Its normal method is to stand hunched up at water's edge and jabbing at the quarry when opportunity offers.

Nesting: May to September *Nest:* An untidy twig platform, like crow's in large trees. *Egg:* 3-5, pale greenish blue.

3. LESSER WHISTLING TEAL *Dendrocygna javanica* **42cms.**

Field Characters: A small brown and maroon chestnut colored duck. Sexes alike. Feeble, flapping flight accompanied by constantly uttered shrill whistling notes.

Habits: Rests on weed covered water bodies. Walks well on marshland, often grazing like a goose, and is a good diver.

Food: Largely vegetarian – shoots and grains – but also eats small fish, snails etc.

Nesting: chiefly the monsoons *Nest:* normally a natural tree hollow lined with twigs and grasses; sometimes built on the ground among reeds *Egg:* 7 – 12, ivory white.

4. **BRAHMINY KITE** *Haliastur indicus* **48cms**

Field Characters: A distinguished looking raptor, bright rusty red above with white head, neck and breast down to abdomen. Immature birds chocolate brown. Separated from Kites by shape of tail, which is rounded, not forked or wedged.

Habits: Keeps to the neighbourhood of rivers, water bodies, paddy fields fishing villages on the coast and harbours.

Food: Fish, frogs, small snakes bats etc.

Nesting: December to April *Nest:* A loose platform of twigs, lined with green leaves usually on a tree near water. *Egg:* 2, greyish white, speckled and blotched with dingy reddish brown.

5. **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* **21cms.**

Field Characters: Greyish olive-brown above, white below with pale dusky breast and a few streaks on the fore-neck. In flight a prominent wing bar present. Sexes alike.

Habits: Never collects in flocks. Flies with characteristic stiff rapidly vibrating wing strokes close to the water

Food: Insects, worms, molluscs etc.

Nesting: Not known to nest in Goa. It is not a breeding resident but some non-breeding residents stay the whole year round.

6. CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* 51cms

Field Characters: In non-breeding plumage pure white, colour of bill is yellow. The orange-buff head, neck, and back of the breeding plumage render it unmistakable. Sexes alike.

Habits: Mostly seen with grazing cattle, stalking energetically alongside the animals, running in and out between their legs or riding on their backs, and lunging out to seize insects disturbed their movement amongst the grass.

Food: Chiefly grasshoppers, blue-bottle flies, cicadas and other insects; also frogs, lizards, fish etc.

Nesting: Monsoon *Nest:* An untidy twid platform like a crow's. In mixed colonies with other egret, cormorants etc. *Egg:* 3 -5, pale skim milk blue.

7. WHITEBREASTED KINGFISHER *Halcyon smyrensis* 28cms.

Field Characters: A brilliant turquoise-blue kingfisher with deep chocolate brown head, neck and underpants, a conspicuous white "Shirt front" and a long, heavy, pointed red bill. Sexes alike.

Habits: The most familiar kingfisher and also the least dependent on water. Seen at ponds, puddles, paddy fields, rain filled ditches and also near sea-shore. Keeps watch from a lookout post and dives on the prey and flies off with it to another perch where the victim is battered to death and swallowed.

Food: Fish, tadpoles, lizards, grasshoppers and other insects.

Nesting: March to July *Nest:* Typical of Kingfishers, in a horizontal tunnel dug into the side of a dry nullah or earth cutting. *Egg:* 4 - 7, white, spherical..

8. **WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 66 – 71 cms

Field Characters: A large handsome eagle, ashy brown above with pure white head, and underparts and terminal third of tail. Sexes alike. In flight the broad blackish border to white underside of wings, and the wedge shaped tail are diagnostic features.

Habits: Keeps to seacoast and tidal estuaries, where if undisturbed pairs occupy the same locality for many years in succession.

Food: Fish and principally sea-snakes scooped up in talons from near the surface of the water.

Nesting: October - June *Nest:* A huge platform of sticks lined with green leaves, high up in Casuarina or other lofty trees near the shore

Egg: 2, white, unmarked

9. **PURPLE MOORHEN** *Porphyrio porphyrio* 42cms.

Field Characters: A handsome but clumsy purplish blue rail with long red legs and toes. The bald red forehead (frontal shield) continued back from the short heavy red bill, and the white patch under the stumpy tail are leading clues. Sexes alike.

Habits: Typical rail. Affects reedy swamps and margins of water bodies overgrown with grasses. Stalks and skulks through the vegetation with jerky bobbing of head and flicking of tail.

Food: Shoots and vegetable matter, also insects and molluscs.

Nesting: June to September *Nest:* A large pad of interwoven reed flags etc on a mass of floating debris or amongst matted reeds slightly above water level. *Egg:* 3 – 7, pale yellowish stone to reddish buff, blotched and spotted with reddish brown.

10. **PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 31cms.

Field Characters: In breeding dress, identified in flight by the large amount of white and chocolate brown in plumage, and the pointed down-curved tail. Non-breeding birds chiefly pale brown and white,

with black 'necklace' on upper breast and minus the sickle-shaped 'pheasant' tail. Spidery elongated toes. Sexes alike.

Habits: Affect ponds, water bodies abounding in floating vegetation such as water-lilies. The elongated widely spreading toes help to distribute the bird's weight and enable it to trip along with ease over the floating tangles of leaves and stems.

Food: Seeds, roots of aquatic plants, insects, molluscs etc.

Nesting: June to September *Nest:* A skimpy pad of twisted weed-stems etc on floating leaves often partially submerged, or amongst marginal rushes. *Egg:* 4, glossy, handsome, bronze-brown with an irregular network of blackish scrawls. Female polyandrous, i.e. lays eggs and leaves the male to tend the nest.

11. CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE *Spilornis cheela* 74 cms.

Field Characters: A dark brown raptor with a prominent black-and-white nuchal crest, very full when erected. In overhead flight a white bar across tail (which is seldom fanned out as in true eagles) and two similar bars on each of the broad rounded wings, are suggestive clues. Sexes alike. Singly or in pairs, soaring over well wooded country with peculiar shrill screaming calls.

Habits: An inhabitant of well-watered country and forested tracts, hills and plains. Keeps a look out for prey from a branch high up in a loft tree, preferably one commanding a clear view of the surrounding country.

Food: frogs, lizards, rats, snakes etc. Rarely also takes junglefowl and peafowl.

Nesting: December - March *Nest:* A large stick platform, lined with green leaves, high up in a lofty tree, preferably near streams and openings. *Egg:* Single, creamy or yellowish boldly blotched with reddish brown.

12. GREY JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus sonneratii* **M-60-80cms F-46 cms.**

Field Characters: General effect of the Cock streaked grey, with a mettalic black sickle-shaped tail. Hen has white breast with blackish borders to the feathers producing a scaly pattern.

Habits: Inhabits deciduous as well as evergreen forests, plain and hills. Usually observed foraging in forest clearings. Very shy and wary. Scuttles into the cover on the least suspicion, neck outstretched and tail drooping. Roosts up in trees or bamboo clumps.

Food: Grains, shoots and tubers, berries, termites and other insects.

Nesting: February - May *Nest:* A shallow scarp in dense undergrowth or in tree, of twigs and rags, lined with dry leaves. *Egg:* 4 - 7, pale fawn to warm buff, similar to the domestic fowls. Only the Hen incubates the eggs.

13. COMMON PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus* **M-92-122 cms without train F-86 cms.**

Field Characters: The gorgeous ocelated tail of the adult cock, 1 to 1.5 m long, is in reality the abnormal growth of the tail-coverts. Hen is also crested like Cock, but smaller, mottles brown with some metallic green on lower neck, and lacking the ornamental train.

Habits: Inhabits dense scrub and deciduous jungles preferably in the neighbourhood of streams and rivers. Polygamous, usually parties of one cock with 4-5 hens. Always excessively shy and alert, slinks away through the undergrowth on its legs and flies only when suddenly come upon, or to cross a ravine or open river bed.

Food: Grain, vegetable shoots, insects, lizards, snakes etc.

Nesting: January - October *Nest:* A shallow scrap in dense undergrowth lines with twigs and leaves. *Egg:* 3 - 5, glossy pale cream.

14. RED WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus indicus* 33 cms

Field Characters: A familiar plover, bronze brown above, white below, with black breast, head and neck, and a crimson, fleshy wattle in front of each eye. A broad white band from behind the eyes running down sides of the neck to meet the white underparts.

Habits: Affects open country, ploughed fields, grazing land and margins and dry bed of tanks and puddles. Runs about in short spurts and hops forward obliquely to pick up food in typical plover manner. In uncannily and ceaselessly vigilant, day or night, and foremost to detect intrusion and raise the typical alarm of *Did-he-do-it?*

Food: Insects, grubs, molluscs, etc.

Nesting: March - August *Nest:* No nest constructed. Eggs laid on bare ground sometimes in a depression lined with pebbles. *Egg:* 4, stone colour or greyish brown, blotched with blackish; peg-top shaped. They match the soil to perfection and are difficult to find.

15. RIVER TERN *Sterna aurantia* 38-46 cms.

Field Characters: A slender, graceful, grey and white tern with long, deeply forked 'shallow' tail, deep yellow bill and short red legs. In summer entire forehead, crown and nape glossy black, in winter greyish white flecked and streaked with black, especially on nape.

Habits: Flies a few feet above the water with deliberate beats of the long, slender, pointed wings intently scanning the surface for fish venturing with striking depth. From time to time it plunges in with closed wings, often becoming completely submerged but soon reappearing with quarry held across the bill.

Food: Fish, crustaceans, tadpoles and water insects.

Nesting: The bird is a visitor to Goa and no nesting colonies are reported.

16. BLUE ROCK PIGEON *Columba livia* **33 cms.**

Field Characters: A familiar slaty grey bird with glistening metallic green, purple and magenta sheen on neck and upper breast. Two dark bars on wings, and a band across end of tail. Sexes alike.

Habits: In its perfectly wild state affects open country with cliffs and rocky hills. Mostly seen in semi-domesticated condition, living as a commensal of man and largely adulterated through interbreeding with fancy artificial strains.

Food: Cereals, pulses, etc.

Nesting: Undefined, practically all year. *Nest:* A flimsy collection of a few sticks on a ledge or in fissure of cliff, or in rafters and ceilings of dwelling houses, deserted or occupied. *Egg:* 2, white elliptical. Both sexes share in domestic duties.

17. ROSE RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **42 cms.**

Field Characters: A medium sized grass-green parakeet with typical short, massive deeply hooked red bill. The female lacks the black and rose-pink collar of the male.

Habits: one of the most familiar birds in village and towns. A loud, sharp screaming *keeak, keeak, keeak* at rest and also on wing is conspicuous. Flight swift and direct, with rapid wing beats.

Food: Cereals, pulses, fruits, etc.

Nesting: February - May. *Nest:* A natural hollow in a tree trunk, or one excavated by the birds themselves. Holes in rock scraps and walls of buildings are free utilized. *Egg:* 4 - 6, pure white, roundish ovals. Both sexes share the domestic chores.

18. KOEL *Eudynamys scolopacea* 43 cms.

Field Characters: Male glistening black, with yellowish green bill and crimson eyes. Female brown, profusely spotted and barred with white.

Habits: Brood-parasitic. Arboreal, Frequents gardens, grooves and open country abounding in large leafy trees. Silent in winter, thus often overlooked and recorded as absent. Familiar shrieking crescendo *kuoo-kuoo-kuoo* of the male. The female only utters a sharp, quick-repeated *kik-kik-kik-kik*.

Food: Largely fruits and berries, also caterpillars and insects.

Nesting: Brood-Parasite. April – August, coincides with that of the hosts, House and Jungle Crow. *Egg:* Smaller but similar to the crows', pale greyish green or stone colour, speckled and blotched with reddish brown.

19. BARN OWL *Tyto alba* 36 cms.

Field Characters: A typical owl, golden buff, and grey above finely stippled with black and white, silky white below tinged with buff and normally spotted dark brown. Large round head with conspicuous ruff of stiff feathers surrounding a comically pinched white monkey-like facial disc.

Habits: Inseparable from the haunts of man. Deserted buildings and cities, and ancient ruins invariably hold their quota. Purely nocturnal, spends the daytime standing upright and dozing in some dark niche. Emerges after dusk with a wheezy screech, flying about silently and ghost-like, hunting for rats and mice.

Food: Almost entirely rats and mice, hence of great economic usefulness.

Nesting: undefined, practically all year. *Nest:* A collection of straw, twigs, rags and rubbish padded into tree-hollows, holes in ruined

walls, or in space between ceiling and roof of a dwelling house. The same site is used year after year. *Egg*: 4 –7, white, smooth, roundish.

20. HOUSE SWIFT *Apus affinis* **15 cms.**

Field Characters: A small smoky-black bird with white throat, white rump, short square tail, and long narrow wings. Sexes alike. Flying about gregariously near human habitations.

Habits: Fond of ruined buildings and also dwelling houses – deserted or occupied – often in the midst of noisy cities. Flies about at great speed almost incessantly throughout the day, hawking flies.

Food: Chiefly dipterous insects.

Nesting: February - September. *Nest:* A round untidy cup of feathers and straw cemented with the birds' saliva, with a slit between wall and nest for entrance. Usually in colonies, plastered in angle of walls and ceilings in verandhas, porches etc. *Egg:* 2 - 4, pure white, longish ovals. Both sexes share in building and feeding of young.

21. SMALL GREEN BEE-EATER *Merops orientalis* **21 cms.**

Field Characters: A grass-green bird tinged with reddish brown on head and neck. Central pair of tail feathers prolonged into blunt pins. Slender, long, slightly curved bill. Conspicuous black “necklace”. Sexes alike.

Habits: inhabits open country, neighbourhood of cultivation, forest clearings, fallow land, gardens etc. launches aerial sallies after bees, etc. snapping them up into its bill and circling back gracefully on outstretched motionless wings to the perch, where the quarry is battered to death and swallowed.

Food: Insects chiefly Diptera (Flies) and Hymenoptera (Bees and Wasps).

Nesting: February - May. *Nest:* A horizontal or oblique tunnel ending in a widened egg chamber, dug in the side of an earth-cutting, borrow pit, river bank etc. *Egg:* 4 - 7, pure white, roundish ovals. Both sexes share in excavating nest-tunnel and feeding young.

22. MALABAR PIED HORNBILL *Anthracoceros coronatus* **92 cms.**

Field Characters: A heavy billed arboreal bird with black neck, back, and wings, white tips to the flight feathers, and white underparts. Tail longish, with outer feathers all white. A ponderous wax-yellow and black horn-shaped bill surmounted by a casque.

Habits: Sociable, Noisy flocks in fruit-laden trees in well-wooded areas can be seen. Flight is few noisy flaps followed by a glide, with wing tips upturned.

Food: Mainly frugivores. Also eats, lizards, mice and baby birds

Nesting: March - June. *Nest:* A natural tree hollow, walled up with bird's droppings after the female has settled herself within, leaving only a narrow slit through which the male feeds her during the hatching phase. The wall is broken down when the eggs are hatched and both parents forage for the young thereafter. *Egg:* 2 - 3, glossless white.

23. BLACK HEADED ORIOLE *Oriolus xanthornus* **25 cms.**

Field Characters: Brilliant golden yellow, with jet black head, throat and upperbreast. Black in wings and tail. Bright pink bill, crimson eyes. Sexes alike but black of head duller in female.

Habits: Arboreal, a dweller of open but well-wooded country. Partial to grooves of large trees and plantation.

Food: Insects, fruits and berries, and flower nectar.

Nesting: April - July. *Nest:* A beautifully woven deep cup of grass and fibres bound with cobwebs, suspended hammock wise in fork of leafy

twig 4 to 10 m up. *Egg*: 2 - 3, white, spotted with black or reddish brown. Both sexes share all domestic duties.

24. BLACK DRONGO *Dicrurus adsimilis* **31 cms.**

Field Characters: A slim and agile glossy black bird with long, deeply forked tail. Sexes alike.

Habits: A familiar bird of the open country, usually perched on telegraph wires, or attending on grazing cattle. From exposed look-outs it keeps a vigilant watch for grasshoppers and other insects. It also rides on backs of grazing cattle and takes toll of insects disturbed by the animals' movements. Forest fires or fired grass patches attract number of drongos. Highly beneficial to agriculture by the vast quantities of injurious insects it destroys. Extremely territorial.

Food: Insects, flower nectar also occasionally small birds.

Nesting: April - August. *Nest:* A flimsy-bottomed cup of fine twigs and fibres cemented with cobwebs, in the fork at extremity of branch up in large trees preferably standing alone in open. *Egg*: 3 - 5, mostly whitish with brownish red spots. Both sexes share all domestic duties and are bold in defense of their nest.

25. COMMON MYNA *Acridtheres tristis* **23 cms.**

Field Characters: A familiar perky, well-groomed dark brown bird with bright yellow bill, legs, and bare skin around eyes. A large white patch in wing conspicuous in flight. Sexes alike. Pairs or parties, about human habitations and on country-side

Habits: A confirmed associate of man, following wherever he opens up new habitations. Follows the plough for earthworms. Etc and attends to grazing cattle for disturbed insects, side-hopping jauntily, and springing up in the air to capture them.

Food: Omnivorous. Eats fruits, insects, kitchen scraps.

Nesting: April - August. *Nest:* A collection of twigs, roots, paper and rubbish in a hole in a tree, wall or ceiling. *Egg:* 4 – 5, glossy blue, Two broods often raised in succession. Both sexes share domestic duties

26. REDWHISKERED BULBUL *Pycnonotus jocusus* **20 cms.**

Field Characters: Brown above, white below with broken blackish necklace on breast. Black, upstanding, pointed crest, crimson 'whiskers' and crimson patch under the root of tail are distinguishing features. Sexes alike. Pairs or loose gatherings.

Habits: Prefers well-wooded localities and commonly found even at high altitudes. Is usually tame and confident.

Food: Insects, berries and fruits, flower nectar etc.

Nesting: February - August. *Nest:* A cup of fine twigs, rootlets, grass, moss, etc. sometimes plastered with cobwebs on the outside *Egg:* 2 - 4, faint pinkish white. Both sexes share the parental duties

27. JUNGLE BABBLER *Turdoides striatus* **25 cms.**

Field Characters: An earthy brown frowzled and untidy looking bird with a longish tail which gives the impression of being loosely stuck to the body. Sexes alike. Invariably in flocks of half a dozen or more, whence its popular names 'Sat Bhai' or 'Seven Sisters'.

Habits: Inhabits outlying jungle, well-wooded compounds, gardens and groves of tress about towns and villages. Flocks or 'sisterhoods' hop about on the ground and rummaging amongst the fallen leaves and mulch for moths and other insects. They usually form the nucleus of the mixed hunting parties in the forest. The flock keeps up a constant wrangling.

Food: Spiders, cockroaches and other insects and larvae, wild figs, berries, grain and nectar of flowers.

Nesting: Irregular, throughout the year. *Nest:* A loosely built cup of twigs, rootlets and grass in the fork of a leafy branch 2 – 3m up. *Egg:* 3 - 4, turquoise blue. Parental duties shared by both sexes and more or less communally. Nests commonly parasitized by the Pied Crested and Brainfever Bird.

28. TAILOR BIRD *Orthotomus sutorius* **13 cms.**

Field Characters: A small restless olive-green bird with whitish underparts, a rust coloured crown and two elongated pinpointed feathers in the tail, which is carried jauntily cocked. Sexes alike.

Habits: Familiar and confiding. Equally at home in outlying scrub jungle or in gardens and shrubbery within a bustling town. Fearlessly enters verandas of occupied houses, hopping, amongst the potted plants within a few feet of the inmates.

Food: Tiny insects, their eggs and grubs, flower nectar.

Nesting: April - September. *Nest:* A rough cup of soft fibres, cotton wool and vegetable down places in a funnel fashioned by cleverly folding over and stitching along edges one or more large plant leaves. *Egg:* 3 - 4, reddish or bluish white, spotted with brownish red. Both sexes share domestic duties, but evidently female alone incubates.

29. MAGPIE ROBIN *Cosychus saularis* **20 cms.**

Field Characters: A trim black-and-white bird with cocked tail. Black portion of male replaced by brown and slaty grey in female. Singly or in pairs about human habitation

Habits: One of the more familiar birds about towns and villages. Conspicuous during breeding season when male sings lustily from favourite treetop or post, chiefly early mornings and late afternoons. .

Food: Insects, chiefly picked off the ground, and flower nectar.

Nesting: March - July. *Nest:* A pad of grass, rootlets, hairs etc., in a hole in old wall, tree-trunk or bough, 2 – 7 m up. *Egg:* 3 – 5, pale

blue-green, blotched and mottled with reddish brown. Female incubates, male shares other domestic chores.

30. LARGE PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla maderaspatensis* **20 cms.**

Field Characters: A large wagtail of black-and-white plumage, resembling in pattern that of the familiar Magpie Robin, but with a prominent eyebrow. In the female the black portions are duller and browner. Pairs, at streams, tanks etc.

Habits: Affects clear, shingly or rocky smooth-running streams with diminutive grass-covered islets here and there. Also village tanks and irrigation reservoirs. Usually quite confiding. Runs about swiftly, wagging tail incessantly up and down.

Food: Insects, spider and other invertebrates.

Nesting: Elastic, chiefly March - September. *Nest:* A cup-shaped pad of rootlets, hair, wool and dry algae etc. under a projecting rock, among rafters of dwelling house, or under girders of a bridge – always near water. *Egg:* 3 – 4, greyish, brownish, or greenish white, blotched and streaked with various shades of brown. Both sexes share the domestic duties.

31. PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia zeylonica* **10 cms.**

Field Characters: Upper-parts and breast glistening metallic crimson, green, and purple; lower parts yellow. Rump metallic bluish purple. Breeding and non-breeding plumage alike. Female Olive to olive-brown above, chin greyish white and rest of lower parts brighter yellow.

Habits: Affects gardens, groves, cultivated and scrub country as well as wooded forests. Responsible for cross-pollination of nectar flowers which is fed upon while in hovering flight.

Food: Nectar, insects and spiders.

Nesting: not well defined. *Nest:* An oblong pouch of soft grasses, rubbish and cobwebs, draped with pieces of bark, woody refuse and caterpillars' droppings, with a projecting portico above the lateral entrance hole. Suspended from the tip of a branch of bush or creeper at moderate heights, often adjacent to occupied bungalow. *Egg:* 2, greyish, or greenish white marked with various shades of brown and grey. Only female builds incubates, male helps in feeding the young

32. BAYA WEAVER BIRD *Ploceus philippinus* **15 cms.**

Field Characters: Female and male in non-breeding plumage, rather like the hen House Sparrow: dark streaked fulvous brown above, plain whitish fulvous below. Stout conical bill; short square-cut tail. Breeding male has bright yellow crown and upper-parts dark brown streaked with yellow. Yellow breast, cream buff on underparts. Flocks, about open cultivation

Habits: Flocks, sometimes of considerable size, glean paddy and other grains in harvested fields. Occasionally damages ripening crops. Roosts in large numbers in reed-beds bordering tanks etc. its seasonal and local movements are governed by paddy and other grain cultivation.

Food: Chiefly cereal grains, also eats insects.

Nesting: may - September. *Nest:* A swinging retort-shaped structure with long vertical entrance tube, compactly woven out of strips of paddy leaf and rough-edged grasses, suspended in clusters from twigs usually over water. Blobs of mud, collected when wet, are stuck inside the dome near the egg chamber. *Egg:* 2 or 4, pure white, male alone builds, female alone incubates. Each male has several nests and females at the same time.

Source: Catalogue of “BIRDS OF GOA” by Parag Rangnekar, Project Sponsored by: Dept. of Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Goa. Saligoa, Goa. – October 2004.