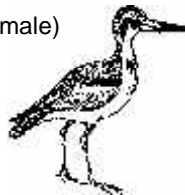
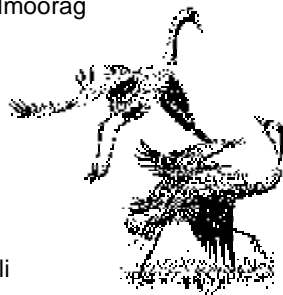


NAMES OF BIRDS IN PARDHI DIALECT OF MAHARASHTRA. RAJU KASAMBE, G-1, Laxmi Apartments, 64, Vidya Vihar Colony, Pratap Nagar, Nagpur-440022, Maharashtra E-mail: kasambe.raju@gmail.com

I collected names of birds in Pardhi dialect from many 'knowledgeable' Pardhis, quite a few of them being 'shikaris' (hunters). The names were collected by showing the pictures from Grimm et. al.'s Pocket Guide (2000) from several Pardhis staying at various 'bedas' in Amravati, Yavatmal, Akola, Washim, Wardha and Nagpur districts of Maharashtra. The names were then compared and compiled. Only those names, which are corroborated by two Pardhis from distant 'bedas' and matched, were taken as acceptable. But most of the time the names seem to be same among all the Pardhis, no matter where you are. That may mean that the knowledge has passed on through generations and it is not superficial. Pardhis know the minute details of the bird morphology like 'three-toes' of bustard quails or yellow-bill of the Yellow-legged Button Quail. They also have excellent knowledge of the calls made by the birds hunted by them in general and they have the proficiency of mimicking the calls of quails and many bird species. They mimic the calls of the quails to attract the birds to their traps. Many names show resemblance to Gujrathi and Hindi dialects e.g., 'Turumti' for Red-necked Falcon (Ali, 1996) and some show affinity to Marathi language (e.g., 'Kolsa' meaning 'coal' for Black Drongo). These affinities may help the anthropologists in tracing the roots and ancestry of this tribal lot. Their surnames like Pawar, Rathod, Chauhan resemble those of Rajputs with Marathi lineage. Their dialect looks to be a combination of Gujrathi, Rajasthani and Marathi. I have provided the names of the senior Pardhis interviewed for this purpose in a previous article (Kasambe, 2005) published in the Newsletter for Birdwatchers.

1. Cormorants (all): Chandok, Telmoorag
2. Egrets (General): Bangla
3. Waterfowl: Badak
4. Demoiselle Crane: Taatri
5. Storks (General): Dhok, Karku
6. Great Indian Bustard: Doonad
7. Eagles: Shaayan
8. Harriers: Titmaar
9. Common Pariah Kite: Sambhali
10. Scavenger Vulture: Linda
11. Whitebacked Vulture: Garad
12. King Vulture: Raattal
13. Longbilled Vulture: Paandhrao, Dholiyo
14. Cinerous Vulture: Bhangar
15. Griffon Vulture: Gulchhadi
16. Red Junglefowl: Kukda (male), Kukdi (female)
17. Red-wattled Lapwing: Titwadi (call)
18. Yellow-wattled Lapwing: Tehrki (call)
19. Indian Courser: Gedroo
20. Great Stone Plover: Badkhya
21. Black-winged Stilt: Chankha



22. River Tern: Zaar
23. Sandgrouse (All): Bhadtittar (call)
24. Indian Sandgrouse: Batta
25. Painted Sandgrouse: Kachariya
26. Green Pigeon: Hariyaali
27. Ring Dove: Deochodri, Ghol
28. Oriental Turtle Dove: Chitroung
29. Spotted Dove: Kathodi, Kadudi
30. Red-collared Dove: Pankheri
31. Blue Rock Pigeon: Pareva
32. Lesser Florican: Khalchida (male), Bhandewadi (female)
33. Alexandrine Parakeet: Karan, Motho Mithoo (large parrot)
34. Roseringed Parakeet: Mandvo Mithoo (median parrot), Mithoo
35. Blossom-headed Parakeet: Nano Mithoo (small parrot), Tooi (call)
36. Coppersmith Barbet: Kokkok (call)
37. Common Hawk Cuckoo: Kobal
38. Great Horned Owl: Ghooghoo (call)
39. Barn Owl: Chakwi-chaandwa
40. Spotted Owlet: Matmatya (Staring habit)
41. Nightjars (all): Chhiblak, Khuskal, Jafari
42. Kingfishers (all): Kilkila (call)
43. Pied Crested Cuckoo: Chotiwalaa (crested), Pipioo (call)
44. Hoopoe: Kalchikdo, Khatikdo
45. Woodpeckers (all): Khodphodya (wood-breaker)
46. Red-vented Bulbul: Patlook (call), Lalgandya (red-vented)
47. Black Drongo: Kolsa or Kolshyo (coal)
48. Shrikes (all): Katora (call)
49. Grey Shrike: Doodh-katora (call)
50. Pond Heron: Khondya (Lazy), Matalli Khaani (soil eater)
51. Grey Heron: Chir Bangla
52. Grey Partridge: Goretro (fair partridge)
53. Painted Partridge: Kaletro (black partridge)
54. Common Peafowl: Dighada, Parana, Songyo Mor (Peafowl with costume, all for male), Dighadi (female)
55. Greater Coucal: Kumbhar Kanglea (Potter crow)
56. Indian Grey Hornbill: Tinchocha (three-billed), Dhanchidi (wealth bringer)
57. Babblers (all): Googaya (call)
58. Black Ibis: Kaali (black)
59. Munia: Munya
60. Common Quail: Ghagar Bati
61. Rain Quail: Bater (quail)
62. Rock bush Quail: Kaalu Lavlu (Black Quail)
63. Jungle Bush Quail: Gerji Bati
64. Bustard Quails (all): Teeboti (three-toed)
65. Yellow-legged Button Quail: Piluchochu (yellow-billed)
66. Small Button Quail: Gavtam-rusi (hides in grass)
67. Barred Button Quail: Kaali-chhati (black-breasted)
68. Swallows (all): Kaankatri (ear-cutter)
69. Grey Tit: Kankeri
70. Wagtails (all): Dhoban (washer woman)
71. White Eye: Pit-pati (call)



72. House Crow: Kaanglo
73. Jungle Crow: Kaangan
74. Magpie Robin: Kaalo Kolchha
75. Indian Robin: Jevat Hoti (call)
76. Bramhiny Myna: Kaani Kebar
77. Common Myna: Kebar, Kanhyalu
78. Hill Myna: Bangali Kebar
79. Common Hawk Cuckoo: Kobal
80. Rosy Pastor: Bholdu
81. Indian Roller: Daas (from call)
82. Paradise Flycatcher: Looli (loose tail)
83. Sunbird: Deo-chimni (sparrow)
84. Little Ringed Plover: Toolhu (tiny one)
85. Shikra: Shikra
86. Rednecked Falcon: Turumti (Gujrathi name)
87. Fantail Flycatcher: Chunchunya (smart kid)
88. Black-shouldered Kite: Titmaar
89. White-necked Stork: Machhariya Dhok (fish eating stork)
90. Laggar Falcon: Laggad
91. Osprey: Raul



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A NEST ON TERRACE. BHARGAV A.P., # 1147, 'Dhriti', 43rd Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore – 560 078. e-mail : bhargavap_84@rediffmail.com

On top of our house we have two rooms and an open space for washing and drying cloths. In that open space we have kept many potted plants. Ashy Prinias (*Prinia socialis*) and Tailor birds (*Orthotomus sutorius*) frequently visit our mini garden in search of insects.

On a Sunday morning as I was busy with some domestic work, I heard the call of an Ashy Prinia from the open space. Curiously I peeped through the window and saw the prinia trying to pull a thread from an old cloth. I could at once deduce that the bird was trying to use the threads for stitching its nest. I continued to watch the bird till it successfully pulled out a thread from the cloth. From there it flew to one of the ornamental palm plants which was placed right opposite to the window from which I was watching (the bird was unable to notice me as the window was closed). It did some thing there and flew away.

My suspicions were not un-confounded. The prinia was building a nest in the ornamental palm plant. It took almost a week to complete the nest and it was placed around three feet above the ground. On the morning of 19-7-2005 (Tuesday) I saw two reddish brown eggs in the nest and during the next two days two more eggs were added. On the morning of 1-8-2005 (Monday) I was delighted to notice that one of them had hatched. The chick with its eyes closed was shaking its featherless wings indicating that it was alive. On the same evening two more eggs hatched. But the last egg remained un-hatched.