

The original citation of Jerdon's Nightjar *Caprimulgus atripennis* (Caprimulgidae)

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Thomas Claverhill Jerdon named *Caprimulgus atripennis* in his 'Illustrations of Indian ornithology', which were a collection of descriptions and colour plates of Indian birds published between 1843 and 1847 (Jerdon 1843-1847, Zimmer 1926). The citation of Jerdon's Nightjar in this work has simply been given as plate 24 by all subsequent authors and the publication date for this plate was determined as 1845 by Sherborn (1922).

An examination of this work reveals that plate 24 clearly shows a different species entirely, the Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*, and the accompanying text is headed *Caprimulgus indicus*, although with the different English name of Large Indian Nightjar. The identification of the species on plate 24 as *Caprimulgus indicus* can be accurately determined by the greyish ground colour, the lack of a hindneck collar, the bold, buff spots on otherwise uniform wing-coverts and the broad white tips to the four outer tail feathers. *Caprimulgus atripennis* can be ruled out by the lack of rufous-tinged ear-coverts and lores, the lack of a broad rufous hindneck collar and the lack of a bold scapular pattern.

The text commences with a reference to the original description of *Caprimulgus indicus* Latham, 1790 and confirms that identification was supported by reference to Gray (1832), although the illustration (plate 34, fig. 1) in that work is of an utterly nondescript

species. Much of the next two pages of text describe the range, habitat and habits of *Caprimulgus indicus*, although the description of the calls seems to suggest *Caprimulgus atripennis*. On the third page, the author writes about other species of Indian nightjars and it is only under the Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrourus* [sic], that he refers to specimens taken from the eastern Ghauts [Ghats] and proposes the name *Caprimulgus atripennis* for them. Only the length, wing and tail measurements are then given.

As a result of the above examination, I suggest that a more accurate citation for Jerdon's Nightjar is:

Caprimulgus atripennis Jerdon 1845, *Ill. Ind. Orn.*, p. 3 of text to pl. 24.

REFERENCES

- Gray, J. E. (1832) *Illustrations of Indian zoology* Vol. 1. London: Adolphus Richter.
 Jerdon, T. C. (1843-1847) *Illustrations of Indian ornithology*. Madras: American Mission Press.
 Latham, J. (1790) *Index ornithologicus* Vol. 2. London: Leigh and Sotheby.
 Sherborn, C. D. (1922) *Index animalium*. London: British Museum.
 Zimmer, J. T. (1926) Catalogue of the Edward E. Ayer ornithological library. *Field Mus. Nat. Hist.* 16.

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Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis*: a new species for Vietnam

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The following observation was made during a 12-month survey of Hoang Lien Nature Reserve, Vietnam, by the environmental conservation NGO, Frontier-Vietnam. Hoang Lien Nature Reserve includes Vietnam's highest mountain, Fan Si Pan (3,143 m).

On 20 August 1998 I was passing through an area of burnt scrub on Fan Si Pan mountain (22°19'N 103°48'E, 1,900 m) when I observed a pigeon land in a burnt tree 20 m away. I had an unobstructed view of the bird perched prominently for approximately one minute, after which it flew to a more distant tree and then out of sight. I immediately noticed the buffy collar with black markings, which contrasted sharply with the dark slate-grey upperparts and grey upper breast.

Neither the upperparts nor the buffy-cream belly had any visible markings. The head was pale grey and the feet were red. I considered this bird to be Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis*, ruling out the two other potential species after consultation with the relevant literature: (1) Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* was ruled out on the basis of the presence in my bird of a buffy collar, the colour of the feet being red rather than grey, and the absence of white speckling on the wing-coverts and belly; (2) Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* was ruled out on the basis of size, the presence of a buffy collar, and the absence of banding in the tail.