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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: The critically endangered *Lilium polyphyllum* in watercolour and acrylics. © Aishwarya S Kumar.



INTRODUCTION

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* is a docile, intelligent, and gregarious sparrow-sized bird that is popularly known for excellent nest-weaving skills (Quader 2006). In 1760, the French zoologist Mathurin Jacques Brisson included a description of the Baya Weaver in his book of ornithology that was based on a specimen that he believed had been collected in the Philippines. Linnaeus (1766) provided a brief description of the Baya Weaver, citing the elongated description of Brisson, and repeated the locality as the Philippines. More than a century later, Hartert (1902) realized that the Baya Weaver does not occur in the Philippines and suggested the type locality should be Ceylon (Sri Lanka). This species is now placed in the genus *Ploceus* that was introduced by the French naturalist Georges Cuvier in 1816. India is home to four *Ploceus* (Lack 1954, 1968; Grewal et al. 2016; Grimmett et al. 2016): Black-breasted Weaver *P. benghalensis*, Streaked Weaver *P. manyar*, Finn's Weaver *P. megarhynchus*, and Baya Weaver *P. philippinus*. There are many works on nesting and population ecology (Quader 2005, 2006; Borges et al. 2002; Raju 2009; Pandian & Ahimas 2018; Kumar et al. 2018; Pandian 2022), but a combined review has not been prepared to date. This review provides baseline information about the nesting, mating, and population ecology, in addition to conservation status.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Available literature was scrutinised for the ecological and conservation studies of Baya Weaver *P. philippinus*. Old articles were obtained from the Biodiversity Library and open source/online publications. References were collected from various institute libraries and recognised web-based literature. For the present study, 78 articles and books were screened for Baya Weaver studies including aspects such as nesting, mating, population ecology, and conservation status.

APPEARANCE

Female and nonbreeding male: A male and female looks similar in nonbreeding season males exhibit brighter and more vibrant colours during the breeding season (Inskipp et al. 2011). The non-breeding male Baya Weaver boasts a yellow head cap, adorned with fine darker shaft streaks, while its mantle feathers exhibit a central brown hue complemented by distinct yellow margins. The tail and wings are dark brown with

lighter margins. On the tertials, margins of the outer vanes are buffy to rusty while they are yellow-olive on the secondaries forming an unobtrusive wing panel. The throat is light brown, the breast yellow and the belly is light yellowish to whitish while the flanks are rather buffy. In addition, tarsi and toes are horn-coloured (Stiels & Schidelko 2013).

Breeding male: The males assumed bright golden yellow plumage on the crown, nape, breast, and sides of the neck. The bill was pale yellow in the non-breeding season but turned blackish in April and became black between May and October (Narasimhacharya et al. 1988).

Distribution in India: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, Gujarat (Arigela et al. 2021).

Wider distribution: Java & Sumatra (Indonesia) (Wood 1926), Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka (Ali & Ripley 1999), and Afghanistan (Stiels & Schidelko 2013).

Food preference: *P. philippinus* feeds on wider varieties of herbs as annotated in the Table 1. These birds forage in flocks for grains in cultivated fields and sometimes this bird is considered an agricultural pest (Sengupta 1974; Kale et al. 2014) but, in contrast, they also feed on different insects which are causing damage to the cultivated crops (Arigela et al. 2021).

NESTING ECOLOGY OF *P. PHILIPPINUS*

Nest construction pattern and its stages: The Baya Weaver *P. philippinus*, has been considered an architectural genius for the delicate craftsmanship of building intricate pendant nests. The nest of *P. philippinus* is pendulous, suspended to leaf tips, mono-storied, stalked, and retort shaped with a central nesting chamber and long vertical tube that leads to a side entrance to the chamber (Venkataramani 1981). Wood (1926) mentioned that weaver birds instead of building a nest once or twice in a year they reuse the old nest by repairing it, Raju (2009) reported that male Weaver birds constructed a new nest because of old ones may fall along with the leaf during an annual leaf fall. The Weaver bird rarely constructs a stalk-less nest because such nests are hardly ever excepted by the female weaver bird (Sharma 1995). There are five stages in the construction of a nest initial attachment, roof and egg/brood chamber, antechamber, entrance, and entrance tube (Raju 2009). Nest building was initiated by winding strands of grass around a selected twig until

Table 1. Details about the food specificity of *Ploceus philippinus*.

	Plant type	Family	Scientific name
1	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Acrachne racemosa</i> (B. Heyne ex Roth) Ohwi
2	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Alloteropsis cimicina</i> (L.) Stapf
3	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Arundinella pumila</i> (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Steud.
4	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Arundinella setosa</i> Trin.
5	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Brachiaria eruciformis</i> (Sm.) Griseb.
6	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Brachiaria remota</i> (Retz.) Haines
7	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Brachiaria semiundulata</i> (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Stapf
8	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Cyrtococcum trigonum</i> (Retz.) A. Camus
9	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd.
10	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Diplachne fusca</i> (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roem. & Schult.
11	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link
12	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> (L.) P. Beauv.
13	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa esculenta</i> (A. Braun) H. Scholz
14	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa frumentacea</i> Link
15	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa oryzoides</i> (Ard.) Fritsch
16	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa picta</i> (J. Koenig) P.W. Michael
17	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa stagnina</i> (Retz.) P. Beauv.
18	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i> (Burm. f.) Trin. ex Hensch.
19	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.
20	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eleusine indica</i> (L.) Gaertn.
21	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eriochloa fatmensis</i> (Hochst. & Steud.) Clayton
22	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eriochloa procera</i> (Retz.) C.E. Hubb.
23	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> (Rudge) Nees
24	Herb	Juncaceae	<i>Juncus bufonius</i> L.
25	Herb	Juncaceae	<i>Juncus effusus</i> L.
26	Herb	Juncaceae	<i>Juncus inflexus</i> L.
27	Herb	Juncaceae	<i>Juncus prismatocarpus</i> R.Br.
28	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Leptochloa chinensis</i> (L.) Nees
29	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Leptochloa panicea</i> (Retz.) Ohwi
30	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Leptochloa uniflora</i> Hochst. ex A. Rich.
31	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i> Griff.
32	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
33	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum brevifolium</i> L.
34	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum curviflorum</i> Hornem.
35	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum humile</i> Steud.

	Plant type	Family	Scientific name
36	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> L.
37	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum notatum</i> Retz.
38	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum paludosum</i> Roxb.
39	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum repens</i> L.
40	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum sparsicomum</i> Nees ex Steud.,
41	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Panicum sumatrense</i> Roth
42	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Paspalum distichum</i> L.
43	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Paspalum scrobiculatum</i> L.
44	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> (L.) R. Br.
45	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sacciolepis indica</i> (L.) Chase
46	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sacciolepis myosuroides</i> (R. Br.) Chase ex E.G. Camus & A. Camus
47	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria geminata</i> (Forssk.) Veldkamp
48	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria intermedia</i> Roem. & Schult.
49	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria italica</i> (L.) P. Beauv.
50	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria pumila</i> (Poir.) Roem. & Schult.
51	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria punctata</i> (Burm. f.) Veldkamp
52	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria verticillata</i> (L.) P. Beauv.
53	Subshrub	Solanaceae	<i>Solanum diphyllum</i> L.
54	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench
55	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.
56	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sporobolus coromandelianus</i> (Retz.) Kunth
57	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sporobolus diandrus</i> (Retz.) P. Beauv.
58	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.
59	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. subsp. <i>dicoccum</i> (Schrank ex Schübl.) Thell.
60	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa deflexa</i> (Schumach.) H. Scholz
61	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa distachya</i> (L.) T.Q. Nguyen
62	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa kurzii</i> (Hook. f.) T.Q. Nguyen
63	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa maxima</i> (Jacq.) R.D. Webster
64	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa mutica</i> (Forssk.) T.Q. Nguyen
65	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa panicoides</i> P. Beauv.
66	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa ramosa</i> (L.) T.Q. Nguyen
67	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa reptans</i> (L.) Stapf
68	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa setigera</i> (Retz.) Stapf
69	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa trichopus</i> (Hochst.) Stapf

Subramanyam (2017), Surender et al. (2018), Arigela (2021), Pandian (2022).

firm support was secured. A bunch of strands was then woven to form a 'wad' which was further expanded into an initial ring. The initial ring was then built up to form a helmet-shaped nest. Gradually, an egg chamber was added to the helmet and, at this stage, the bird's

nest-building activity slowed down. Nest building only continued if the partially completed nest was accepted by the female weaver bird. Once the nest was accepted, a long entrance tube was added marking the completion of nest construction (Narasimhacharya et al. 1987).

Nest building material: The nest-building material used by this bird may vary according to the locality in India. Most often they use herbs of the family Poaceae as a nest-building material (Table 2). Baya weaver also preferred to build nests close to the power cable, roads and human dwellings (Pandian 2022).

Nest orientation: Borges et al. (2002) reported that the orientation of most of the nests is towards the east, while very few nests are oriented towards the south and north direction and no single nest oriented to west direction. Mean nest-entrance orientation was generally opposite to wind direction so as to be least affected by the south-west monsoon wind (Davis 1971; Pandian 2021a). It was reported that 40% of nest colonies in Rajasthan (Sharma 1990) and 89% of nests in Tindivanam taluka (Pandian & Ahimas 2018), 70% nests towards the east in Villupuram district and 81% of nests in Arakkonam taluka, Tamil Nadu (Pandian 2022) were oriented towards the east probably to protect their nests from the battering south-west monsoon winds.

Nesting platforms: In India, there is a wide variety of plants available to serve the purpose of nesting platforms for the *P. philippinus* (Ali & Ambedkar 1957; Ambedkar 1958). Availability of nesting materials, surrounding biological environment, temperature, light intensity, humidity, etc., restrict the nest selection of birds (Asokan et al. 2008). Psychic factor such as photoperiodic sensitivity also influence the nest site selection (Welty 1982). A regional bias seems to exist in the choice of certain plant species for nesting by the weaver bird, one of the reasons proposed for such a choice is the protection against intruders provided by the different plant species (Borges et al. 2002). A taking priority over the availability of food and nesting fibres has considered as a primitive factor for selection of nesting site. (Davis 1974). The nesting sites in the fields were always located near a water supply such as irrigation wells, rivers, lakes, ponds, and sewage stagnant water, and in urban areas underneath shady trees (Kumar et al. 2018; Pandian 2022). The apparent bias in the selection of plant species observed in various regions of the subcontinent raises the question of whether this reflects a genuine preference or is simply a consequence of their widespread occurrence in the region. The bird's selection criteria for nesting plants may involve choosing those with tall, sturdy, unbranched trunks, and a crown of swaying fronds. This choice not only provides protection against intruders, rain, and wind but also serves as a means of seeking attention from female weaver birds (Davis 1974). Among the various preferred nesting platforms (Table 3), some of them are also used

for roosting and foraging. These birds move in flock to the sugarcane crops and *Prosopis juliflora* for roosting and foraging purposes (Pandian 2021b).

MATING BEHAVIOUR

Mate and nest choice: In many species of weaverbirds, males display their nests to females, suggesting that females may use nests for mate choice (Quader 2005). After the completion of the nest up to the wad stage, females arrive and visit several nests before pairing. Female choice of mates has been presumed to be based largely on the color; material and quality of the available nest (Collias & Collias 1964b, 1984; Crook 1960; Narasimhacharya et al. 1987). Female choice of the site may be influenced by both wind direction and safety from predation (Quader 2003). Most helmets were never made into complete nests and hence nest completion is a good indicator of female choice (Quader 2006). Ambedkar (1964) and Crook (1964) reported that the nest at a higher height is safer from predation than lower-heightened nests. Nest height is believed to be an important influence on nesting success in birds (Martin 1993) within tree nesting species, predation tends to decrease with height (Cresswell 1997; Schmidt & Whelan 1999). Both males and females are polygamous. Males usually build partial nests and complete them only after courting females (Ali et al. 1956). The male may build another helmet to attract another female. If a helmet is not accepted by any female the male often tears it down and builds a new one in its place (Abdar 2013). Quader (2006) found that several aspects of nest location (tree type, diameter of branch, nest height) and nest architecture (fibre thickness) predict direct benefit to females when nesting date and year are statistically controlled.

Breeding season: The Baya Weaver breeds during the rainy season (monsoon) in the Indian subcontinent (Ali & Ripley 1987). The breeding period of the Baya Weaver is largely based on seasonal changes and the availability of the diet. Food availability is preferably dependent on environmental factors such as temperature and rainfall and its ultimate cause to control seasonal breeding (Baker 1938; Immelmann 1971).

Physiological Responses to seasonal changes: The reproductive activity stimulates responses to the photoperiod (Thapliyal & Saxena 1964; Singh & Chandola 1981) as increasing day length during the pre-monsoon season. The stimulation of gonadotropic hormones in *P. philippinus* such as leutinizing hormone (LH) and testosterone level varies in response to day length (Thapliyal & Saxena 1964; Stokkan & Sharp 1980)

Table 2. Annotated list of the nest building material used by *P. philippinus*.

	Habit	Family	Scientific Name
1	Subshrub	Poaceae	<i>Arundo donax</i> L.
2	Shrub	Poaceae	<i>Bambusa bambos</i> (L.) Voss
3	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L.
4	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Caryota urens</i> L.
5	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Chrysopogon zizanioides</i> (L.) Roberty
6	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
7	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus alopecuroides</i> Rottb.
8	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus articulatus</i> L.
9	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus corymbosus</i> Rottb.
10	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus digitatus</i> Roxb.
11	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus exaltatus</i> Retz.
12	Herb	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus pangorei</i> Rottb.
13		Arecaceae	<i>Dypsis lutescens</i> (H.Wendl.) Beentje & J. Dransf.
14	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> (L.) P. Beauv.
15	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Echinochloa esculenta</i> (A. Braun) H. Scholz
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21	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.
22	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eleusine indica</i> (L.) Gaertn.
23	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis atrovirens</i> (Desf.) Trin. ex Steud.
24	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis gangetica</i> (Roxb.) Steud.
25	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis japonica</i> (Thunb.) Trin.
26	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis nutans</i> (Retz.) Nees ex Steud.
27	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis riparia</i> (Willd.) Nees
28	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis tenuifolia</i> (A. Rich.) Hochst. ex Steud.

	Habit	Family	Scientific Name
29	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eriochloa fatmensis</i> (Hochst. & Steud.) Clayton
30	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Eriochloa procera</i> (Retz.) C.E. Hubb.
31	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Ischaemum afrum</i> (J.F. Gmel.) Dandy
32	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
33	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> (L.) R. Br.
34	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb.
35	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Phragmites karka</i> (Retz.) Trin. ex Steud.
36	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Pogonatherum paniceum</i> (Lam.) Hack.
37	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Roystonea regia</i> O.F.Cook
38	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L.
39	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.
40	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sacciolepis interrupta</i> (Willd.) Stapf
41	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Setaria verticillata</i> (L.) P. Beauv.
42	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench
43	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.
44	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sorghum nitidum</i> (Vahl) Pers.
45	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Sporobolus diandrus</i> (Retz.) P. Beauv.
46	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Thysanolaena latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex Hornem.) Honda
47	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.
48	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. subsp. <i>dicoccum</i> (Schränk ex Schübl.) Thell.
49	Herb	Typhaceae	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> L.
50	Herb	Typhaceae	<i>Typha domingensis</i> Pers.
51		Typhaceae	<i>Typha elephantina</i> Roxb.
52	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa maxima</i> (Jacq.) R.D. Webster
53	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa mutica</i> (Forssk.) T.Q. Nguyen
54	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa panicoides</i> P. Beauv.
55	Herb	Poaceae	<i>Urochloa trichopus</i> (Hochst.) Stapf
56	Tree	Arecaceae	<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> A.K. Irvine

Borges et al. (2002), Arigela (2021), Pandian (2022).

as its concentration increases during the month of April and May and highest between June and September (Narasimhacharya et al. 1987). The expression of gonadotropin inhibiting hormone is high on short days when the duration of nocturnal melatonin is increased, and low on long days when the duration of nocturnal melatonin is decreased (Ubuka et al. 2005). The environmental factors also contributed to the ecological significance via accompanying pre-breeding sexual

changes and behaviour (Morley 1943; Sharp et al. 1986). A pre-nuptial molt occurred between March and June and a post-nuptial molt between October and November (Narasimhacharya et al. 1987). The lightning of the bill color starts to cause in August and its turns to a complete straw color in November and depigmented their plumage to the non-breeding type (Rani et al. 2007; Pandey & Bhardwaj 2015). The alteration in night light as a bright light during the night alters the resting pattern

Table 3. Detail about the nesting platforms preferred by the *P. philippinus* among the various part of the countries.

	Type of plant	Host plant	No. of nest	Locality	Reference
1	Unbranched Trees	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	247	Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, India	Pandian (2018)
2		<i>Cocos nucifera</i>			
3		<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>			
4	Branched trees	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	12		
5		<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>			
6		<i>Azadirachta indica</i>			
7		<i>Morinda tinctoria</i>			
8		<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>			
9		<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i>			
10	Shrubs	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i>	7		
11		<i>Securinega leucopyrus</i>			
12	Twiner	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>	3		
13	Herb	<i>Ruellia prostrata</i>	1		
14	Power cables		4		
15	Unbranched Trees	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	--	Western ghat, Maharashtra, India	Abdar (2013)
16		<i>Cycas sphaerica</i>	--	Jalantrakota reserve forest	Raju (2009)
17		<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	244	Agricultural study plot at Chorao an island in the Mandovi estuary in Goa, India.	Borges et al. (2002)
18		<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	136		
19		<i>Careya arborea</i>	2		
20		<i>Saccharum sp.</i>	3		
21		<i>Bambusa sp</i>	3		
22		<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	--	Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu, India.	Asokan et al (2008)
23		<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	--		
24		<i>Phoneix psuilla</i>	--		
25		<i>Acacia Nilotica</i>	286	Nanded, Maharashtra, India	
26		<i>Prosopis Juliflora</i>	14		
27		<i>Azadirachta Indica</i>	18		
28		<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	41		
29		<i>Acacia Karroo</i>	39		
30		<i>Mgifera Indica</i>	1		
31		<i>Dalbergia Sisooroxh</i>	13		
32		<i>Cocos Nucifera</i>	6		
33		<i>Ficus Religiosa</i>	17	Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu, India	Pandian (2022)
34		<i>Borassus fabellife</i>	8304		
35		<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (Arecaceae)	1083		
36		<i>Cocos nucifera</i> (Arecaceae)	1277		
37		<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Fabaceae)	186		
38		<i>Morinda tnctoria</i> (Rubiaceae)	64		
39	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	102			
40	<i>Phyllanthus retculatu</i>	31			
41	<i>Vachellia nilotca</i> (Fabaceae)	41			
42	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Meliaceae)	39			
43	<i>Flueggea leucopyrus</i>	38			
44	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> (Fabaceae)	58			

	Type of plant	Host plant	No. of nest	Locality	Reference
45	Unbranched Trees	<i>Lantana camara</i> (Verbanaceae)	113	Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu, India	Pandian (2022)
46		<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (Fabaceae)	12		
47		<i>Senna siamea</i>	10		
48		<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (Asteraceae)	8		
49		<i>Ficus religios</i>	3		
50		<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (Fabaceae)	8		
51		<i>Albizia lebbeck</i> (Fabaceae)	21		
52		<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> (Poaceae)	12		
53		<i>Passiflora foetida</i> (Passifloraceae)	1		
54		<i>Tamarindus indica</i> (Tamarindus)	1		
55		<i>Ehretia pubescens</i> (Boraginaceae)	3		
56		<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (Rhamnaceae)	1		
57		<i>Cocculus carolinu</i>	1		
58		<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> (Solanaceae)	1		
59		<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> (Musaceae)	1		
60		<i>Moringa oleifera</i> (Moringaceae)	4		
61	Crop	Cereal grain crop	7477	Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu, India	Pandian (2022)
62		Sugarcane	1641		
63		Pulses & oil seeds	767		
64		Fallow lands	381		
65		Casuarina groves	568		
66		Residential area	173		
67		Flower crops	106		
68		Other groves	273		
69	Abnormal nest supporting plant	<i>Borassus fabellifer</i> - female	3682	Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu, India	Pandian (2022)
70		<i>Borassus fabellifer</i> - male	2272		
71		<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	776		
72		<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	452		
73		<i>Morinda tncoria</i>	43		
74		<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	73		
75		<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	11		
76		<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	15		
77		<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	90		
78		<i>Flueggea leucopyrus</i>	10		
79		<i>Lantana camara</i>	7		

Arigela (2021), Abdar (2012), Pandian (2018), Abdar (2013), Raju (2009), Borges et al. (2002), Asokan et al. (2008), Pandian (2022).

of this bird it induced a fragmented activity in the early phase of night and enhancement at late night instead of the actual onset of the day (Raap et al. 2015; Touitou et al. 2017; Kumar et al. 2018). The midnight activity increases in presence of bright light due to advancement in the endogenous clock function as the suppression level of melatonin and increased body temperature (Kumar et al. 2002; Jong et al. 2015; Kumar et al. 2018).

An endogenous clock system sensitive to light enables the bird to synchronize its physiological activities at the appropriate time of the day and time of the year (Kumar & Follett 1993a; Kumar et al. 1996).

Clutch size and coloration: The female lay 2–4 white eggs and incubates them for 14–17 days. (Ali & Ambedkar 1957). Two eggs per nest were observed by Venkatramani (1981) and Sharma (1995).



Image 1. Sexual dimorphism and nesting of *Ploceus philippinus*. A—Flock of male and female | B—Male with host plant | C—Nesting over irrigation well | D & E—Nesting on host plant | F—Nest weaving by male bird. © Authors.

THREATS

Pandian (2021b) reported that farmers are the prime reason behind the declining population of the *Ploceus philippinus* in India. They burn herbs and shrubs under nest supporting trees and by clearing grasses around irrigation wells which may cause the scarcity of the nesting substrata for the *P. philippinus*. Individuals of *Rufous treepie* damage the nest of the weaver birds by driving a circular hole over the nest and predating the egg and chicks and it is also damaged by other bird species such as *Corvus splendens*, *Corvus macrorhynchos*, *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and *Eudynamis scolopacea* (Ali 1931; Pandian 2021a, 2022). Ali et al. (1957) observed that the predation by House Crow *Corvus splendens* (Passeriformes: Corvidae) is very common. Pandian (2022) reported that 1,050 nests had fallen during their study period among various sites in Tamil Nadu, it has been found that total of 25 eggs and 18 dead chicks were spread near fallen nests may due to various biotic and abiotic factors as suggested by Ali et al. (1957), Collias & Collias (1959, 1962), and Pandian (2021b). Rapid urbanization and industrialization have resulted in declining areas of cultivation up to 20%, particularly cereal crops, thus causing lack of food grains and insect fauna to *P. philippinus* (Pandian 2018). The presence of heavy metal contamination in excreta has indicated that it might have a negative impact on the abundance of Baya Weaver in Punjab state (Sidhu & Kler 2021). *Ploceus philippinus* has most recently been assessed for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2016 as 'Least Concern' (Birdlife International 2016).

CONCLUSION

This study provides information about appearance, food specificity, nesting ecology, and mating behaviour of the *P. philippinus*. It is found that a small sparrow sized weaver bird shows sexual dimorphism in appearance. They mostly prefer a wider variety of herbs species in their diet as it perennially found during all seasons but highly flourish during cold season. Along with the food availability some physiological changes bring a seasonal breeding bird. These birds are famous for their nest weaving practices, it can be considered as a nidificate architect. Species specific studies and detailed knowledge of local bird population can greatly help in effective management measures, as several scientific aspects covered by the many initiators among diverse countries. It can help to bridge gaps in knowledge and benefit the future survival of a population of *P.*

philippinus in the threatened environment. However, this review could act as a baseline for further research on ecology of *P. philippinus*.

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Articles

Patterns of livestock depredation by carnivores: Leopard *Panthera pardus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and Grey Wolf *Canis lupus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in and around Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India
– Shahzada Iqbal & Orus Ilyas, Pp. 24291–24298

Wetland biodiversity of Ramaroshan Lake complex: a need for conservation
– Ram Devi Tachamo-Shah, Deep Narayan Shah, Subodh Sharma, Lila Sharma, Jagan Nath Adhikari & Deepak Rijal, Pp. 24299–24320

Diversity of wintering avifauna throughout the heterogeneous aquatic habitats of Bankura District, West Bengal, India
– Biplob Kumar Modak, Subha Shankar Mukherjee, Susobhan Mondal, Mainak Sarkar & Asif Hossain, Pp. 24321–24330

Assessing and understanding diversity and foraging guilds of bird community structure in Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar and Jharkhand, India
– Umar Saeed, Mujahid Ahamad, Vivek Ranjan, Syed Ainul Hussain & Ruchi Badola, Pp. 24331–24344

Communications

Identifying potential habitats of Himalayan Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens* (Cuvier, 1825) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Ailuridae) in Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal, India
– Sangay W. Bhutia, Asim Giri, Pranita Gupta & Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, Pp. 24345–24351

Recent record of Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustellidae) from Kerala part of the Western Ghats, India and an insight into the behaviour and habitat preferences
– Sreehari K. Mohan, Lathish R. Nath, K.S. Subin, Sreekumar K. Govindankutty & P.O. Nameer, Pp. 24352–24356

A review of Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Aves: Passeriformes: Ploceidae): ecological and conservation status
– Yusufkhan Pathan & Arvindgiri Goswami, Pp. 24357–24367

An updated checklist of non-marine molluscs of the western Himalaya
– Hilal Ahmed, Imtiaz Ahmed & Neelavar Ananthram Aravind, Pp. 24368–24395

Nonessential elements (Al, As, Cd, & Pb) in shrimps and mussels from southeastern Brazil

– Ana Paula Madeira Di Benedetto, Inácio Abreu Pestana, Dayvison Felismindo Lima & Roberto Weider de Assis Franco, Pp. 24396–24401

Three new additions to the flora of Himachal Pradesh, India from Khokhan Wildlife Sanctuary, Kullu District
– Ashutosh Sharma, S. Noorunnisa Begum, G.S. Goraya, Gopal S. Rawat & Vaneet Jishtu, Pp. 24402–24408

Comparative morphological and ethnobotanical assessment of certain taxa of genus *Glochidion* (Phyllanthaceae) from Assam, India
– Priyanka Brahma & Sanjib Baruah, Pp. 24409–24419

Notes on *Discospermum sphaerocarpum* Dalzell ex Hook.f., a rare species of Rubiaceae (Ixoroideae: Coffeaeae) from southern India
– C. Pramod, V.V. Drisya, A.K. Pradeep & K.T. Chandramohan, Pp. 24420–24426

Legumes (Fabaceae) from Satmala hills, Maharashtra, India
– Swapnil D. Wagh & Manoj T. Patil, Pp. 24427–24436

Report of new myristica swamp ecosystems from the Western Ghats at Pathanapuram, Kerala, India
– Niji Joseph, R. Sreejai & M. Ajayakumar, Pp. 24437–24442

Short Communications

First confirmed record of Arabian Gazelle *Gazella arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827 (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Bovidae) on Masirah Island, off the coast of eastern Oman in the Arabian Sea
– Taimur Al Said, Haitham Al Rawahi, Maha Al Ansari, Al Mutasim Al Hinai, Ahmed Al Amri, Ahmed Al Wahaibi, Ghazi Al Farsi, Saud Al Wihibi & Salman Al Farsi, Pp. 24443–24446

First report of the longhorn beetle, *Rosalia (Eurybatus) formosa* (Saunders, 1839) (Insecta: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Mizoram, India
– Amit Rana & Lobeno Mozhui, Pp. 24447–24450

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