

Species	Family	Colour	Comments
<i>Argyreia campanulata</i>	Convulvaceae	pale mauve	
<i>Bauhinia</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	?	
<i>Bombax ceiba</i>	Bombaceae	red	nectar
<i>Canna</i>	Cannaceae	?	nectar
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	yellowish-white	nectar
<i>Clorodendron infortunatum</i>	Verbenaceae	white	nectar
<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Fabaceae	blue	nectar
<i>Cullenia exarillata</i>	Bombaceae	brownish-white	nectar, pollen
<i>Erythrina</i>	Fabaceae	scarlet	nectar
<i>Firmiana colorata</i>	Sterculiaceae	scarlet	tubular flower, nectar present corolla has sugar
<i>Madhuca indica</i>	Sapotaceae	cream	
<i>Magnolia</i>	Magnoliaceae	white	
<i>Palaquium ellipticum</i>	Sapotaceae	white	nectar
<i>Pithecolobium dulce</i>	Mimosaceae	greenish-white	
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Ericaceae	?	nectar
<i>Rosa</i>	Rosaceae	?	
<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i>	Apocynaceae	white	
<i>Tuboea</i>	Bignoniaceae	?	

Table 2. Plant species with flowers eaten by birds in India.

in dry and wet seasons. All reports of flower-eating by birds in the neotropics are by frugivorous species. Further, they found Emerald Toucanets feeding on flowers when fruits were readily available.

These reports indicate that eating flowers by birds is widespread but not very frequently reported. Flowers are perhaps consumed to access the nectar and pollen that are otherwise difficult to obtain by birds. Nectaries may be located along petals of some flowers, making them attractive to birds that seek nectar (T. Ganesh pers. comm.). Flowers in general probably supply a high energy mixture of lipids, proteins and carbohydrates, particularly if the entire flower is consumed (Riley and Smith 1986).

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## Unusual feeding behaviour of Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor*

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The Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* is regarded as a Critically Endangered species (Collar *et al.* 1994) but, unfortunately, the details of its biology are still poorly known, and this poses problems for its conservation (Chong *et al.* 1996). Ten to twenty birds overwinter in north Kyushu, Japan, preferring narrow river mouths with tidal mudflats and stands of reeds; in this area, at least, they appear to feed more actively than the Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, sometimes running after prey; they seem to have a more stabbing feeding action, and hold their bills slightly wider open, and they have been regularly observed to feed on fish of up to 20 cm length (Niall Moores pers. comm.).

On 27 December 1994, I observed a pair of Black-faced Spoonbills feeding co-operatively in the shallow water of the Hakata Bay mudflats, Kyushu, probably for fish. At about 17h00 on 27 December 1994 I was watching a single Eurasian Spoonbill feeding in shallow water in Hakata Bay. At about 17h30, as the light began to fade, ten Black-faced Spoonbills left a small shrubby island where they had been roosting; eight of them flew singly or in pairs along the bay and out of sight. Two all-white birds (i.e. in non-breeding

plumage) alighted closer to me, at about 100 m distance and proceeded to feed in the 10-15 cm deep water. They stood facing each other about 1 m apart, with their bills immersed in the water at the same spot. They seemed to be searching for small prey. Periodically they quickly circled by running sideways, but keeping their bills in the centre, and continuing to face each other. They appeared to be feeding during this time, judging by their bill movements. On several occasions after this circling, one of them would dash off to one side for 1-4 m, bill in the water, apparently chasing a prey item which had been disturbed by their activity but had escaped their circle. They also performed occasional mutual preening and bill-rubbing while standing opposite each other. However, the overall behaviour mentioned above did not appear to be a stereotyped mating ritual, as no movements appeared to be exaggerated beyond that expected purely for feeding. The birds flew off at about 18h00. Unfortunately, I was not aware of the sexual differences of this species at the time, and have not been able to determine the sex of the two individuals. The birds were observed with a Nikon Fieldscope ED78A with a 19X eyepiece, so that, although they began at dusk and continued into what for the naked eye was darkness, they were still clearly visible. Roseate Spoonbills *Ajaia ajaja* have been observed chasing after prey, but this behaviour is poorly documented. No behaviour of the kind observed above is described for Black-faced Spoonbills in Hancock *et al.* (1992), despite their extensive literature search. A winter study in Taiwan in 1993 (Yen 1994) revealed that they spent most of the daytime in the Tsen-wen estuary roosting, and they were rarely seen foraging in the mudflats; however, the study was not continued after dark. More recent research in North Korea during the breeding season indicates that the male mainly feeds nocturnally (Chong *et al.* 1996) and collects food for the female, which alone incubates between 19h00 and 07h00. Perhaps this feeding technique is regularly employed after dusk for nocturnal prey items. Much surely remains to be learned about this species.

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## Some additions to the list of birds of Vietnam

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This short note documents records of 10 species of bird not listed for Vietnam by Delacour and Jabouille (1931), King *et al.* (1975), Vo Quy (1983) and Mlikovsky and Inskipp (in prep.), which I subsequently recorded between 1993 and 1996 and are therefore judged to be new for the country. Seven of the species listed (Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*, Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*, Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*, Sooty Babbler *Stachyris herberti* and Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*) were included in a recent list of the birds of Vietnam on the strength of the records listed below (Vo Quy and Nguyen Cu 1995).

The following records refer to observations made by myself in the company of others, and I would like to acknowledge the following individuals who are referred to by their initials in the text: Shanthini Dawson (SPD), Noritaka Ichida (NI), Le Trong Trai (LTT), Frank Lambert (FRL), Nguyen Cu (NC) and Anita Pedersen (AP). To substantiate the authenticity of the records, additional data were obtained whenever feasible. Thus, sound recordings were made of two of the species (*Numenius madagascariensis* and *Stachyris herberti*), *Phylloscopus armandii* was trapped and photographed in the hand and a specimen of *Stachyris herberti* was obtained. For each record, date, locality (including province) and geographical coordinates are given. Those diagnostic features of plumage and call used to determine the specific identification are mentioned where relevant.

### EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis*

A single individual was observed and its call recorded at Cam Ranh Bay, Khanh Hoa Province (11°51'N 109°07'E) on 18 February 1993 by NC and myself. The bird was roosting on a drained shrimp-pond together with three Eurasian Curlews *N. arquata*. It was identified at rest by the extensive pink on the basal half of the lower mandible and absence of a white rump. In flight the bird showed a uniformly dark grey-brown underwing and a brown rump. It gave a "clear" call in flight.

### LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A single individual was recorded on Luu Island in Xuan Thuy Nature Reserve, Nam Ha Province (20°16'N 106°34'E) on 8 January 1996 by FRL and myself. The bird was found roosting amongst Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*, Common Redshank *T. totanus* and Nordmann's Greenshank *T. guttifer* and was also observed feeding on the falling tide. Readily identified