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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are highly thankful to Dr. D.R. Smith, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., USA, for his valuable suggestions. Financial assistance rendered by US, PL-480 in coordination with ICAR, New Delhi is also acknowledged.



EMERALD OR BRONZE-WINGED DOVE, *CHALCOPHAPS INDICA* IN SARANDA FOREST DIVISION, JHARKHAND

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This note concerns the occurrence and status of Emerald Dove in Saranda Forest Division. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* (Linn.) is known to occur <1800m mainly in evergreen and moist deciduous forests, commonly in many parts of India. The Saranda Forest Division located in West Singhbhum area of Jharkhand state has both moist and deciduous forests. The important forest types of this division as per Champion and Seth classification are: moist peninsular sal (c₂e), northern dry mixed deciduous forest (5B/Cie), dry peninsular sal forests (5B/Cie), moist mixed deciduous forest, (3c/c), northern tropical wet evergreen forest (B/2B). This division is reckoned to be among the Important Bird Areas of Jharkhand. The threatened Purple Wood Pigeon *Columba punicea* locally known as *Gara Putam* is known to occur in the area. Emerald Dove also known locally as *Gara Putam* has not been well recorded in the area and its status is little known.

During my posting in Saranda Forest Division (from 1 May 2001 till date) I found Emerald Dove in almost every part of the division. Most sightings of the dove occurred on forest road from Kiriburu to Jaraikerla, a stretch of 70km and even along the PWD Road from Baraiburu to Ghatkuri. The bird was noticed mostly single or in pairs feeding on the ground along the road and vanishing into the forest with a swift, strong and straight flight. The frequent sighting of this species in different parts of Saranda Forest Division and sightings throughout the year indicates its fair distribution in this division.

In the Chotanagpur area the Emerald Dove was found to be extremely rare; only on one occasion this species was found in a forest in the neighbouring Gangpur and only once in the Rajmahals hills. The nearest wildlife reserve of significance is Palamau Tiger Reserve which is separated by a distance of around 1,000km, but has well connected blocks of forest and surprisingly there is no mention of the occurrence of Emerald Dove in the Palamau Tiger Reserve.

