

Breeding Behavior of Babbler *Turdoides striata* as Observed in a House Courtyard in Bikaner, Rajasthan (India)

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The Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striata*) is found in the Indian subcontinent and is often seen in gardens within large cities as well as in forested areas. They are gregarious birds that forage in small groups of six to ten birds, a habit that has given them the popular name of *Seven Sisters*. The sexes are identical, drably coloured in brownish grey with a yellow-bill. The upperparts are usually slightly darker in shade and there is some mottling on the throat and breast.

3). Female brought the feed for the young chicks. The food generally comprised of small insects and their larvae which were seen to be picked up from the adjoining plantations. Four days after hatching of the young ones, three were predated upon by crows and only one chick was able to survive and attain adulthood (Figures 4 and 5). It grew to its full in about 15 days after hatching and was ready to fledge (Figure 6).



Figure 1: Clutch of eggs.



Figure 2: Three young chicks.



Figure 3: All four young chicks.

The present observations were made in the courtyard of my house situated in the city of Bikaner (28°N latitude and 73°18'E longitudes), Rajasthan. The nest was cup shaped and constructed on a shrub of *Jasminum sambac* (Family: Oleaceae) planted in the courtyard. The clutch size was of four eggs (Figure 1). Hatching of three of the eggs took 15 days (Figure 2), while, one took 16 days to hatch out (Figure



Figure 4: Three chicks were predated upon by crows and only one was left in the nest.



Figure 5: Single chick growing.



Figure 6: Chick ready to fledge.

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Received March 20, 2013; Accepted May 10, 2013; Published May 13, 2013

Citation: Srivastava M (2013) Breeding Behavior of Babbler *Turdoides striata* as Observed in a House Courtyard in Bikaner, Rajasthan (India). Poul Fish Wildl Sci 1: 104. doi:10.4172/2375-446X.1000104

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