

A NEW RECORD OF GOSH HAWK (BAZ) *ACCIPITER GENTILIS*
(AVES-FALCONIFORMES) WITH SHORT NOTES ON DISTRIBUTION
OF LAUGHING DOVE *SLREPTOPELIA SENEGALENSIS* (AVES.
COLUMBIFORMES) IN IRAQ

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SUMMARY

The present paper is very important for study of biodiversity of Iraq , to know how the changes going and how the laughing dove *S. senegalensis* was a rare species in Iraq and now is common and also the (baz) gosh hawk *A. gentilis* is common and the most famous bird of pray in Iraq, till now missing from ornithologist and bird watcher to record it -

INTRODUCTION

The Avian data base of Iraq, still unclear, because of very poor study on this important part of biodiversity The war and military action for past 30 years made a great problem for ornithologists and bird watchers, they cannot have a free movement to prepare a complete observation, all the references are very old as Boswel and Tylgr (1957), Allous (1960-62), Mahdi and Georg (1969), Bunni (1979), Denis Lepage Avihase (2005). No one of them announced to *Accipiter gentilis* to be found in Iraq, and they put laughing dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* as a rare bird of Iraq. Disi (1987) and Shafae (1998) announced that both *A. gentilis* and *S. senegalensis* found in Jordan and Syria. For this matter this study is important to declare some of changes on Iraqi biodiversity.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study depends on personal field observations within past 30 years.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Accipiter gentilis Linnaeus., Gosh hawk (baz)

Total length 19-24 Inches.

Color brownish above chest and ventral white with dark strip and yellow eyes. Morphologically similar to sparrow hawk but much larger.

Distribution in Iraq, nearly countrywide, one specimen was collected by the authors in spring from Halabjah district, Sulaimaniya province. North east of Iraq. Two other birds where collected by Hoshmand Aljaf in winter from baladroz east of baghdad , and another one collected by M. K. Mohammad 20 km. West of Rutba western desert district in May 1984, another one was seen by the authors south of Kut prov.

Remark: This beautiful bird is the most common bird of pray in Iraq. specially in Kurdistan north of the country, it is frequently seen in many old stores and legend.

Streptopelia senegalensis, L. (Laughing dove or palm dove). Table No.1

This dove was very rare in Iraq until 1960 the only observation by Ticehurs *et al.* (1921-1922). They saw one bird at a stormy day it was probably vagrant missing his way,

A New Record of gosh hawk (baz)

Allous(1962), mentioned dove was not found in north of Iraq up to 1970, later on some pairs were seen in Sulaimaniyah, prov. North east of Iraq. In 1980 a became common bird of this area, and rare in kerkok and Erbil west of Sulaemanyah. In 1990 become common in both of these two cities and some pairs recognized in Baaqoba toward the south. In 2005 we found many pairs in Al-Sadr city in the east and Aadameah and Taje in the north of Baghdad prove its clear from above distribution that this dove was coming from Iran toward north east of Iraq, and from this point it was spread all over the country.

Remark: *S. senegalensis* builed a large and denseness on the roof and windows, and it's a common bird of Jordan and Syria, Shafeae (1998), Disi (1987). Bsy adding this dove to Iraqi fauna it become four doves: *Streptopelia decaocto*, *S. senegalensis* S. turtur; and *S.orientalis* the last one recorded by Bunni M.K. (1988) depending on single specimens, no more information on this dove was available.

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Table 1: Distribution of *Streptopelia senegalensis* in Iraq:

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2004
Sulaymanyah	-----	rare	commom	Com.	Com.
Kerkok	-----	-----	rare	Com.	Com.
Erbil	-----	-----	rare	Com.	Com.
Baaquba	-----	-----	-----	rare	rare
Baghdad	-----	-----	-----	-----	rare

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