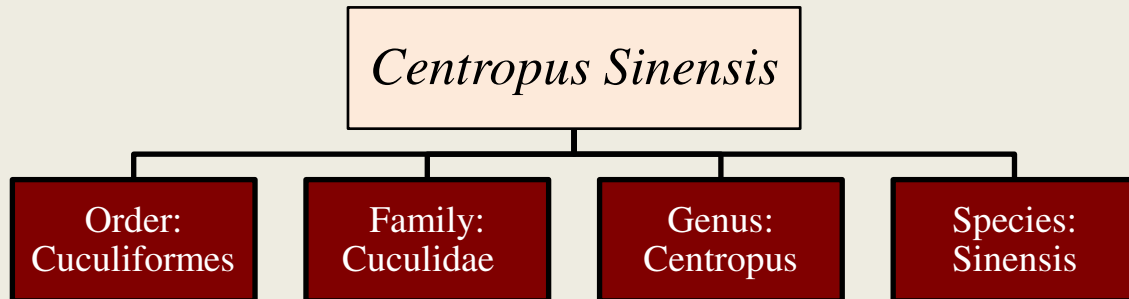


# Crow-Pheasant/ Grater Coucal



## STATUS

Resident/ Common

## MORPHOLOGY

- Size : That of the jungle Crow.
- Field Characters : A clumsy, glossy black bird with conspicuous chestnut wings and long, broad black tail. Sexes alike. Singly or pairs, stalking along the ground in undergrowth. Distribution : Resident throughout the Indian Empire from about 6,000 feet in the Himalayas. Three races are recognised on size and details of colouration, viz., the N. India-N. Assam race *sinensis*, the peninsular India and Ceylon *parroti*, and the S. Assam- Burma *intermedius*.

## HABITS

- The Crow-Pheasant is a dweller of open country, both hill and plain, which abounds in bushes and small tree growth, preferably interspersed with patches of tall grassland.
- It is commonly found about cultivation and human habitations. It is met with singly or in pairs skulking its way through under-growth in search of food, head lowered and tail almost trailing the ground, frequently opened and shut.
- The wings are short and rounded and its flight weak and laboured in consequence. In trees it hops from branch to branch with agility, but it is essentially a ground loving species.
- In the breeding season the cock goes through a fantastic display before his mate, 'fanning' and cocking his tail over the back and strutting in front of her with drooping wings. Its flesh is much esteemed as a cure for bronchial ailments.

## NESTING

- The season ranges between February and September, varying with local conditions.
- The Crow-Pheasant belongs to the group of terrestrial non-parasitic cuckoos which shoulder their own domestic responsibility.
- The nest is a large untidy globular mass of leaves and twigs, with a lateral entrance hole, placed in the centre of a bush, or in the branch of a tree fairly low down.
- The eggs- three or four - are white, chalky, glossless and unmarked. Both sexes share in building the nest, incubation and care of the young.