



Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica* ખડમોર, ચોમાસુ ટિલ્લોર
Endangered Species **Size:** M- 46cm, F - 51 cm

Field Character: Hen sandy buff, mottled and streaked with blackish. Cock in non-breeding plumage like hen and minus upwardly curled head plumes. He retains a good deal of the white in the wings. Singly, or widely separated pairs in tall grassland.

Distribution: The greater part of the Indian plains, excluding NE hill states. Pakistan (Part). Recedent and locally migratory, chiefly during the rains.

Habits: Affects tall grass country and standing fields of cotton, millets, etc. Not gregarious like. Flight like bustard's but the more rapid wing strokes produce resemblance to a lapwing in silhouette.

Courtship Display: The male's nuptial display consists of constant jumping or springing up above cover of long grass or crops even up to 500 times in a single day. This is believed to advertise his presence to hens and to warn off rival cocks. A loud rattling or clapping auditory signal produced by the wings accompanies each jump and the performer floats down perpendicularly with tail spread out, vaguely reminiscent of the male lora's aerial display.

Food: Green shoots, grain, seeds, beetles, etc.

Nesting: Season - July to October. **Eggs** - 3 to 4, some shade of olive-brown, mottled and streaked with brown. Laid on bare ground in a grass or crop field. The female alone incubates and tends the young.

Photographs by : © Yogendra Shah (above), © Devesh Gadhavi (below)

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