NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF MIGRATORY GREY-NECKED BUNTING 
EMBERIZA BUCHANANI BLYTH, 1844 (AVES: PASSERIFORMES: 
EMBERIZIDAE) AS A WINTER VISITOR IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI 
DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

T. Siva & P. Neelanarayanan

26 December 2017 | Vol. 9 | No. 12 | Pp. 11095–11096
10.11609/jott.3809.9.12.11095-11096
First record of migratory Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchanani Blyth, 1844 (Aves: Passeriformes: Emberizidae) as a winter visitor in Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu, India

T. Siva 1 & P. Neelanarayanan 2

1 Centre for Eco-friendly Agro-Technologies (CEAT), Research Department of Zoology, Nehru Memorial College (Autonomous), Puthanampatti, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu 621007, India
2 sivanaturewild@gmail.com (corresponding author), dr.pnn31@gmail.com

The Grey-necked Bunting or Grey-hooded Bunting belongs to the family Emberizidae. Published information available on this bird in India is very limited. The species is found in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (BirdLife International 2017). Besides, this bunting is also reported from Africa, West Asia and South Asia during winter (Yosef 2001). It breeds in Baluchistan, Pakistan and winters mainly in Pakistan and central and western India, especially in Gujarat (Grimmett et al. 2011). It has been regularly recorded moving through Gujarat from September to March (Madge 2017). The Grey-necked Bunting is considered one of the Least Concern birds due to its range and population. The population is suspected to be stable in the absence of evidence for any declines or substantial threats (BirdLife International 2017). The Grey-necked Bunting is mainly found in dry, open habitats, scrubby areas, and small hillocks covered with low thorn scrub. The food habit of the species is seeds, plant shoots and during breeding season the chicks are fed with small invertebrates particularly insects such as weevils, beetles, bugs, ants, grasshoppers and snails (Madge 2017). The nest is built by the female and is well hidden under vegetation or a sheltering boulder, on the ground.

First sighting at Tiruchirappalli District: Devanoorputhur (11.10638889 N & 78.42694444 E) is a village in Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu. This area has many rocky hillocks which are situated mostly in the dry and open habitats. The locality’s altitude is between 100 and 260. We observed and recorded a pair of Grey-necked Buntings for the first time on 21 November 2015. The birds were sitting on a branch of a thorn shrub Flueggea leucopyrus. The area is mainly dry with open habitats, scrubby areas and small hillocks covered with low thorn shrubs. The birds were photographed and later identified using a field guide (Grimmett et al. 2011) as Grey-necked Bunting. Later, this first sighting was recorded and entered in the ebird checklist (www.ebird.org). The second sighting of Grey-necked Bunting was on 20 January 2017. The birds were observed and recorded on the same shrub species (Flueggea leucopyrus) as the first sighting. It may be construed that it is a suitable place for this winter migrant species as during two consecutive winters this species visited this area. Studies on the ecology and biology of this bird from this study area are required.
First record of Grey-necked Bunting in Tamil Nadu

Siva & Neelanarayanan

References


Image 1 & 2. Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchanani is seen on Flueggea leucopyrus

Image 3. A typical habitat where we could observe and record Grey-necked Bunting near Devanoorputhur Village, Tiruchirappalli District.
Communications

Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi, a new species of night frog (Amphibia: Nyctibatrachidae) from Western Ghats of Kerala, India
-- Keerthi Krutha, Neelesh Dahanukar & Sanjay Molur, Pp. 10985–10997

An interview-based survey to determine the conservation status of Softshell Turtles (Reptilia: Trionychidae) in the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protected Area, Myanmar

Notes on taxonomy and captive development of the Rattus andamanensis (Blyth, 1860) (Rodentia: Muridae) from southern Andamans, India
-- S.S. Talmale & T. Bharathimeena, Pp. 11009–11015

Review and analysis of human and Mugger Crocodile conflict in Gujarat, India from 1960 to 2013
-- Raju Vyas & Colin Stevenson, Pp. 11016–11024

Status of conflict mitigation measures in Nilambur, Western Ghats of Kerala, India

Short Communications

Notes on the taxonomy and distribution of two endemic and threatened dipterocarp trees from the Western Ghats of Kerala, India

Phenology and seed germination of the Indian Screw Tree Helicteres isora L. (Malvales: Malvaceae)
-- Mariappan Muthukumar, Thiruppathi Senthil Kumar & Mandali Venkateswara Rao, Pp. 11040–11044

Additions to the sea snail fauna (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Opisthobranchia) of Lakshadweep Islands, India
-- B.K. Sneha Chandran, R. Ravinesh & A. Biju Kumar, Pp. 11045–11053

Preliminary checklist of springtails (Arthropoda: Collembola) of Uttar Pradesh, India
-- Ramesh Singh Yadav, Pp. 11054–11059

A new species of zygaenid moth Elycsma ziroensis (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae: Chalcosiinae) from India
-- Punyo Chada, Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi & James John Young, Pp. 11060–11066

Notes

Largest fungal fruit body from India
-- Manoj Kumar, Prahlad Singh Mehr, N.S.K. Harsh, Amit Pandey & Vijay Vardhan Pandey, Pp. 11067–11073

Ichthyofauna of Udayasamudram Reservoir in Nalgonda District, Telangana State, India
-- Rachamalla Shyam sundar, Kante Krishna Prasad & Chelmala Srinivasulu, Pp. 11074–11080

First record of migratory Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchanani Blyth, 1844 (Aves: Passeriformes: Emberizidae) as a winter visitor in Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu, India
-- T. Siva & P. Neelanarayanan, Pp. 11081–11091

New distribution records of Elegant Water Shrew Nectogale elegans Milne-Edwards, 1870 (Mammalia: Eulipotyphla: Soricidae) from the western Himalaya, Uttarakhand, India

The persistence of the Striped Hyena Hyaena hyaena Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Carnivora: Hyaenidae) as a predator of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Lepidochelys olivacea Eschscholtz, 1829 (Reptilia: Testudinidae: Chelonidae) eggs
-- Divya Karnad, Pp. 11100–11102

Book Review

Book review: A Photographic Guide -- Endemic Woody Plants of The Western Ghats
-- Jis Sebastian, Pp. 11103–11104