The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is dedicated to building evidence for conservation globally by publishing peer-reviewed articles online every month at a reasonably rapid rate at www.threatenedtaxa.org. All articles published in JoTT are registered under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License unless otherwise mentioned. JoTT allows unrestricted use, reproduction, and distribution of articles in any medium by providing adequate credit to the author(s) and the source of publication.

Journal of Threatened Taxa

Building evidence for conservation globally

www.threatenedtaxa.org

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

NOTE

KERALA STATE BIRD CHECKLIST: ADDITIONS DURING 2015 – MAY 2019

Abhinand Chandran & J. Praveen

26 May 2019 | Vol. 11 | No. 7 | Pages: 13941–13946

DOI: 10.11609/jott.4904.11.7.13941-13946

For Focus, Scope, Aims, Policies, and Guidelines visit https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/about/editorialPolicies#custom-0
For Article Submission Guidelines, visit https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions
For Policies against Scientific Misconduct, visit https://threatenedtaxa.org/index.php/JoTT/about/editorialPolicies#custom-2
For reprints, contact <ravi@threatenedtaxa.org>

The opinions expressed by the authors do not reflect the views of the Journal of Threatened Taxa, Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society, Zoo Outreach Organization, or any of the partners. The journal, the publisher, the host, and the partners are not responsible for the accuracy of the political boundaries shown in the maps by the authors.
Kerala state bird checklist: additions during 2015 – May 2019

Abhinand Chandran & J. Praveen

1 Ashirvad, Thiruvangoor P.O, Kozhikode, Kerala 673304, India
2 B303, Shriram Spurthi, ITPL Main Road, Brookefields, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560037, India.
1 abhinandc87@gmail.com (corresponding author), 2 paintedstork@gmail.com

Praveen (2015) compiled a list of 500 species of birds occurring in the state of Kerala. Since then birdwatchers of the state have been actively documenting more bird species in the region. Here is an update on the additions and corrections to this list based on records made during the years 2015–2019 with some older records that were confirmed retrospectively. All publicly available record till 15 May 2019 have been considered for this note.

1. Fulvous Whistling Duck Dendrocygna bicolor:
   a. A single bird was photographed along with Lesser Whistling Ducks D. javanica by Sumesh P.B. on 04 January 2017 from Changaram wetlands, Alappuzha District (Sumesh 2017).
   b. A single bird was photographed along with Lesser Whistling Ducks D. javanica by Raphy Kallettumkara on 23 March 2019 from Pathikade Chira, Thrissur District (Kallettumkara 2019). An unconfirmed sight record by K.K. Neelakantan was also from a flooded field in Thrissur district on 02 August 1984 (Sashikumar et al. 2011).

2. Common Pochard Aythya ferina: A pair was observed and male bird was photographed by P.C. Rajeevan on 05 November 2016 from Chemballikundu wetlands, Kannur District (Rajeevan 2017).

3. Spotted Crake Porzana porzana:
   a. A juvenile that flew into the house of Prashobh Kumar Vijayan at Thottappally beach, Alappuzha on 03 October 2015 was recovered and identified as this species from photographs (Narayanan et al. 2016).
   b. A single bird was photographed by K.E. Bijumon on 06 January 2019 from Ezhome wetlands, Kannur district (Rajeevan & Bijumon 2019).

4. Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus: A single bird was photographed by P.P. Sreenivasan on 02 January 2016 and seen again on the next day from Vadakkekad paddyfields, Thrissur District (Sreenivasan 2016).

5. Mew Gull Larus canus:
   a. A single bird photographed by Arun Bhaskaran on 02 February 2017 from Ponnnani beach, Malappuram District (Bhaskaran 2018).
   b. Another bird was photographed at the same locality a year later on 01 May 2018 by Nesrudheen P.P. and Arun Bhaskaran (Nesrudheen & Bhaskaran 2018).
   c. A single bird was photographed at the same locality on 02 January 2019 by Abdulla Paleri (Paleri 2019) and subsequently seen by Arun Bhaskaran on 08...
February 2019 (Bhaskaran 2019).


7. Black-naped Tern *Sternula sumatrana*: A single bird was photographed by Krishnakumar K. Iyer on 28 April 2018 from Ponnani beach, Malappuram District (Iyer 2018).

8. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*:
   a. An adult male bird was photographed by Raphy Kalletumkara on 02 April 2017 from a wetland in Irinjalakuda, Thrissur District (Kalletumkara 2017a).
   b. Another adult male bird photographed by Kamal Hari Menon & Raphy Kalletumkara on 08 February 2014 from Thommana Kale wetlands was retrospectively identified as this species (Menon & Kalletumkara 2014).

9. Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*: A single bird was photographed by Sasiharan Manekkara on 26 May 2013 from the breeding colony of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters *M. philippinus* at Kankole, Kannur District. The bird was initially suspected to be of captive origin and was hence kept out of Praveen (2015). This, however, was subsequently argued to be a wild vagrant (Manekkara 2017) and hence an addition.


11. Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*:
   a. One individual was photographed by Abhilash Arjunan on 14 December 2015 from Punchakkari wetlands, Thiruvananthapuram District (Abhilash 2016).
   b. M.C. Prashantha Krishna photographed a bird from Gumpé Hills, Kasaragod District on 05 November 2016 (Krishna 2016).
   c. Raphy Kalletumkara photographed a soaring bird on 07 November 2016 from Ayanakkad Kale wetlands, Thrissur District (Kalletumkara 2016b).
   d. P.C. Rajeevan and K.E. Bijumon photographed a bird from Madayipara Hill, Kannur District on 04 November 2018 (Bijumon 2018).
   e. Mujeeb P.M. photographed a bird from Ponkunnu hill, Kozhikode District on 19 December 2018 (Mujeb 2018).

12. White-spotted Fantail *Rhipidura albogularis*:
   a. A single bird was photographed by Raphy Kalletumkara and K.C. Raveendran on 10 December 2016 from Malampuzha, Palakkad District (Kalletumkara 2017b).
   b. Subsequently photographed from the same site by Rajesh Radhakrishnan on 18 February 2018 (Radhakrishnan 2018).

13. Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami*:
   a. A first winter male was photographed on 16 December 2018 from Kanjikode, Palakkad District by Vivek Sudhakaran, Praveen Velayudhan and Deepak Muraleedharan (Sudhakaran et al. 2019).
   b. An adult female was photographed on 23 March 2019 from Cheerakavu, Thrissur District by Anisha Tomy (Tomy 2019).

14. Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata*: A first winter male was photographed on 30 March 2015 from Ezhumanthuruthu, Kottayam District by P.J. George (George 2015). It was initially suspected to be of unknown origin and hence, was kept out of Praveen (2015). This was subsequently reported from Kodagu, Karnataka in the same period of the year during spring migration (Monnappa & Kumar 2018) and hence supporting the theory of a ‘wild vagrant’. Hence, we add this species to the state checklist.

15. Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*: A single bird was photographed on 11 November 2018 from Eriam, Kannur District by P.C. Rajeevan and Bijumon K.E. (Rajeevan & Bijumon 2019).

16. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*: A single bird was photographed on 26 February 2016 from Munnar-Thekkady road, Idukki District by James A. Eaton and Jijo Mathew (Eaton & Mathew 2016).

17. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: Though there were records of this species or Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta* from Kerala, Praveen (2015) kept both species out of the state checklist due to challenges in identification. Since then more definite reports have occurred from Kerala as listed in Chandran (2018).
   a. Two birds were photographed along with a group of Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* on 13 November 2014 by Abhinand Chandran from Kadamakudy, Ernakulam District.
Table 1. Additions to the birds of Kerala checklist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English name</th>
<th>Species name</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Malayalam name</th>
<th>Vernacular name</th>
<th>IUCN</th>
<th>EN</th>
<th>WPA</th>
<th>CITES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Anatidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Anseriformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Fulvous Whistling-Duck</td>
<td>Dendrocygna bicolor</td>
<td>(Vieillot, 1816)</td>
<td>വലിയ ചൂളൻ</td>
<td>എരണ്ട</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Common Pochard</td>
<td>Aythya ferina</td>
<td>(Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>ചെല്ലസ്പെറ്റ് എരണ്ട</td>
<td>എരണ്ട</td>
<td>VU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Gruiformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Spotted Crake</td>
<td>Porzana porzana</td>
<td>(Linnaeus, 1766)</td>
<td>പുള്ളി നെല്ലിക്കോഴി</td>
<td>എരണ്ട</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Charadriiformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Black Tern</td>
<td>Chlidonias niger</td>
<td>(Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>ആളക്കണ്ഠൻ Released</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Coraciiformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 White-spotted Fantail</td>
<td>Rhipidura albogularis</td>
<td>(Lesson, 1832)</td>
<td>പിടലികറു ആട്ട് കോറൻ</td>
<td>എരണ്ട</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Passeriformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Crested Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza kathami</td>
<td>(J.E. Gray, 1831)</td>
<td>കോമ്പൻ തിനക്കുരുവി</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Yellow-breasted Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza aureola</td>
<td>Pallas, 1773</td>
<td>മഞ്ഞമട്ടു തിനക്കുരുവി</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Falconiformes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Sand Martin</td>
<td>Riparia riparia</td>
<td>(Linnaeus, 1758)</td>
<td>മണൽ കടൽ കാട്ട്</td>
<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sch.IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. A single bird was photographed by Abhijith Surendran on 01 January 2017 from Changaram wetlands, Alappuzha District.

c. A single bird photographed on 10 January 2017 by Harikumar Mannar from Kuttanad wetlands, Alappuzha District.

d. Two birds photographed on 02 October 2017 from Kadamakudy, Ernakulam District by Premchand Reghuvaran.

e. A single bird photographed on 15 December 2017 by Manoj Karingamadathil & Jameela P. from Manakodi Kole wetlands, Thrissur District.

18. Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus:
A single bird was photographed on 17 February 2019 from Pothamedu, Munnar, Idukki district by Julien Mazenauer (Mazenauer 2019; Mazenauer in press). Prior to this Paul Holt reported this species on 14 February 1995 incidentally also from Munnar (Sashikumar et al. 2011), but was not considered for the state checklist due to the failure to satisfy the inclusion criteria documented therein.

19. Purple-backed Starling Agropsar sturninus:
a. An adult male was photographed along with Rosy Starlings Pastor roseus and Common Mynas Acridotheres tristis on 14 November 2015 from Vellayani-Punchakkari paddyfields, Thiruvananthapuram District by K.G. Dilip and C.G. Arun (Dilip & Arun 2016).

b. An adult male was photographed along with Common Mynas Acridotheres tristis on 14 October 2016 from Thommana Kole wetlands, Thrissur district by Raphy Kallettumkara (Kallettumkara 2016a) and retrospectively identified as this species.

c. Two adult male birds were photographed along with Chestnut-tailed Starlings Sturnia malabarica on 21 October 2018 from Uppungal Kole, Malappuram District by P.P. Nesrudheen (Nesrudheen 2018).

d. An adult male was photographed along with Chestnut-tailed Starlings Sturnia malabarica on 12 December 2018 from Kozhukkully, Thrissur District by K.B. Nidheesh, Bavish Usha Balan and Sreekumar Govindankutty (Nidheesh 2018).
20. Blue-and-white Flycatcher  *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*:  
a. A first winter male transitioning to breeding plumage was photographed on 05 February 2017 by Mathew Thekkethala from Nelliampathy Hills, Palakkad District (Thekkethala 2018).

b. A male bird was photographed on 02 February 2018 by James A. Eaton from Neriamangalam-Painavu Road, Ernakulam District (Rodds & Loseby 2018).

c. A male bird was photographed on 23 November 2018 by Manoj Kanakambaran from Kanthaloor, Idukki District (Kanakambaran 2018) and the species continue to be wintering in the same site at least till 28 February 2019.

21. Ultramarine Flycatcher  *Ficedula supercilii*:  
A first winter male was photographed on 14 November 2015 from Santhigiri, Idukki District by P.J. George (George 2016).

22. Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush  *Monticola saxatilis*:  
A first winter male was photographed on 18 November 2015 from Nangiarkulangara, Alappuzha District by S.R. Prasanth Kumar (Balar et al. 2016).

23. Pied Wheatear  *Oenanthe pleschanka*:  
a. A first winter bird was photographed on 20 December 2015 by Premchand Reghuvaran from Bekal Fort, Kasaragod District (Reghuvaran 2016).

b. A sub-adult was photographed on 25 September 2016 by Jayan Thomas from Madayipara, Kannur District (Thomas 2017).

24. Eye-browed Thrush  *Turdus obscurus*:  
A single bird was photographed by P.B. Samkumar on 10 December 2017 from Iringole Kaavu, Ernakulam District (Samkumar 2017).

With this update, 24 species have been added to the state checklist. The taxonomic update of 2018 (Praveen et al. 2018) elevated a number of subspecies found in the country to the species level, this does impact the number of species found in Kerala: adding the total number of species in the Kerala checklist to 527 (Table 1). Malabar Starling  *Sturna malabarica blythi* is accepted as a full species by some taxonomies (Gill & Donsker 2019, Clements et al. 2018) but is not accepted in Praveen et al. (2019) or HBWALive (Craig & Feare 2018) and hence not counted here. Of this, 515 species are supported either by a validated specimen or a clear photograph. The following 12 birds find a place in the state checklist purely based on sight records: Great White Pelican  *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Little Bittern  *Ixobrychus minutus*, White-cheeked Tern  *Sterna repressa*, Imperial Eagle  *Aquila heliaca*, Hen Harrier  *Circus cyaneus*, White-tailed Eagle  *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Eurasian Crag-Martin  *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*, Grey-throated Martin  *Riparia chinsenis*, Common Chiffchaff  *Phylloscopus tristis*, Common Starling  *Sturnus vulgaris*, Red-breasted Flycatcher  *Ficedula parva*, and Black Redstart  *Phoenicurus ochruros* (Sashikumar et al. 2011).

References
Kalletumkara, R. (2016a). Website URL: https://ebird.org/india/view/...
Additions to bird checklist of Kerala


Articles

Cats, canines, and coexistence: dietary differentiation between the sympatric Snow Leopard and Grey Wolf in the western landscape of Nepal Himalaya
– Anil Shrestha, Kanchan Thapa, Samundra Ambuhang Subba, Maheshwar Dhakal, Bishnu Prasad Devkota, Gokarna Jung Thapa, Sheren Shrestha, Sabita Malli & Kamal Thapa, Pp. 13815–13821

Genetic diversity among the endemic barb Barbodes tumba (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) populations from Mindano, Philippines

The importance of conserving fragmented forest patches with high diversity of flowering plants in the northern Western Ghats: an example from Maharashtra, India

Communications

First assessment of bird diversity in the UNESCO Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, southwestern Ethiopia: species richness, distribution and potential for avian conservation
– Mattias Van Opstal, Bernard Oosterlynck, Million Belay, Jesse Erens & Matthias De Beenhouwer, Pp. 13850–13867

Roadkill of animals on the road passing from Kalaburagi to Chincholi, Karnataka, India
– Shankerappa Shantveerappa Hatti & Heena Mubeen, Pp. 13868–13874

Ceriagrion chromothorax sp. nov. (Odonata: Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae) from Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, India
– Shantanu Joshi & Dattaprasad Sawant, Pp. 13875–13885

The diversity and distribution of polypores (Basidiomycota: Aphyllophorales) in wet evergreen and shola forests of Silent Valley National Park, southern Western Ghats, India, with three new records

Short Communications

Recent photographic records of Fishing Cat Prionailurus viverrinus (Bennett, 1833) (Carnivora: Felidae) in the Ayeyarwady Delta of Myanmar
– Naing Lin & Steven G. Platt, Pp. 13910–13914

Rediscovery of Van Hasselt’s Mouse-earred Bat Myotis hasseltii (Temminck, 1840) and its first genetic data from Hanoi, northern Vietnam
– Vuong Tan Tu, Satoru Arai, Fuka Kikuchi, Chu Thi Hang, Tran Anh Tuan, Gábor Csorba & Tamás Görfföl, Pp. 13915–13919

Notes on the diet of adult Yellow Catfish Aspistor luniscutis (Pisces: Siluriformes) in northern Rio de Janeiro State, southeastern Brazil
– Ana Paula Madeira Di Beneditto & Maria Thereza Manhões Tavares, Pp. 13920–13924

Waterbirds from the mudflats of Thane Creek, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India: a review of distribution records from India
– Omkar Dilip Adhikari, Pp. 13925–13930

Moths of the superfamily Tineoidea (Insecta: Lepidoptera) from the Western Ghats, India
– Amit Katewa & Prakash Chand Pathania, Pp. 13931–13936

Winter season bloomer Hairy Bergenia Bergenia ciliata (Haw.) Sternb. (Saxifragales: Saxifragaceae), an important winter forage for diverse insect groups
– Aseesh Pandey, Ravindra K. Joshi & Bhawana Kapkoti Negi, Pp. 13937–13940

Notes

Kerala state bird checklist: additions during 2015 – May 2019
– Abhinand Chandran & J. Praveen, Pp. 13941–13946

What is in a name? The birthright of Oxyopes nilgiricus Sherriffs, 1955 (Araneae: Oxyopidae)
– John T.D. Caleb, P. 13947

Book Review

Study on biological and ecological characteristics of mudskippers
– Ali Reza Radkhah & Soheil Eagderi, Pp. 13948–13950