

## Additions to the birds of Goa, India

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The avifaunal diversity of Goa has been fairly well documented over the years (Grubh & Ali 1972; Rane 1982; Saha & Dasgupta 1992; Lainer 1999). Lainer's (2004) well-researched work listed around 420 species of birds from Goa. Recently, the Zoological Survey of India added 38 species to his work (Mahabal & Patil 2008) thereby bringing the tally of birds of Goa to 458.

Though Goa's avifaunal diversity has been well documented by researchers, as well as visiting birdwatchers, as always, there is scope for new discoveries as more and more people get interested in field work, as in the instances of the White-backed Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus* (Rangnekar & Lad 2009), and the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* (Holt 2009).

In this note we report for the first time from Goa, the occurrence of Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides*, Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*, and Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*.

Slaty-legged Crake On 15 June 2009 PL spotted a pair at Ganje, on the outskirts of Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. They were foraging in sparse undergrowth along the roadside. PR observed an adult, and a juvenile on 8 August 2009 at the same location. An enthusiast birdwatcher accompanying him managed to take a video of the bird. The presence of an adult with a juvenile indicates that this crake is a breeding resident.

Spotted Creeper Both the authors first sighted this bird on 25 April 2004 in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary near Bondirwada on the way to Cadval. It was part of a mixed-hunting party. It was seen a second time, in Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary on 15 November 2007 by PR, near the artificial waterbody on the way to the entry gate. The presence of the bird in two different locations, in two

different seasons, clearly suggests that the sightings are not of stragglers; neither is the bird known to migrate.

Streaked Weaver has been observed in and around Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. The birds were first observed in April 2000 in Keri village wherein they were nesting at two locations, one in the sugarcane fields opposite the government primary school, and the second on vegetation along the nullah flowing under the water distribution canal of the Anjunem Reservoir. A few individuals nested on the electricity wires passing over sugarcane fields. The birds have been subsequently observed regularly at the same locations every year. Streaked Weavers have been spotted at two other locations on 9 June 2002; in Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary at Sarem, and at Karmali, Sattari.

The addition of these three species increases the number of species for Goa to 462.

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