

Snapshot sightings

Hume's Short-toed Lark at Chandigarh

Munish Jauhar



On 03 May 2017, at around 1700 hrs, I photographed a Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris* at Sukhna Lake (30.74°N, 76.82°E), Chandigarh, along with a flock of Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos*. Picture showed a dark patch on the lores, uniform ear-coverts, weakly streaked crown, and dark ridge on bill. Generally a rare bird in winter quarters, it has not been reported from the Chandigarh ISCR although it is mapped as migrating through Punjab (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

House Number – 674, Sector – 8, Chandigarh 160009, UT, India.
E-mail: munish@greycelltech.com

Pale/Sand Martin from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

Anoop R



On 09 September 2017, at 1341 hrs, three Pale/Sand Martins *Riparia diluta/riparia* were noted flying above the waters of Salt Lake, Plot 1, Puthalam (8.17°N, 77.77°E), Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, along with several Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*. Though identification to the exact species is impossible from this photograph, this appears to be the first report of either species south of Alappuzha (Harikumar 2017), along the western coast of India, though there are more reports from the eastern coast (Santharam 2003).

TNHS, Uthradam, TC 48/1082-1, House No. 23, Vikas Nagar, Ambalathara, Trivandrum, Kerala (695026) E-mail: anoopvet@gmail.com

European Roller from Darjeeling, West Bengal

Bijoy Adhikary

On 07 October 2017, an European Roller *Coracias garrulus* was photographed in Kalyani (22.97°N, 88.37°E), West Bengal. A passage migrant through north-western India, this is probably



the first record for the state and the eastern-most record, till date, from the country (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

C/ Green Tower, 3 Priyanath Chatterjee Street, Kolkata 700056, West Bengal, India.
E-mail: gouriahikary1953@gmail.com

Bristled Grassbird from Belgaum, Karnataka

Niranjan Sant



On 16 October 2017, a male Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* was observed singing from a bush at Avachar Hati village (15.77°N, 74.77°E), near Belgaum, Karnataka. In a span of 150 mins, it displayed seven times by rising in flight and circling the grassland, singing. The bird was seen on subsequent visits until 22 October 2017. There have been two recent records of this species from Karnataka (Lakshmi 2015; Kamath 2016) but this is probably the first time it was seen displaying.

27, Adarsh nagar, Vadgaon, Belgaum 590005, Karnataka, India.
E-mail: niranjansant@yahoo.co.uk

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