bringing nesting material to the nest. The nest was c. 20 m above the ground, and it comprised primarily of dry twigs. On a subsequent visit, on 12 April 2014, two juvenile birds were seen on the nest [71]. Both the adults were feeding the juveniles, which seemed ready to fledge. Nesting reported on a market-place tower within Pune city for three consecutive years (Gole, 1980), and another nest on an electrical pylon in Saurashtra are the only non-tree nesting records of this species till date (Naoroji 2006).

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Black-naped Tern Sterna sumatrana in Kerala:
An addition to avifauna of Indian mainland

The Black-naped Tern Sterna sumatrana has a widespread distribution in the Indian Ocean, South-east Asia, the Indo-Malaya region, and the western tropical Pacific Ocean. Within Indian territorial limits, it has been reported only from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (eBird 2018), and the Lakshadweep Islands. Its nearest breeding grounds to India are in the Maldives (Philips 1959) and Chagos Islands (Carr 2015), where the mathewsi race is found (contra nominate found on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands). There was a single sight record of a flock of eight birds at Fort Kochi on 05 May 1990 apart from 35 White-cheeked Terns S. repissa (Neelakantan et al. 1993; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), but without any documentary evidence, and hence not considered for the Kerala state checklist (Sashikumar et al. 2011).

On 28 April 2018, I went to Ponnani beach (10.78°N, 75.91°E), Malappuram District, Kerala with the intention of observing shore birds. I reached the spot at 0720 hrs and was observing some Lesser/Greater Sand Plovers Charadrius mongolus/leschenaultii and a few gulls present there, when a flock of around 30 terns came flying in from the sea. They were a mixed flock of Whiskered- Chlidonias hybrida and Common Terns S. hirundo. A soaring Black Kite Milvus migrans stooped at them and dispersed them. However, three terns from the flock settled at a distance on the shore. Upon zooming on them with my super zoom camera, I noticed that one tern amongst them looked very pale and different from others. I took some photographs and shared them immediately with my birding friends, Vivek Chandran and Praveen ES. They advised me to take photographs and videos of the individual from different angles, including flight shots [72, 73, 74, 75].
The bird in the photographs was positively identified as a Black-naped Tern, based on the following features: an overall pale appearance, black eye stripes that join at the nape, and a deeply forked tail. This is the first confirmed record of this species for the Indian mainland.

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Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* in Anini, Arunachal Pradesh

On 04 December 2017, we visited Anini (28.78°N, 95.90°E; 1662 m asl), the remote headquarters of the Upper Dibang Valley District (Arunachal Pradesh, India). Situated in the Mishmi Hills, Anini is the last major town in the district, and is about 100 km from the Sino-Indian border. The town mainly has a temperate habitat, interspersed with bamboo thickets.

While on a walk around the town, at about 0800 hrs, we went down a mud path when we heard a lot of bird activity, and subsequently observed several birds. As we stood there, watching and identifying the various birds, a lone Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* was spotted perched atop an almost leafless branch [76]. It was in eclipse plumage—where the head was much whiter and the wings lacked the iridescent green of a breeding adult; however, there was a hint of green on the breast. The eclipse form also differed from the non-breeding plumage where the head is brown in colour.

The only previous record of the Common Starling from Arunachal Pradesh is from 1999 (Kumar 2004; Choudhury 2006), of a hunted specimen in ‘winter plumage’, which was obtained from Sarali, in the Lower Subansiri District. Anini is over 600 km north-eastwards from Sarali. Apart from the Sarali record, the only other records for this species were from the Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve, Assam in March 1998 (Allen 2002), a 19th century record from near Dibrugarh (Hume 1888), and a few records along the Brahmaputra in Assam (eBird 2018). Although, Common Starlings are frequent winter visitors to western India (Grimmert et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; eBird 2018), there are only a few records from north-eastern India, where the species is treated as a vagrant.

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Sighting of Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* in Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

On 21 February 2018, we were birding at Dongargan forest (19.25°N, 74.76°E) near Ahmednagar city, in Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra. The landscape comprised hilly terrain, dry deciduous forest with trees like Bauhinia racemosa, Gliricidia sepium, *Ficus* species, and *Acacia* species. While walking along a seasonal stream, at 1200 hrs, we saw two small birds clinging upside-down to some extremely thin branches in the upper canopy of a tree. We observed them for ten minutes through 8x40 binoculars. BK managed to take some hazy record shots