

than most other terns. Its prey includes grasshoppers, dragonflies, moths and grubs. It also takes spiders, earthworms, small reptiles and frogs, small fish, aquatic invertebrates and, rarely, voles and small birds (del Hoyo *et al.* 1996). It is known that terns pick up food floating on sewage and seawater near harbours. At the same time, this observation of Gull-billed Terns feeding on insect road kills is worth documenting.

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Two additions to the Rishi Valley bird list

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The Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Linnaeus, 1766, and the Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica* (Gmelin, 1789), were recently seen in the campus of Rishi Valley in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Here are the details.

Black-naped Oriole: At least a pair was seen from 9th February to 10th April 2003 (I was away from the campus soon after). All the features that distinguish the species, namely the darker and broader eye-stripes that joined up at the nape, less of black and more of green plumage on the wings and back and the more nasal call (the birds were very vocal) were noticed. Again in the winter of 2003, the birds were seen in Rishi Valley. There was more than a pair--perhaps two--seen / heard regularly in the campus from 19th November 2003, and are still around as I write this (on 11th April 2004). Having seen this species on several earlier occasions in the Western Ghats and in the Andamans, there was no difficulty in identifying it.

The species is only "occasionally recorded...in winter...[in] Kerala and Bangladesh; resident in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; widely scattered records elsewhere..." (Grimmett *et. al.*, 1998). In Andhra Pradesh, this bird has been recorded from the eastern coastal plains (Taher and Pittie 1989) and at Anantagiri Reserve Forest in Rangareddi district (Pittie 2001). In Karnataka it was recorded by Andheria (1999) in Whitefield and Bannerghatta National Park on the outskirts of Bangalore, though not reported by Joesph George (1994).

In view of the paucity of reports from this region, this record is significant. Perhaps the bird may be a scarce but regular winter visitor in the southern peninsula but is often

overlooked due its superficial resemblance to the commoner Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Rain Quail: A single bird was collected in one of the hostels of the school on the night of 27th June 2003. The bird was alive with no external injuries but appeared exhausted when it was brought to me the next morning. It was docile and made no attempts to fly when examined. The bird was easily identified by the field marks - the dark breast patch and the bold streaks on the flanks were those of a male Rain Quail. It was later released in the scrub jungle and ran away into the thickets and disappeared.

This bird is widespread in peninsular India and is known to have imperfectly understood local movements (Ali and Ripley 1983). Perhaps it moves about during the monsoon.

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