

Bridled- *Sterna anaethetus* and Sooty- *Sterna fuscata* Terns from Thrissur coast, Kerala

P. O. Nameer & P. P. Sreenivasan

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P. O. Nameer, Department of Wildlife Sciences, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala. India.

Email: nameerpo@gmail.com

P. P. Sreenivasan, B-27, Guruvayur Dewasom Staff Quarters, Puthanpally (PO), Tamarayur, Thrissur, Kerala. India.

Email: sreenivasangvr@gmail.com

Out of the 15 species of terns known from Kerala (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011), four are pelagic, namely, Bridled- *Sterna anaethetus*, Sooty- *S. fuscata*, White-cheeked- *S. repressa* Tern, and Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*. Reports of pelagic terns from the coast of Kerala are few. Here we report the recent sightings of Bridled, and Sooty Terns from Thrissur district.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*

One exhausted bird was obtained by PPS from Puthenkadappuram beach of Chavakkad (10°34'20"N, 76°03'25"E) on 21 April 2011, which later died (Fig. 1). This bird was found lying on the beach and was unable to fly. Its wings were soaked with water. On the previous day, PPS had seen a large flock of about 100+ dark terns from the beach, flying far out at sea. There are only two earlier wind-blown records of Bridled Tern from the Kerala coast, both from Poovar, Thiruvananthapuram district, in November 1978, and March 1979 (Neelakantan *et al.* 1993). Thus the present record, after 32 years, is significant.

Sooty Tern *S. fuscata*

Three individuals were reported on separate occasions from the Thrissur coast during 2011. The first bird was recovered from Azhikode estuary (10°10'28"N, 76°09'45"E) by PON on 22 May 2011 (Fig. 2) and later two different individuals were obtained from Puthenkadappuram beach (Chavakkad) on 13 June 2011,



Fig. 1. Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* at Chavakkad, May 2011.



Fig. 2. Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* at Kodungallur, June 2011.

and 23 June 2011, both by PPS.

There are quite a few earlier records of Sooty Tern from Kerala (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011). The earliest record was from Malappuram district (Mathew & Shukkur 1974). From the nineties there are two records, one from Thattekad Bird Sanctuary (Sugathan *et al.* 1996), and the other from Kannur in 1997 (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011). A bird, which was ringed in Seychelles, was retrieved at Vaakatanam, Kottayam district in 2001 (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011). In 2008 one bird was obtained from Guruvayoor on 8 October 2008, and two birds, one adult and one immature, from Kadalundi on 17 June 2008 (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011). Interestingly, in 2011 an unusually large number of Sooty Terns were recovered from the coast of Kerala between May and July (Courtesy: KeralaBirder).

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