

Lemon-rumped Warblers uploaded on Xeno Canto and Macaulay Library, our calls resemble the recordings of the Sichuan Leaf Warblers from China. There is a debate whether to include the Sichuan Leaf Warbler in the India Checklist, or not (see Vercruysse 2017; Jayapal & Praveen 2017; Martens 2017), and our records provide additional evidence to its presence within the region. Since our records, others have also recorded similar calls from the Walong region of Anjaw District, and they found that all lemon-rumped type of birds were uttering the same calls (Sarkar 2021).

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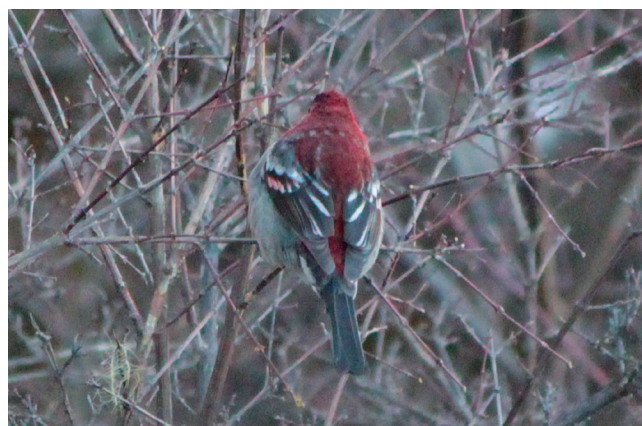
## Occurrence of the Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus* in Arunachal Pradesh, India

On 08 February 2021, we were conducting a bird survey along the temperate coniferous forest patch between Sela Pass and Baisakhi village (27.49°N, 92.11°E; 3,852 m asl) in the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. It was a targeted survey to explore the habitat and presence of pheasant (Phasianidae) and finch (Fringillidae) species as a part of our study on the status and distribution of pheasant and finch species in the eastern Himalayas. During the course of the survey we encountered a flock of c.20 individuals of the Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* comprising both, males and females. While observing this flock, we spotted an individual with crimson plumage that was distinct from the rest of the birds. We photographed it [24, 25], and cross-referred with Grimmett et al. (2011). However, we were unable to identify the species as its plumage did not match with any of the illustrations therein. Later, upon returning to the base, we referred to the Oriental Bird Images database and <https://birdsoftheworld.org/> (Clement 2020), and were able to narrow down the identification to the male of a Three-banded Rosefinch *C. trifasciatus*. The bird appeared to be in fresh plumage, as it showed silvery-white feathers on the forehead, face, and throat. Generally, in the non-breeding season feathers are lost, or abraded rapidly, and become more restricted to narrow streaks on the feather shafts. This male, however, had fairly broad plumage. We took several photographs of the bird, and while scanning them, realised that a female [26] was also

present alongside the male. This ascertained the presence of at least two individuals of the species in the vicinity. We may have missed other individuals as it was our first encounter with the species and the mixed flock was ascending a slope, and it was difficult to follow them in the snow.



24. Frontal view of a male Three-banded Rosefinch at Arunachal Pradesh.



25. Dorsal view of the male Three-banded Rosefinch.



26. A female of the Three-banded Rosefinch can be seen on the right.

The Three-banded Rosefinch is locally common in the southern-most part of China and is found between 2,100 m asl and 3,050 m asl in the undergrowth and thickets of conifer forest, Juniper (*Juniperus*) thickets, Spruce (*Picea*), and locally in thickets of Birch (*Betula*), and Willow (*Salix*). In winter it descends up to 1,800 m asl to the edges of cultivation, orchards, hedges, and bushes—particularly *Cotoneaster* (*Cotoneaster*)—areas with

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Crab Apples (*Malus*), and open cereal fields (Clement 2020). However, based on sight records of two females and one male from Jakkar, eastern Bhutan (Clements 1992), the species was included in the bird list of the Indian Subcontinent (Praveen et al. 2017), and its occurrence extended outside China.

It has been hypothesised that the Three-banded Rosefinch could possibly be found in Arunachal Pradesh (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Praveen et al. 2017), since it is a winter visitor to the south-eastern part of Tibet. We present here with the photographic documentation (1 & 2) of the species and validate its occurrence in Arunachal Pradesh. This could also, perhaps, be the first documentation of the species from India.

The breeding season, and wintering range of the Three-banded Rosefinch in China is known, however, information on its breeding behaviour and biology is anecdotal, because of its scarce ecological data (Martens & Trautmann 2008). It is noteworthy that we photographed the Three-banded Rosefinch at 3,852 m asl, which is higher than its earlier elevational records, which might help furthering our understand of the ecology of the species in Arunachal Pradesh. More ecological studies of the species are required in the future as it may be using the temperate coniferous forest of Arunachal Pradesh as a passage to migrate from China to Bhutan, thereby making it a potential corridor for the species.

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## Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* copulating on the banks of the Ram Ganga

A pair of Pallas's Fish Eagles *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* was seen in Jim Corbett National Park's Dhikala Zone, on the banks of the Ram Ganga (29.53°N, 78.77°E) on 08 February 2020 at 0945 h. When they were seen together, it was easy to spot the larger female as it flew above the male and landed c.1.5 m from the male. The photographs [27–30], and their captions capture the behaviour of the pair till they copulated (09:44:28 h–09:45:07 h).



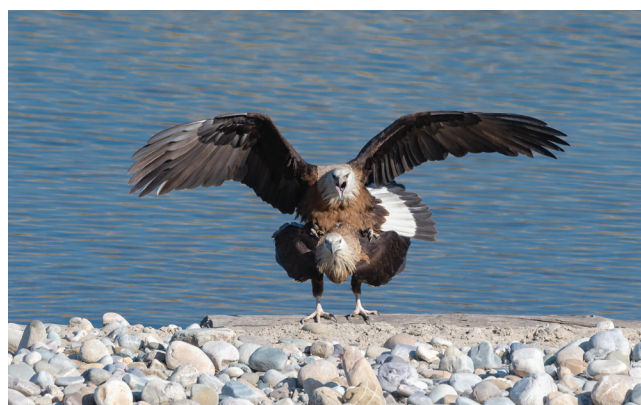
27. The larger female Pallas's Fish Eagle is seen taking off; it landed next to the male (t=0s)



28. The male reacts by calling, and walking towards the female with its open wings raised above its body (t=12s).



29. Both the birds called simultaneously for two to three seconds (t=19s).



30. The female bends and allows the male to mount and copulate (t=35s).