



Figure 1: eBird range map (Fink et al. 2023) for the Grey-streaked Flycatcher showing areas where the species is estimated to occur within at least one week within each of three defined seasons. Out-of-range sightings, including ours, are marked.

There are no previous records of GSFC from India or South Asia. The nearest record of this bird is from southern Thailand, close to Malaysia, at an aerial distance of c. 1000 km westwards (95% of the distance being over sea) from our site of observation. Thus, our record is the first for India, and globally the westernmost for this species. Given its known range (Fig. 1), vagrancy in the eastern and north-eastern parts of South Asia is to be expected. Birdwatchers visiting these areas must also look out for other migratory vagrants which have a large wintering range in Southeast Asia.

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European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* from Jammu & Kashmir: An addition to the avifauna of India

The European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* is a medium sized broad-headed bird in the finch family Fringillidae. It is widespread across Europe, northern Africa, and parts of central and southwestern Asia (Clement & de Juana 2020). While primarily resident, some northern populations migrate south during the northern winter influenced by seasonal changes. In Asia, the European Greenfinch's range extends till about Central Asia to northern Iran, with rare passage migrants observed in western China (Xinjiang), western Mongolia to eastern Russia (eBird 2025).

On 10 February 2025, at 0930 h, while birding at Botanical Garden, Srinagar (34.091°N, 74.884°E; c. 1,600 m asl), Jammu & Kashmir, India, SR observed a flock of Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *C. spinoides* perched on a Chinar tree *Platanus* sp. One of the individuals appeared slightly bigger than the rest of the flock, so he took some photographs and shared them with AA and IJ, who identified the bird as a European Greenfinch based on its slightly larger size, with an overall greenish-yellow plumage, a stout conical pinkish bill, and distinct yellow patches on its primaries and tail [12]. Incidentally, on the same day and location, at 1650 h, UM, RC and BD saw a bird in flight which seemed like a Greenfinch but perceptibly bigger in size. They took some photographs [13] from a distance with the intention to identify the species. Since the bird was new to them, it could not be identified in the field. Eventually a few more photographs were taken but the bird flew away, chased by a Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*. It was later identified as an adult male European Greenfinch by its completely unstreaked appearance with bright colours and lack of obvious black on the base of primaries. These observations were followed by AA, IJ, and IM on the very next day, when the bird was again seen perching with a flock of Yellow-breasted Greenfinches establishing its presence and making it a first record for India (Praveen & Jayapal 2025) as well as Jammu & Kashmir (Kichloo et al. 2024). The bird was present for a few more days giving excellent opportunities to photograph [14–15] and several birders reported the species till 15 February 2025.



12. European Greenfinch showing yellow on primaries.

Uttam Mahatha



13. European Greenfinch showing no black at the base of yellow primaries.



14. European Greenfinch showing yellowish-green forehead.

Both: Sheikh Riyaz



15. European Greenfinch feeding on the ground.

The closest known breeding populations of European Greenfinch are found in Tajikistan, eastern Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Given that vagrancy of this species has been reported in China and other parts of Central Asia, it is likely that this individual dispersed southward from its regular range. The nearest records of this species in Indian subcontinent are from Hanna Lake (Pakistan Historical Records 2019) and Golain Valley (Mosavi 2024), both locations in Pakistan. Though subspecies identification is difficult, the expected population that would occur here is *C. c. turkestanica* which is a winter visitor to Afghanistan (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), and has more yellowish-green forehead like in our bird [14]. The current record not only adds a new species to India's avifauna but also highlights the importance of continuous monitoring and documentation to understand avian distribution changes, especially in the context of environmental changes in the region.

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Addition of the European Roller *Coracias garrulus* to the avifauna of Bhutan

The European Roller *Coracias garrulus* breeds in Europe (primarily eastern Europe), extreme north-western Africa, and western Asia. Almost its entire population winters in sub-Saharan Africa (Fry et al. 2020). In India, this species is a passage migrant from August to November, when large numbers pass through northwestern and western India and smaller numbers through the south (SoIB 2023). Additionally, there are a few wintering records from western India, and it is also known to breed in Kashmir (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). In peninsular states like Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala, sightings have been consistently reported since 1998, particularly between September and November each year (Narayanan et al. 2008; Kasambe et al. 2013; eBird 2024). The easternmost records in India are from the Andaman Islands, where it was first recorded on 31 October 2009 (Rajan & Pramod 2011) and more recently on 19 November 2016 (Mohanty 2016). The easternmost record in mainland India is from Nadia District, West Bengal, on 07 October 2017 (Birdwatcher's Society of Bengal 2017). The first and only confirmed record from Nepal was on 29 August 2021, at Kekighan in the Annapurna Conservation Area (29.180°N, 83.970°E; c.3,780 m asl) (Gurung & Baral 2022).

On 20 October 2017, a European Roller was observed at a paddy field in Tangmachu, Lhuentse, eastern Bhutan (27.597°N, 91.196°E; c.1,550 m asl) (Fig. 1), perched on an electric line [16]. Photographs of the bird were taken using a Canon DSLR equipped with a Tamron 75–300 mm lens. These photos were subsequently shared with the Facebook citizen science group *Birds of Bhutan* for identification and verification of prior records. Sherub, an ornithologist from the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research Training (UWIFoRT) in Lamai Goenpa, Bumthang, and Tim Inskipp confirmed the