species is considered to occur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh (Price 1979; Grimmett *et al.* 1998; BirdLife International 2001) and more recently has been recorded from Lonavala in northern Maharashtra (Singh 2002). Except for its recent sighting in Lonavala, this species has not been recorded north of Karnataka. In this note, we present the details of our recent sightings in Nashik.

While watching birds on the slopes of Ramshej, a hill about 15 km from Nashik city, adjacent to the Peth Road near Ashewadi village, a Broad-tailed Grass-Warbler was sighted in February 2003, its identity confirmed from Grimmett *et al.* (1998). Subsequently, between August 1-15, 2003, the bird was seen on ten occasions in the same locality. During this period, the bird was videotaped and photographed; it was again seen in the locality on December 23, 2003.

The grassy slopes of Ramshej, where the Broad-tailed Grass-Warbler was sighted, comprise a mixed growth of *Heteropogon contortus*, *Cymbopogon martini*, *Themeda* spp., *Cynodon dactylon*, and *Apluda mutica* grasses. The grassy slopes were also interspersed with sparsely growing and widely scattered *Bombax ceiba*, *Butea monosperma*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Carrisa conjesta* and *Lantana camara*, whose average height was less than 2 m. The general area surrounding Ramshej is basically grassland contiguous with other hills. These grasslands remain dry for most of the year, except during the monsoon months of July-September.

On all occasions when the Broad-tailed Grass-Warbler was sighted, it was seen singing from two regular perches, one of which was a dwarf *B. ceiba*, about 1.5 m in height, and the other was an overhanging electricity supply cable. It is interesting to note that in 1881 Butler observed the bird perching even on telegraph wires. At times, the bird was observed to circle overhead, fanning its tail and fluttering its wings in a peculiar manner, singing continuously all the time, as if on display. It was regularly seen visiting a particular patch a few metres away from the dwarf Silk Cotton tree. Only once while this particular bird was perched on the Silk Cotton tree, did we sight another bird, which flew out of the same grass patch and flew a few metres away. No effort was made to search the grassy slopes for nests.

Although, Ali and Whistler (1935-1937) describe the species as an "inveterate skulker", except in the early mornings when it was seen "clambering up the grass stems to exposed situations", our observations are more in line with the observations of Ali and Whistler (1935-1937), BirdLife International (2001), and Ferguson and Bourdillon (1903-1904), who found the species to be "far from shy" and "not a shy bird", that "may often be seen perched on the top of a bush or tuft of grass". Although, the species is considered to be a seasonal visitor in many localities, being capable of altitudinal movements (Birdlife International), our sightings of the bird in February, August and December indicate that the species, as indicated by Ali and Ripley (1987), could possibly be a resident in Nashik.

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9. PATERNAL AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS OFFSPRING IN PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD *NECTARINIA ZEYLONICA*[1]

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On August 21, 2003, at Candolim, Goa, from my balcony, I watched two young Purple-rumped Sunbirds *Nectarinia zeylonica* leave their nest for the first time. Their first flight was clumsy and amusing to watch, and I was eager to observe

their first experience of the big, wide world. I was therefore surprised, upon discovering the location of one of the newly-fledged youngsters, which was identified by its yellow throat, to witness the following scene. The female, which was perched close to the juvenile, was calling vigorously and the juvenile was begging for food. The male landed close by and there was some wing fluttering and display, and much calling from the adults before the female flew off. The adult male then proceeded to peck vigorously at the body of the juvenile and continued violently until the juvenile, whilst still clinging to the branch, dropped upside down into a hanging position, and froze as if dead. I was sure the bird was actually dead, but the attacks on the apparent corpse slowed down and eventually stopped, and then the male flew off. This happened very quickly and I had no time to react, and was also unsure whether to interfere. I then waited to watch the behaviour of the female and to see if the juvenile was dead or unconscious. After a few minutes, the juvenile revived and it seemed that it had been feigning death, as the blows had all been to the body which I had thought unlikely to cause unconsciousness. The juvenile was obviously hesitant to start calling again after this treatment but slowly gained confidence and began to resume begging for food. The female appeared and fed the juvenile, which appeared completely unharmed. The male also soon returned to the juvenile, which was at first very nervous, but quickly resumed its normal begging behaviour. Although I did not see the male feeding the juvenile, no more aggressive behaviour was noted.

The only explanation for such behaviour was that the female was calling vigorously, on the onset of fledging, presumably to inform the male that a new phase of parental care had now started and that not only would it need to bring food to the nest, but that the fledglings would need constant locating, being warned of dangers, feeding and all the other activities involved with rearing the juveniles to complete independence. It is not preposterous to assume that the male may have got the calls from the female instigating the next phase of parental behaviour, confused it with that of courtship, and this therefore triggered an aggressive territorial display from the male towards a rival.

10. RANGE EXTENSION OF JUNGLE MYNA *ACRIDOTHERES FUSCUS FUMIDUS*[1]

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Initially aiming to generate a check-list of the birds of Kolkata, we have been studying the avifauna of Kolkata since 1990; since early 2000, we also photographed the birds. On August 3, 2001, at 1100 hrs, a Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* was sighted at Eden Gardens in the heart of the city of Kolkata; one of our members photographed it. Not much attention was paid to this sighting, as the Jungle Myna is a fairly common bird in Kolkata. A few months later, while sorting the photographs, we chanced upon this particular photograph; the bird looked like a Jungle Myna, but a closer look revealed some differences in coloration of the bird. The bird had an almost black head and a very dark slaty grey on the back. It had an orange eye-ring similar to the nominate species *Acridotheres fuscus*, but what was most striking was that it had a dark slaty grey vent instead of pale cream colour vent. After consulting the field guides (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998; Kazmierczak and van Perlo 2000 and Robson 2000), it was identified as the eastern race of Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus fumidus*. The bird appears to exist very far from its range, which is Nagaland, eastern Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

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