

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF *PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS OLIVACEUM* JERDON TO EASTERN TAMIL NADU**

There is some controversy regarding the occurrence of *Pellorneum ruficeps olivaceum* Jerdon in Tamil Nadu. Stuart Baker (1922 : 240) said that the "birds of southwestern India from Coorg, Wynaad, southwestern Mysore and Travancore belong to the race called *granti*" (= *olivaceum* Jerdon). Ali & Ripley (1971 : 119) mentioned that it is distributed in Kerala and presumably also of adjoining western Tamil Nadu (Palnis etc.), north to the Palghat Gap, from near sea level to 1800 m. Again Ripley (1982 : 320) restricted its distributional range to Kerala only.

However, while working out a recent collection of birds from Madurai district, eastern Tamil Nadu made on 18, 21 and 28 February 1986 by our colleague, Shri S. S. Saha, we came across four examples of the Spotted Babbler which are proved to be *Pellorneum ruficeps olivaceum* Jerdon.

All the specimens had breeding gonads. Of these four, a female bearing Z.S.I. Regd. No. 36941 taken on February 18, had an oviducal egg.

The present record extends the range of the bird to further east.

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