further data from the field. However, the absence of breeding records and the scarcity of non-breeding records of this species from relatively well-visited intervening areas such as western Sichuan, south-east Xizang and north-west Yunnan argue against a broad extension of the breeding range from the north-east, but instead suggest that breeding in Arunachal Pradesh is in geographical isolation from the main breeding range. Similarly, the absence of previous breeding records of this species from the Himalayan wintering grounds, which include areas such as Nepal that have historically received much ornithological attention, strongly indicates that breeding on the wintering grounds has arisen only recently, potentially in response to climate change or anthropogenically induced habitat change.

Instances of long-distance migrants commencing breeding activity in their wintering grounds have been known for decades, most famously exemplified by the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* breeding in South Africa (Roberts 1941). However, anthropogenically induced climate change has been documented to affect the phenology, physiology and distributions of hundreds of animal and plant species since the 1990s (e.g. Visser *et al.* 1998, Dunn and Winkler 1999, Hughes 2000, Stevenson and Bryant 2000). The Long-billed Plover's nesting habitat is restricted to the vicinity of rivers and lakes—often in the neighbourhood of villages—and nesting birds are conspicuous and easy to find. Therefore, it is exceedingly unlikely that the species has been overlooked as a breeding bird in vast areas of its range for centuries. Instead, breeding in Arunachal Pradesh and potentially in neighbouring areas is probably a recent phenomenon. If so, this geographical extension of breeding activity would fall into a time-frame that is characterised by a global influx in patterns of distributional change in birds and other animals in response to the rising levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere (Hughes 2000). It will therefore be important to see if the coming years produce more breeding records of this species from areas that have hitherto been assumed to be outside of its breeding range.

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Three new bird records from the Andaman Islands, India

M. A. RAJA MAMANNAN and LALITHA VIJAYAN

The Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal cover 6,408 km², spread over >325 islands and rocks (21 inhabited). During a study of the avifaunal diversity of these islands between 2003 and 2004, we surveyed five major and 52 outer islands, relying on Ali and Ripley (1983), Grimmett *et al.* (1998) and Kazmierczak and van Perlo (2000) for identification and information on distribution and status. In the study, we recorded 153 species, including three species new to the archipelago (Vijayan *et al.* 2005). These latter three species, evidently vagrants, are described here.

TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa* (*Cyornis*) *tickelliae*

An individual was seen on a *Ficus* species in moist deciduous/semi-evergreen forest near Sonapahar Reservoir, South Andaman (c.11°42′–11°43′N 92°36′–92°38′E) on 19 March 2004 at 08h30. We observed it for c.12 minutes at a distance of 20 m while it foraged in the area. The blue body, orange-rufous throat and breast, prominent white belly, and the sharp *tick tick* vocalisation accompanied by tail-flicking were diagnostic.

GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
An individual was observed perched on bushes in forest on 12 March 2004 at 07h30 near Nayasahar Reservoir, Silviculture Division, Sippighat, South Andaman (c.11°34′N 92°40′E). We watched it for c.25 minutes in poor weather and light conditions. Despite poor visibility, the prominent ashy grey on the head, throat and breast, and yellowish belly and rump, were diagnostic of this species.

BLUE-FRONTED ROBIN *Cinclidium frontale*
A male was sighted at close range in moist deciduous forest at Chidiyatapu, South Andaman (c.11°30′N 92°42′E) on 3 and 4 December 2003. The long graduated tail (lacking white), deep blue upperparts, deep slaty blue on the belly and whitish tail-coverts were diagnostic.

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Spectacled Finch *Callacanthis burtoni*: another new country record for Bhutan

K. DAVID BISHOP

At 07h30 on the morning of 19 April 2008 at an elevation of c. 3,000 m I was driving a tour party from the Paro Valley in western Bhutan slowly uphill through an extensive stand of mature silver fir, hemlock and rhododendron forest on the road to Chelila at c.4,000 m. We were looking for pheasants along the roadside when my attention was drawn to a finch-like bird foraging on the edge of the bitumen. Initially I was distracted by the presence of several Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* nearby but after they dispersed I focused my attention on this distinctive and somewhat familiar passerine. At first I could not place it, but knew I had seen it illustrated. Checking Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) while the bird was still a few metres in front of me, I realised that we were looking at a female Spectacled (or Red-browed) Finch *Callacanthis burtoni*. I and several members of the tour then took a series of images, unfortunately all through the front window of the bus and thus less than ideal (one photograph supplied to the editors).

The bird was a stocky, drab-coloured medium-sized passerine with three immediately noticeable features: a quite striking area of yellow-orange skin surrounding the eye; a heavy yellowish bill; and a pronounced, rather splotchy white band across what seemed to be the greater coverts. Other features were the dark crown and cheek, which highlighted the colour of the facial skin; the slightly grey-brown nuchal collar; dark wings highlighted by white tips to the primaries; finely streaked dusky-brown underparts; and pink legs. The bird continued hopping on the roadside, picking at the ground and seemingly feeding on seeds. We watched it for some 20 minutes.

Spierenburg (2005) in his recent review of the Bhutan avifauna does not mention Spectacled Finch, and this would appear to be the first published record of this species for Bhutan and the most easterly record of this species. Spectacled Finch is endemic to the Indian subcontinent (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005) and ranges from north-west Pakistan, Chitral and Safed Koh (possibly also into extreme eastern Afghanistan) and south-east along the Himalayas marginally to Sikkim where it is known from one record (but see below). In parts of its range it is erratic in occurrence and east of Kumaon, Uttar Pradesh, it is very local (Clement *et al.* 1993, Rasmussen and Anderton 2005), although there appear to be increasing numbers of observations from this region (Manoj Sharma pers. comm.; orientalbirdimages.org). In Pakistan Spectacled Finch is local and generally a scarce resident, and undergoes small altitudinal movements, summering from 2,740 m up to the tree-line. In north-west India it is locally frequent in Kashmir and breeds from 2,400 m up to the tree-line and winters from 3,000 m down as low as 800 m (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Nepal this species is chiefly a