

inhabited by, for example, Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* and Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*.

Prey remains at Cape Navarin consisted nearly entirely of Crested Auklets, despite the presence of tens of thousands of seabirds, especially Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* and Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, but also flocks of Pigeon Guillemot *Cepphus columba*, Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata* and Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata*. During our short visit, >2,000 Crested Auklets were seen, apparently from an unreported breeding colony (see Gaston and Jones 1998). Moreover, Dovekie *Alle alle* feathers were found in our sample, even though the nearest reported breeding colony of this species is about 700 km to the north-east, on the Diomed Islands in the Bering Strait. Our observations appear similar to the feeding behaviour known for the subspecies *F. p. pealei*, occurring from the Commander Islands, across the Aleutians to western coastal North America (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001), with alcids (Alcidae) like Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*, Least Auklet *Aethia pusilla*, and Crested Auklet comprising the bulk of the prey (Beebe 1960, White *et al.* 1973, Dekker 1999). Where present, alcids appear to be important and easily available prey for Peregrine Falcons around the northern rim of the Pacific Ocean.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank E. E. Syroechkovski Jr. (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia) for organising our two expeditions to Chukotka. A.

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V. Kondratyev (University of St. Petersburg, Russia), A. Gamauf, E. Weiß, and, especially, H. Lauermaun (all Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria) were of great help with the identification of the prey remains. M. McGrady (Krems, Austria) kindly improved our English.

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First likely breeding record of Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* for Kinmen Island, Taiwan

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Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* is a large finch that breeds from southern Amurland and southern Ussuriland to Manchuria, Korea and eastern China, and southern Japan (Vaurie 1959). In China the nominate subspecies breeds in the north-east, whereas *E. m. sowerbyi* has a more southerly distribution breeding along the Chang Jiang Valley from Sichuan east to Jiangsu and Shanghai Municipality (Cheng 1987). It winters from Fujian to Guangdong, Guangxi, southern Yunnan, and in small numbers in Taiwan (Meyer de Schauensee 1984). Its habitat includes cultivation, orchards, and woodlands where it feeds on berries and seeds (King *et al.* 1975, MacKinnon and Phillipps 2000).

At 08h25 on 25 July 2006, we observed an adult pair of finches with three juveniles while bird-watching on Kinmen Island, Taiwan. The birds were observed from a

distance of 15 m with binoculars and identified by both of us and a third observer as Yellow-billed Grosbeaks by their massive black-tipped yellow bills, greyish bodies and prominent white wing markings. The male had a dark head and throat; the female did not have any black on the head. The juveniles were similar to the female but the head and underparts were buffier-brown, the wing-bars were buffy instead of white, and the tails were shorter, indicating they had recently fledged. The birds were discovered at a cultivated public garden with orchards. All five were observed briefly on the same branch and flushed together as we approached for a closer look.

Kinmen (24.44°N 118.33°E) is the largest island in a small archipelago located off the west coast of Taiwan roughly 5 km from the south-east coast of mainland China; the climate is subtropical. The Yellow-billed Grosbeak is

an uncommon but regular winter visitor to Kinmen. Rarely, but in increasing numbers, this species has been recorded on Kinmen during the breeding season (Wild Bird Society of I-Lan 2007). Our record is, however, the first report of what appears to be successful breeding of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks on Kinmen. This record also represents the southernmost breeding record for this species barring observations in Hong Kong, where breeding was first proven in 2003 and has been confirmed or suspected in every year since then (J. Allcock *in litt.* 2007). Summering birds have also been noted at Nan'ao near Shantou in eastern Guangdong Province approximately 160 km south-west of Kinmen (Sun *et al.* 2007)

Increased reports of this species south of its normal breeding range in a time of global climate change suggests that this species may be in the early stages of a range expansion. The Yellow-billed Grosbeak's preference for human disturbance may facilitate this expansion. It should be noted that Yellow-billed Grosbeaks are regularly kept as cage birds in China, so the possibility exists that the birds we observed were escapees. In this case, this report would represent a new introduction event and possibly the early stages of the naturalisation of this species on Kinmen Island. The only other explanation of the presence of this family group on Kinmen Island is that the family group flew or was blown to Kinmen from its breeding grounds on mainland China. Because Yellow-billed Grosbeaks do not breed in mainland China adjacent to Kinmen, they would have to have travelled as a group at least 160 km from their nearest possible breeding grounds. We suggest that this is extremely unlikely and think that these were probably wild birds or possibly escapees. Whether the Yellow-billed Grosbeak on Kinmen represents an isolated occurrence, a

range expansion, or the introduction and naturalisation of an exotic species is unclear. Future breeding activity of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks on Kinmen and elsewhere should be closely monitored as this species is likely to have a dynamic distribution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BDM was supported with an East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute fellowship from the National Science Foundation. Cheng-te Yao and two anonymous reviewers provided helpful comments on this manuscript.

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Breeding records and observations of the Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* in peninsular Malaysia

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Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* is a bird of paddyfields, riverbanks, sand- and mud-bars, and small coastal streams, and is also found in ponds and flooded fields (Strange and Jeyarajasingam 1993, MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993). Its breeding range spans the warm-to-temperate parts of Eurasia from the Atlantic to Korea and Japan, South Asia, southern China, South-East Asia and north and east Australia (Hancock and Kushlan 1984, Galdikas *et al.* 1985, Wells 1999).

The Little Egret was earlier not known to breed in the Thai-Malay Peninsula (Wells 1999); however, recent records indicate that the breeding range is expanding. In peninsular Malaysia, a breeding colony was found in 2002 in Malim Nawar (Yeap 2002) and another in 2004 in Kinta Nature Park (Lim 2004a,b), both in Perak State,

Malaysia. Here I report on the occurrence of Little Egret in two further breeding colonies in peninsular Malaysia.

Two heronries were visited at Rawang (3°18'39"N 101°34'46"E), in the state of Selangor, during October 2005–March 2006. Observations at Rawang I were made from an observation tower near the side of the road, whereas the heronry in Rawang II was clearly observed also from the road at the edge of the wetland where it was located.

OBSERVATIONS

Rawang I

On 9 October 2005 (05h00–18h30) the majority of the birds in the heronry were Little Egrets. A single Little