Abstract
Here we report a rare occurrence of the species *Cacomantis merulinus* from Jamuna Bandh wetland (Bishnupur town, Bankura district, West Bengal) of Eastern India. The first pictures of a live bird are presented along with information on the habits and habitat of the species, and a discussion of its status.

Introduction
The plaintive cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) is a species of bird belonging to the cuckoo family Cuculidae. Plaintive Cuckoo (*C. merulinus*; Scopoli, 1786) is a widespread resident bird. It is a fairly small cuckoo, 21-23.5 centimeters long. The adult male is grey-brown above and orange below with a grey head, throat and upper breast. There are white tips to the tail feathers. The legs and feet are yellow, the eye is red and the bill is black above and yellow below. The adult female is sometimes similar to the male but often occurs in a "hepatic" morph. This form is reddish-brown above with dark bars. The under parts are paler with fainter barring. There is a pale stripe over the eye and the tail has dark bars along its whole length. Juvenile birds are similar to hepatic females but are paler and have dark streaks rather than bars on the crown and throat. The male has several plaintive whistling calls. These include an ascending series of three-note phrases and a series of 11 or 12 descending notes. The plaintive cuckoo inhabits forest edge, open woodland, scrub, grassland, farmland, parks and gardens. It feeds on invertebrates. It is normally solitary and is often difficult to see. In India, notable observations on *C. merulinus* were recorded by Sen (2011); Pramanik (2013); Paul (2014); Kool (2014) with a few isolated records by Grimmett *et al.* 2011 but available literature does not talk about occurrence of this species in Bankura District.

Methods
Bankura - the western most district of West Bengal are covered by natural resources (which lies between, 22° 46' to 23° 38' N latitude and between 86° 36' & 87° 46' E longitude covering an area of 687124 sq. km. Bishnupur (23°05’N, 87°19’E) is a historical town (under Bishnupur block) and a municipality in Bankura District in the state of West Bengal, India. It is fall under "Hard rock fringe area" hydro-geomorphic zones in Bankura district. It has an average elevation of 59 meters (194 feet). Bishnupur block is characterized by maximum annual

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rate of water-level fluctuation along with other blocks of district Bankura comprising Chhatna, Ranibandh, Raipur, Bishnupur, Jaypur, Indus and Kotulpur (4 mts. to 6 mts.). Under Panchet division, Bishnupur range of forest comprises five beats. There are seven freshwater wetlands in this town (area ranges from 4-43 hectare). Bishnupur is famous for its 'Terracotta temples' and the 'Balucheri sarees'.

On the morning of 2nd February 2014 (World Wetland Day 2014), during our regular bird surveys and bird counts (from 9.30 hrs to 3.30 hrs) in Jamuna Bandh wetland (Bisnupur block, Bankura), at 13.58 hrs we noticed a male Plaintive Cuckoo (Cacomantis merulinus) flying towards the wires between two electrical poles from the nearby vegetation [Zulu 1 (Fig. 2): N 23° 04' 24.21", E 87° 18' 24.62'']. We were using Olympus binoculars (10X21 RCII; 8x40 DPSII) and photographed a few shots using CANON Power Shot camera (SX 510 IS). The bird was identified in field following "Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" (Grimmett et al. 2011).

Results and Discussion

Jamuna Bandh wetland is the largest among the seven wetlands of Bishnupur. Some designated uses of this wetland includes intensive paddy cultivation (surrounding the wetland), organized pisciculture, daily domestic use for bathing, cleaning of utensils etc. (Mukherjee and Palit 2012, Mukherjee and Palit 2013). A sewage fed canal (Biomedical waste) from nearby Bishnupur Sub-divisional hospital is the chief source of pollution of this wetland.

The adult male (Fig 1) was recognized by orange under parts, the design of head and eye coloration which is different to similar species. At Zulu 1, we observed that after resting for only two minutes on the wires, it flew away in the human habitation area adjoining this wetland. The species is Least Concern (Bird Life International 2012) and is mainly a resident species so its record from this part of West Bengal during winter may be a proof of range extension (Fig 3) in this geographical location which needs further research with special emphasis in population study. The global population has not been quantified (del Hoyo, 1997; Brazil 2009). This observation is a case of rare occurrence from "Wetland habitat" of Bankura district, West Bengal, India in modern times.

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