

# Sighting of Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa* in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, India

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The Green avadavat *Amandava formosa* Latham, a Vulnerable bird, is endemic to central India (BirdLife International 2010). It is sparsely distributed from Rajasthan to Bihar and southern Uttar Pradesh to northern Andhra (Jathar and Rahmani 2006). This has also been listed in Appendix II of CITES. In Odisha, this species has been reported in Koraput district (Majumdar 1988).

This note confirms the presence of the species from Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha. While carrying out an ornithological survey of the Sanctuary, on 15 April 2009, a flock of birds consisting of 10 individuals was observed by the edge of a stream (19° 41' 54.9"N and 83° 06' 30.3"). The flock was observed for eight minutes. The weather was warm and clear with a light wind. I took photographs (Fig. 1) along with notes on special features of the birds for confirming the bird later on.

The birds appeared to be same size as of White rumped munia *Lonchura striata*. They had distinctive dark flank bars, red bill with green-and-yellow body. The bird was identified as Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa* using Grimmett *et al.* (2001). The field notes and the photographs were checked with Grimmett *et al.* (2001), Grewal (2000) and Ali and Ripley (1987) and confirmed the identification as Green avadavat. The same area was surveyed from 16-20 April 2009 and made further observations of at least 25 individuals. These birds were common in the Eastern part of the Sanctuary.

The popularity of the species as a charismatic cage-bird is one of the

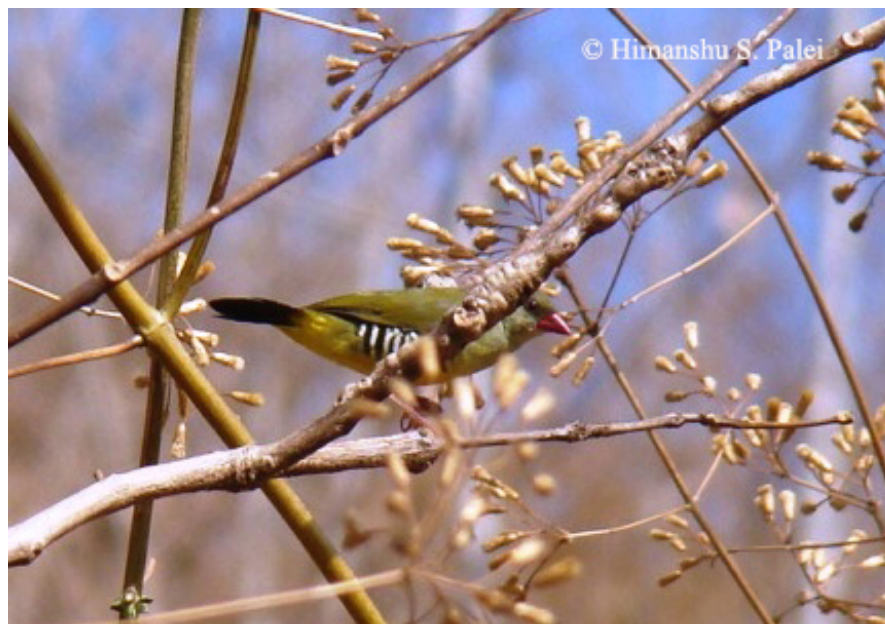


Figure 1. Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa*

prime reasons for its decline (Ahmed 1998). In Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, India, habitat loss along with lack of awareness about this species among stakeholders (local and forest officials) is a major threat.

## References

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