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. Alcock 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 escapes. 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 escapes. 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.

REFERENCES

Press.

guide to the birds of South-East Asia. London: Collins.


Sun, Z., Lu, W., Lewthwaite, R. W., Li, G., Yu, R., Leven, M. R.,
investigation in Nan Ao and its nearby islands of Guangdong
Province. J. Shantou University (Natural Science) 18: 1–6. (In
Chinese with English abstract.)


http://140.111.150.130/iebird/wildbird/newwildbird/Record/
Egret chick was observed on a nest. Another nest had a brooding adult, but the nest contents could not be seen. Black-crowned Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* were also nesting all around. On 22 October 2005 (08h30–11h00), c.50–60 Little Egrets were observed, of which 19 were sitting on nests and 5 were seen building nests. One Little Egret was observed adding materials to a nest that had only recently been vacated by Black-crowned Night Herons (fledgling night herons were observed in the same nest on the previous visit), and two pairs were observed mating on their nests. Three nests were examined, two of which contained two eggs each, and one contained three eggs. According to Hancock and Kushlan (1984), three eggs is typical in tropical areas (five is the usual number in temperate zones and sometimes as many as eight are found). No chicks were observed. All Little Egrets were in breeding plumage, having plumes on their heads, backs and neck and with the characteristic yellow feet of the subspecies *E. g. garzetta*. On 26 March 2006 c.40 Little Egrets were observed, including c.10 juveniles. Sixteen active nests at various stages were observed, some with eggs, some with juveniles. One adult was observed feeding three juveniles.

**Rawang II**

On 26 March 2006, another heronry was found c.2 km from the Rawang I heronry. This second location had been visited in October 2005 when no Little Egrets or Black-crowned Night Herons were seen. On the second visit c.100 Little Egrets and 37 nests at various stages were counted, including nests containing eggs, young chicks and juveniles. Three pairs of adults were observed mating.

**DISCUSSION**

Wells (1999) reviewed the status of Little Egrets in the Thai-Malay Peninsula, and concluded that there was no breeding population in peninsular Malaysia. Since 2002, four heronries have been discovered in peninsular Malaysia, which together support a total of c.60 active nests. Three of these four heronries are well known and had been surveyed prior to 2002; hence, the Little Egret can be considered a ‘new’ breeding resident (rather than having been overlooked as a breeder in the past). All of the Little Egrets observed breeding in peninsular Malaysia are of the subspecies *E. g. garzetta*. The nearest breeding colonies in the north appear to be those in West Thailand (800 km to Perak), and those further south in Pulau Dua, West Java (1,100 km to Selangor). To monitor the expansion of the Little Egret into peninsular Malaysia, the four known nesting sites must be regularly monitored, and other potential sites surveyed for the presence and nesting of this species.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Loretta Ann Soosayraj is to be thanked for assisting counting birds and nests at the heronries. Vincent Nijman is also to be thanked for providing valuable comments and suggestions on earlier drafts of this paper.

**REFERENCES**


*Chris R. Shepherd, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Unit 9-3A, 3rd floor, Jl SS23/11, Taman SEA, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia; and Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, PO Box 94766 1090 GT Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Email: csrsea@po.jaring.my*

**New and significant records of birds in Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India**

**HARKIRAT SINGH SANGHA and RISHAD NAOROJI**

The state of Arunachal Pradesh, in north-east India, is a biodiversity hotspot and supports a rich and diverse birdlife. Several accounts of the avifauna of Arunachal Pradesh have been published during the last decade, including Athreya *et al.* (1997), Birand and Pawar (2004), Choudhury (1998, 2003), Datta (2001), *Datta et al.* (1998), King and Donahue (2006), Kumar and Singh (2000), Newton (2002), Sangha and Naoroji (2005), Sangha *et al.* (2007) and Singh (1994, 1999, 2003). Despite this, the avifauna of Arunachal Pradesh is poorly