

GOA, India

Trip report 2nd to 15th December 2005

by Ian Forsyth

This was not an intensive dawn to dusk birding trip but more of a balanced holiday and birding visit to India's smallest and most tourist-orientated state. Birding was mostly limited to a couple of hours in the early morning and an hour or so before dusk, with a few day trips to promising locations within a relatively short distance.

The hotel *Marinha Dourada* in Arpora, where we stayed, is excellently situated next to fish ponds and open country and references to fish ponds in the systematic list relate to this area.

On 14th December my partner Hilary and I joined Jerry and Margaret Goodman, who had enlisted the services of a local guide, Lloyd Fernandes, on a trip to Lake Mayem and vicinity.

Light was good enough for birding from about 0645 to 1815hrs. The weather was entirely predictable, hot and sunny every day with temperatures climbing to the upper 30s by mid afternoon and little or no wind.

In the systematic list that follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature are those adopted by Grimmett *et al* in the Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. All dates relate, obviously, to December.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea*

Two at Baga Hill on 6th and 1-2 there on 8th. Two showed well at Arpora Woods on 13th, with another briefly there on 18th.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Two near Aguada Fort on 4th.

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

At least 300 at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

A minimum of 20 at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Garganey *Anus querquedula*

A dozen or so at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*

One at Arpora Woods on 9th.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopus mahrattensis*

One at Arpora Woods on 9th.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*

Singles at Arpora woods on 9th and Mayem Lake on 14th.

White-cheeked Barbet *Megalaima viridis*

One at Baga Hill on 4th and 3 around Mayem Lake on 14th.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

One near Carambolim Lake on 12th and 3 around Mayem Lake on 14th.

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Regularly 1-2 seen around the fish ponds.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Two on the outskirts of Arpora 'village' on 10th and one next day at the fish ponds.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Up to 4 a day at the fish ponds and it could be found at almost any suitable-looking body of water.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*

One at the fish ponds on 3rd and presumably the same bird there on 5th.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Seemed to be present, usually 1-2, in almost every area of wetland and cultivation.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*

Just one, over the marsh behind the Beira Mar hotel, on 8th.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Singles at the fish ponds on 3rd and 6th, with two together there on 9th.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Present in a wide variety of habitats, usually in twos or fours.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Four at Carambolim Lake on 12th and two at Tuckan on 14th.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

Four at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*

At Mayem Lake on 14th one of this elusive species landed in a nearby tree and allowed good telescope views for five minutes.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*

Two at Baga Hill on 14th, 1-2 noted at Arpora Woods on 9th, 11th and 12th; two at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

One at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Seen and heard on a daily basis in a wide variety of habitats; maximum 12 on 12th over the fish ponds, possibly flying to roost.

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Not as common as the previous species; two over Baga Hill on 6th, 2 behind the Beira Mar hotel on 8th, 2 at Carambolim Lake on 12th and 2 at Mayem Lake on 14th.

House Swift *Apus affinis*

Seen daily in good numbers, particularly over the hotel/fish ponds area, for example several hundreds late on 3rd.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*

Two at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*

Three roosting near Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Widespread near habitation and cultivation but not in any large numbers.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

One at Baga Hill on 8th.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Ones and twos noted at Baga Hill, Arpora Woods, regularly at the fish ponds, Carambolim Lake and Mayem Lake.

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*

One at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus*

One, under mangroves on the Baga River, at the back of the fish ponds, allowed an open view for some three minutes towards dusk on 12th.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Singles occasionally on the Baga River and one at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

At least 100 at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Only seen at Carambolim Lake, where at least 20 were dotted about amongst the wildfowl and water lilies on 12th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Like the last species, only noted at Carambolim Lake, with a minimum of 30 on 12th.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

One flew over the marsh behind the Beira Mar hotel on 8th and one was at the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Up to 6 daily at the fish ponds and a few noted in the paddies near Santa Cruz and at Chora Island on 12th and 14th respectively.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Ever-present at the fish ponds, usually 2-4 but 5-7 on 15th. Also several in flooded fields at Chorao Island on 14th.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two or three in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz and one at Tuckan on 14th were the only sightings away from the fish ponds, where 3-5 were present daily.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Given the amount of apparently suitable habitat available only one was seen, at the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

At the fish ponds 1-2 present on four dates from 5th and 3 on 9th. One at Carambolim Lake on 12th, at least 30 in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th and around 20 in the flooded fields on Chorao Island on 14th.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

One in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Up to 5-6 daily at the fish ponds and a few in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th. Also 1-2 noted occasionally on rocky shores and promontories.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

About 80 in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th and around 40 in the flooded fields on Chorao Island on 14th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

At least 50 were in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th, keeping discreetly apart from the last species.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One at the fish ponds on 2nd.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One at the fish ponds on 2nd.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

More than 20 at Carambolim Lake on 20th.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*

Harder to find than the previous species but at least six noted in a casual sweep of Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*

The fish ponds were a favoured resting place: 2 on 2nd, 15 on 6th, 18 on 7th, 53 on 8th, 69 on 9th and 17 on 15th. Additionally, a flock of about 70 swooped over there on 11th and 12th.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

At the fish ponds 3-5 were present daily. The only other was one in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Singles at the fish ponds on 6th and 7th, 2 on 9th and 3 on 15th. At least 10 were in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

At Ashwan beach 25 appeared on a falling tide on 5th and around 30 were at Morji Beach on 10th.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

One at the fish ponds on 7th.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

Generally 4-5 at the fishponds throughout the period. Also two at Carambolim Lake and two in the rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Several adults could be picked out in the gull flock at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th. There were also many immatures of either this species or the next, which I did not have time or inclination to ponder.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

About 5-6 adults were in the gull flock on 10th at the mouth of the Chapora River.

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

Three immatures at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th were the only ones positively identified but there could easily have been more.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

At Ashwan beach 1250 flew south in one hour on 5th, as the tide receded. At least 3000 were on sand bars at the mouth of the Chapora River (Morji beach) on 10th.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

A minimum of 30 flew south at Ashwan beach on 5th, mixed in with the last species. At least 100 were at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Seven at Ashwan beach on 5th and at least 20 at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna begalensis*

A good 20-30 on the sand bars at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th.

Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Despite constant searching, none appeared to be on the sand bars at the mouth of the Chapora on 10th until a single first winter flew in as I was about to leave.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

About 30 were on sand bars at the mouth of the Chapora River on 10th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Four at Ashwan beach on 5th.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Only seen at Carambolim Lake where 2-3 'hawked' over the waters.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One, quite probably the same bird, was over the fish ponds on 2nd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 11th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A common daily sight over every available habitat including the thronged beaches, where one took a fish from the sea at Calangute on 3rd.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Not far behind the last species in terms of sightings, particularly near the coast, although fewer numbers involved.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Two, adult and immature, over Ashwan beach on 5th and two adults near Coco beach on 7th.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier

A female in the marsh behind the Beira Mar hotel on 8th, two found at Carambolim Lake on 12th and male and female at Tuckan on 14th.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One over Coco beach on 7th.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

At Carambolim Lake on 12th one seemed to hang motionless at high altitude for an age before plunge-diving into the lake and emerging with a large fish; an astonishing sight.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

One flew over Tuckan on 14th.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

An adult pale morph was low over the fish ponds on 4th and an adult dark morph soared near Coco beach on 7th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

One seen from the hotel balcony at Arpora on 13th is the only record.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

One at Tuckan on 14th.

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

At the fish ponds 3-4 present daily and similar low number seemed to frequent any suitable area of fresh water.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Much scarcer than the preceding species: one near Arambol beach on 10th and two at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

At the very least one at every patch of fresh water no matter how small, or so it seemed.

Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*

Singles by the sea near Baga Hill on 6th and at Arambol beach on 10th.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Usually 1-2 at the fish ponds and occasionally elsewhere in suitable wetland.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Seven at the fishponds on 2nd and 1-2 on several other days. On 7th, 14 flew over towards dusk, probably to a nearby roost.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Abundant: it was not uncommon to see 20-30 in small fields following oxen-hauled ploughs, seemingly oblivious to nearby human presence.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Another very common species, whose presence on almost every body of water was almost taken for granted.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One or two daily at the fish ponds and similar numbers present at all larger stretches of fresh water.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Singles near Arpora on 2nd, in the marsh next to the Beira Mar hotel on 8th, at Carambolim Lake on 12th and at Tuckan on 14th.

Little Heron *Butorides striatus*

Singles at the fish ponds on 3rd, 6th and 7th with two there on 15th.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One at the Beira Mar marsh on 8th.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

A flock of at least 120 was feeding at the edge of Tuckan marshes on 14th.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

One in flight over Tuckan marshes on 14th.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Three soaring together over Tuckan on 14th.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

One flew into fields near Santa Cruz on 12th and another passed over Tuckan on 14th.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Two in Arpora Woods on 13th.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Surprisingly, the only shrike encountered: 1-2 daily around the fish ponds, occasionally singles en route and one at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Singles at Baga Hill on 6th, in Arpora Woods on 11th and 15th and one at Mayem Lake on 14th.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Almost the avian equivalent of a lap dog, this cheeky resident is everywhere around humans. Not averse to brazenly taking leftovers from breakfast tables or perching on the edges of occupied sunbeds on the beaches, its behaviour is fascinating to watch. Also the tolerance towards it is remarkable, both by natives and visitors from colder climes. One happy holidaymaker did, however, receive three unexpected, not to say unwelcome, deposits from this corvid as she finished her scrambled eggs. Hilary did not seem impressed at my suggestion that this could bring good luck...

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

One flew over the forest behind Arambol beach on 10th.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*

Three on wires above the fish ponds on 3rd, 7 there on 5th and two at the Beira Mar marsh on 8th.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Despite masses of colourful competition, this resident/winter visitor is a stunner. Frequently encountered in all forests.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

One on Baga Hill on 8th, two at Arpora Woods on 9th and two at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Black-headed Cuckooshrike *Coracina melanoptera*

A female in Arpora Woods on 13th and a male at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

In Arpora Woods a flock of 6-7 on 13th and four at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Singles in Arpora Woods on 9th, 11th, and 15th.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

One at Baga Hill on 6th, two there on 8th and 3 in Arpora Woods on 15th.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Easily the most obvious drongo; it could be found without trying, in almost any open habitat.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Singles at Baga Hill on 6th and 8th, two or more at Mayem Lake on 14th and one in Arpora Woods on 15th.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicruros caerulescens*

Arpora Woods yielded two on 9th and singles on 11th and 13th. One at Mayem Lake on 15th.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicruros aeneus*

Singles in Arpora Woods on 9th and at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

One at Baga Hill on 6th, singles in the forest near Arambol beach on 10th, Arpora Woods on 11th and 13th and at Mayem Lake on 14th. Those on 10th and 11th were 'rufous' males with full tail-streamers.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

In the forests usually 1-2 encountered: recorded on seven dates.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

It may be 'common' but only two seen: in Arpora Woods on 13th and at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

A male near Arambol beach on 10th.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*

Singles at Baga Hill on 6th, Arambol beach forest on 10th, Arpora Woods on 13th and Mayem Lake on 14th.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Difficult to see but heard occasionally in the forests. A male showed well at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

One at Baga Hill and another at the Beira Mar hotel, both on 8th.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*

Two at Mayem Lake on 14th.

White-bellied Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis pallipes*

One in the forest near Arambol beach on 10th.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*

Two in Arpora Woods on 13th.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*

One at Aguada Forton 4th and singles near Coco beach on 7th and at Lake Mayem on 14th.

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata*

One at Aquada Fort on 4th, two in Arpora Woods on 13th and a single there on 15th.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Singles behind Coco beach on 7th and at Tuckan on 14th.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

At the fish ponds 2-3 were in residence.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*

Mainly noted at the fish ponds, especially late afternoons: 8 on 5th, 17 on 7th, 10 on 8th, 20 on 9th, 50 on 12th and more than 200 on 15th. Also six at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*

At least 60 in palm trees near the fish ponds towards dusk on 15th.

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

Two near Arpora on 2nd and 8th.

Jungle Mynah *Acridotheres fuscus*

Up to 20 per day in a variety of open country habitats.

Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*

Singles at Baga Hill on 5th, in the grounds of the Beira Mar hotel on 8th, two in Arpora Woods on 13th and two at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

One or two over the fish ponds on 2nd.

Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*

Two over the top of Baga Hill on 6th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Noted in low number most days over the fish ponds.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Low numbers most days at the fish ponds, maximum 8 on 7th. Also two at Tuckan on 14th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Easily the commonest hirundine and seen daily almost anywhere; regularly more than 50 over the fish ponds.

Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluvicola*

Singles at Carambolim Lake on 12th and at Tuckan on 14th.

Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus*

In Arpora Woods 3-4 on 13th and one on 15th. Also one at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Common in all wooded areas.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*

Only seen in Arpora Woods: 2 on 9th and 13th and one on 15th.

White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus*

Two in Arpora Woods on 9th and 15th.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

One in Arpora Woods on 9th and two there on 15th.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

At Mayem Lake 1-2 on 14th.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Singles over the fish ponds on 12th and at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Just one, at Tuckan on 14th.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Noted almost daily in well-wooded areas.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
Two seen and heard in mangroves or bushes by the Baga River behind the fish ponds on 5th, 6th and 12th.

Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*
One at Baga Hill on 8th.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
Not exactly living up to its name: one in the grounds of the Marinha Dourada hotel on 5th and two on 14th at Mayem Lake.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Both *P. t. viridanus* and *P. t. nitidus* were encountered on a regular basis, distinguished by calls. The latter seemed to favour lightly wooded places, whereas the former was found in forested areas.

Western Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
One in Arpora Woods on 15th.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*
Parties of six at Baga Hill on 6th, four and six in Arpora Woods on 13th and six there on 15th.

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala*
In the forest near Arambol beach 2-3 on 10th and singles in Arpora Woods on 13th and 15th.

Malabar Lark *Galerida malabarica*
Two allowed superb views on wires beside the road on the way back to Arpora from Chorao Island on 14th.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*
Two on 14th at Mayem Lake settled, allowing firm identification.
Flowerpeckers seem to zip about in all forested areas and it usually requires a good deal of patience or luck to 'nail' them. Fortunately, having previously seen Thick-billed and Pale-billed, there was no need to endure hours of frustration!

Purple-rumped Sunbird *Nectarinia zeylonica*
In all forested areas at least 2-3 could be found without too much trouble; also one near the fish ponds on 8th.

Crimson-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia minima*
A male at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Purple Sunbird *nectarinia asiatica*
Noted on most visits to the forests of Baga Hill and Arpora.

Loten's Sunbird *Nectarinia lotenia*
A female in the forest at Mayem Lake on 14th.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
One in the forest at Mayem Lake on 14th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Noted daily in areas around habitation, including inside the beach shacks, although not in large numbers.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*

Three, two males and a female, on a roadside telephone pole on the return journey from Chora Island on 14th. It would be difficult to gain better views of this sparrow, to which the field guides hardly do justice. An exciting observation, not least because the two Malabar Larks were on the wires about three metres away.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

In the rice paddies near Santa Cruz at least 2-3 first winter birds were amongst the waders on 12th. All showed the characteristics of *personata*.

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*

At least four present daily around the Marinha Dourada hotel and the fish ponds. Also 1-2 noted occasionally elsewhere.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Three immatures in the fabulous rice paddies near Santa Cruz on 12th. One tried very hard to be a Citrine Wagtail but failed.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Up to six each day in the scorched grassy areas around the fish ponds. Very tame, they allowed an approach to within 6-7 metres, enabling every feather to be observed. Never having enjoyed such views of 'foreign' pipits, over the first two days, it was easy, or was it? Doubts were creeping in. Not waking up in the middle of the night doubts but doubts nevertheless. These birds never called! Have I discovered a new species, the silent pipit? Or a silent race of Richards pipit? There was only one thing for it. I had to flush one, albeit against my principles, to produce a call. On the third morning a couple were easily found and, trying to look my scariest, I broke into a gentle trot towards them. Sure enough one took off - and landed completely unconcerned, but most of all silently, a whole 15 metres away. The other one did not even move! Three days later, after much of the same in between, along with inner thoughts of hatred towards pipits, two birds flew past me calling. Three notes the same. They landed about 10 metres away and walked towards me. Paddyfield Pipit confirmed at last. Over subsequent days I heard them calling regularly but one thing stands out: they called when they wanted to, not when I wanted them to.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*

One at the edge of Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

There was a roost in bushes by the Baga River: first noted on 7th, flights of 10-30 came in regularly to form a noisy gathering. There was too much going on to count them all but clearly hundreds were involved.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Late in the day, the wires over the Biera Mar marsh proved to be an attraction; at least a hundred there on 8th. Also two in Arpora Woods on 11th and 13th, with four at Carambolim Lake on 12th.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

At least 20 on wires over Beira Mar marsh on 8th.

Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca*

The munia flock coming to the wires over Beira Mar marsh on 8th contained at least 30 of this species.