a convex polygon. Mean home range of the birds during the breeding season was c. 1.3 ha. The nest site was 2.5 m above the ground, in a tree hole very close to the kitchen, and the guesthouses. The common singing site was c. 50 m from the nest site, on a bamboo shoot, where the male sang for an average of six minutes everyday, between 1730–1815 hrs, with the female murmuring below.

**Breeding behavior**

Copulation was seen before and after the song. The time period of the song is high during copulating period, and was observed to go down after the chicks are hatched.

**Food habits**

The nesting pair was seen preying on dragonflies in flight, mostly the common picture-wing *Rhyothemis variegata*, praying mantis larvae in the leaf litter, and other invertebrates. They were also seen preying on house geckos *Hemidactylus* species. Geckos like *H. brookii*, and *H. leschenaultii* formed an easy target for the robins, when on the floor. All sightings of geckos getting picked up were in the kitchen’s corridor.

**Discussion**

The duration of the song could have reduced in consideration of hatchling security and food. The duration of the song may advertise the quality of the male for the female. More studies should be done to understand their behavior.

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**Range extension of Bank Myna *Acridotheres gingenianus* in southern India with new records from Andhra Pradesh**

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The Bank Myna’s *Acridotheres gingenianus* range is considered to be limited to the plains of northern India between the outer Himalayas in the north, and the Vindhyas Range in the south, and from the North-west Frontier Province and the Sind region to Bengal (Oates 1889; Baker 1926; Marien 1950; Ali & Ripley 1983). The records from Nashik (Ball 1878; Bhaskar 1981), Mumbai (Abdulali & Ali 1953; Ambedkar 1976), Pune (Gole 1984), Goa (Lainer 1999), and Dharwad (Vijay Mohan Raj, verbally, 25th March 2009) are considered to be the southern-most in south-western India and the records from Visakhapatnam (Sankar 1976; Taher & Pittie 1989), Srikakulam (S. M. Maqsood Javed, verbally, 20th March 2009), and Chennai (Raj 1914; Prasanna Sriya, verbally, 25th March 2009) are considered to be the southern-most in south-eastern India. Gole (1984) suggested that the records from Pune were, at that time, the southern-most record of the species. Most of the authors of the southern records believe that the populations of these birds have spawned from escaped cage birds.

The species was considered to be extremely partial to well-watered terrain in the early 1950’s (Marien 1950) but the Bank Mynas have adapted to the new ‘urban’ niche in the early 1980’s and were seen piggy-backing confidently on the roof, the front bonnet or the rear-end of the food carriers of vehicles—this is considered as a new adaptation of its cattle riding habit (Ripley 1983). On 15 January 2006, the second author (RS) sighted these birds on the way to Borra caves (18°16′52″N 83°02′30″E; 700 m a.s.l.) in the Ananthagari Hills of Vishakapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh state. They were foraging by the roadside.

On 25 January 2009, we had gone birdwatching to Gudivadanka in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary (16°39′00″N 81°13′00″E), Andhra...
Pradesh. This trip was primarily for the Asian Waterfowl Census in Kolleru. As we drove towards Gudivadilanka, the left side of the road was marshy with water level less than 0.3 m and on the right side there was an *Eichhornia* bed in deeper water. On the right, we noticed a few domestic buffaloes swimming towards us with Bank Mynas comfortably riding on their backs. The birds flushed on to an electric pole even as we took pictures. Fourteen were counted and were distinguished from the Common Myna *A. tristis* by their darker colouration, smaller size, orange bill and orbital skin and a crest-like tuft of feathers on the forehead. The first author (HT) recollects sighting this species in company with Jungle Myna *A. fuscus*, and Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra* at Kolleti Kota in the sanctuary on 25 January 2008.

On 15 March 2009, RS spotted c. 20 Bank Mynas in Lammasingi (17°48’52”N 83°29’00”E; 900 m a.s.l.) in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. These birds were sighted along with Jungle Myna, and Asian Pied Starling close to a large open well, which is a source of water for the village. There is also an unconfirmed report from the Sanjeevaiah Park, Hyderabad, 25 December 2007 (Ashwin Naidu, verbally, 25 December 2007 & 28 January 2009). These records show that the Bank Myna is gradually spreading into southern India (see map) and birdwatchers would do well to keep an eye out for them in the future.

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