Check List the journal of biodiversity data
NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

First record of Yellow-throated Sparrow, *Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton, 1838) (Aves, Passeriformes, Passeridae) in Bangladesh

Ahsan Uddin Chowdhury[1], **Raihan Bablu**[1], **Jahir Mahmud Sohag**[1], **Najmul Hasan**[2,3]

1 Chittagong Bird Club, Chattogram 4200, Bangladesh
2 Eco-climate Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Chittagong, Chattogram 4331, Bangladesh
3 Animal Immunization Lab, University of Chittagong, Chattogram 4331, Bangladesh

Corresponding author: Najmul Hasan (najmulcu1998@gmail.com)

Abstract. We provide a new distributional record of the Yellow-throated Sparrow, *Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton, 1838), from south-eastern Bangladesh based on photographs. This is the eastern most record of this species and a new country record. We identified *G. xanthocollis* based on morphological characteristics, which include fine bills, indistinct eyebrows, grey-brown body colouration with a chestnut shoulder patch, a yellow throat spot, and one distinct, white wing bar. Our new record suggests that continuous monitoring is necessary to better understand species diversity and geographical distribution of the avian fauna in this densely populated tropical region.

Keywords. Avian fauna, Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, new distributional record

Chowdhury AU, Bablu R, Sohag JM, Hasan N (2026) First record of Yellow-throated Sparrow, *Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton, 1838) (Aves, Passeriformes, Passeridae) in Bangladesh. Check List 22 (5): 984–987. https://doi.org/10.15560/22.5.984

Introduction

The Yellow-throated Sparrow, *Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton, 1838) (Passeriformes, Passeridae) was described by Burton (1838) and is currently placed in the genus *Gymnoris* Blyth, 1845 (BirdLife International 2025). This species is typically found in arid and semi-arid habitats across Africa and Asia (del Hoyo et al. 2016). Two subspecies are generally recognised: *G. x. xanthocollis*, distributed mainly across the Indian subcontinent, and *G. x. transfuga*, occurring from the Middle East to parts of south-western Asia (Summers-Smith 2020; Gill et al. 2026).

Gymnoris xanthocollis is widely distributed across South and West Asia (BirdLife International 2025). Its distribution has traditionally been considered centred in the drier regions of the Indian subcontinent, where it inhabits open woodland, scrubland, agricultural landscapes, dry savannah, orchards, and rural settlements (del Hoyo et al. 2016; Grimmett et al. 2016). Despite its broad distribution, confirmed occurrences of this species at the eastern edge of its range are few and currently restricted to West Bengal, India (del Hoyo et al. 2016; Grimmett et al. 2016; BirdLife International 2025).

We documented a new occurrence record of this bird from south-eastern Bangladesh based on photographs, thereby confirming a new country record for a species, which has not been included in the country's list of bird species. Additionally, the new record is the easternmost for this species. Our new data on this species in Bangladesh has important conservation and biogeographic implications and emphasises the need for continued ornithological surveys and long-term monitoring across the country.

OPEN ACCESS

Academic editor: Guilherme Sementili-Cardoso
Received: 2 June 2026
Accepted: 13 October 2026
Published: 15 October 2026

Copyright © The authors.
This is an open-access article distributed under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (Attribution 4.0 International – CC BY 4.0)

Methods

During a birdwatching trip on 24 April 2026 in the Chattogram Hill Tract, particularly at Baraichari, Kaptai, Rangamati, Bangladesh, we spotted a bird on the upper edge of a tree. The individual was photographed using a Nikon Z8 with a 500mm PF lens. To document key morphological features, including colouration, head pattern, and wing markings, we captured multiple images. We also noted the date, time, and geographical coordinates, recorded using a smartphone and Google Maps.

The bird was identified based on detailed examination of photographic evidence. The diagnostic features were compared with standard regional field guides and taxonomic references (Grimmett et al. 2016; Summers-Smith 2020). Particular attention was given to differentiate *Gymnoris xanthocollis* from similar species of Passeridae.

We mapped the current distribution of *G. xanthocollis* by utilising a shape file of global distribution retrieved from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (BirdLife International 2025) and the new occurrence record using Rv. 4.5.2 (R Core Team 2026).

Results

***Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton, 1838)**
Figure 1A–C

New record. BANGLADESH — Chattogram • Baraichari, Kaptai, Rangamati; 22°30′25.56″N, 092°08′16.55″E; 37 m elev.; 24.IV.2026; Ahsan Uddin Chowdhury, Raihan Bablu & Jahir Mahmud Sohag obs.; roadside in mixed evergreen forest; 1♀.

Identification. We identified the observed individual based on the following key morphological characteristics: (1) fine bill; (2) uniform (unstreaked) brownish-grey head and upperparts; (3) one prominent white wingbar, (4) indistinct eyebrow, (5) throat with an inconspicuous, pale-yellow spot, and (5) shoulders with a light-chestnut band (Figure 1A–C).

Distribution. The geographical range of this species includes Türkiye, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh (Figure 2), and it also

Figure 1. A male *Gymnoris xanthocollis* photographed on 24 April 2026 in the Chattogram Hill Tract, south-eastern Bangladesh. (Photographs by Ahsan Uddin Chowdhury.)

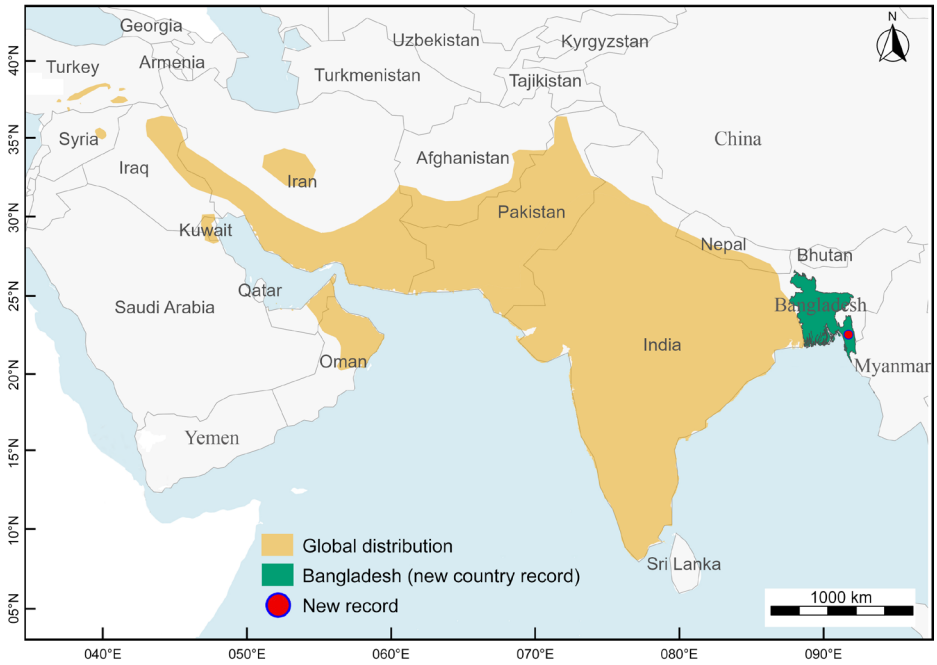

Figure 2. Global distribution of *Gymnoris xanthocollis*; the new record in Bangladesh is the easternmost record of this species.

occurs as a passage migrant in Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. It is a non-breeding vagrant in Israel and Sri Lanka (BirdLife International 2025).

Our new record is the first from Bangladesh, in the south-eastern part of the country, and the easternmost distributional record anywhere of the species. This observation was recorded from the largest mixed evergreen forest, which is part of the Chattogram Hill Tract, in south-eastern Bangladesh. The Chattogram Hill Tract lies at the intersection of the Indo-Himalayan and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots.

Discussion

Our new record of *Gymnoris xanthocollis* from Bangladesh is the easternmost occurrence anywhere. This species typically inhabits arid and semi-arid regions of South and West Asia (Grimmett et al. 2016; Summers-Smith 2020) and has been considered largely absent from the humid, densely vegetated landscapes that dominate much of eastern Bangladesh, which is mostly covered with semi-evergreen forest.

Bangladesh, connecting the Indian subcontinent with South-East Asia, lies at a major biogeographic crossroads and faunal transition zone, which means that it has many wildlife species in common with its neighbouring countries (Grimmett et al. 2016). The new sighting of *G. xanthocollis* within this region is not unexpected, given its presence in India and the shared geographic and eco-climatic conditions.

The new country record for *G. xanthocollis* from Bangladesh does not merely add to the national checklists of bird species, but also provides another data point for conservation assessment and may help in understanding biodiversity patterns and processes. Although *G. xanthocollis* is currently assessed as globally as Least Concern (BirdLife International 2025), populations occurring at the margins of its geographical range can help clarify its distribution limits and ecological tolerances.

The cultural and historical significance of *G. xanthocollis* also merits attention. Notably, the eminent Indian ornithologist Salim Ali, who is often referred to as the "Birdman of India", is said to have developed his early interest in birds after encountering this species in his childhood (Daniel and Ugra 2003; Daniels 2008). This anecdote highlights the species' role not only in ecological studies but also in inspiring generations of ornithologists and conservationists across South Asia. Thus, its appearance in Bangladesh carries symbolic importance, potentially fostering public interest in bird watching and conservation in the region.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Dr. Salim Ali, who was inspired by a photograph of a *G. xanthocollis* that sparked his lifelong passion for ornithology. We are also thankful to Dr. Shameem Hasan, Dr. Junaed Rahman, and Mehedi Hasan for their cooperation and support during the field trip. We are also grateful to the ornithologists, wildlife and conservation biologists, passionate bird watchers, and photographers who have made valuable contributions to the conservation of Bangladesh's avian fauna. We sincerely thank the academic editor, Guilherme Sementili-Cardoso, and the reviewers for their valuable feedback. We are also grateful to Robert Forsyth for his careful editing and improvements to the manuscript.

Additional information

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

Ethical statement

No ethical statement is reported.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)

The authors accept full responsibility for the content of the manuscript, including the disclosure of any use of AI. No AI tools were used in the preparation of this manuscript.

Funding

This research was conducted without any external funding.

Author contributions

Conceptualisation: NH. Data curation: AUC, RB, JMS. Formal analysis: NH, AUC. Investigation: NH, AUC, RB, JMS. Methodology: NH. Resources: AUC, RB, JMS. Supervision: NH. Visualisation: NH. Software: NH. Validation: NH, AUC, RB, JMS. Writing – original draft: NH. Writing – review and editing: AUC, RB, JMS.

Author ORCID iD

Najmul Hasan https://orcid.org/0009-0004-1651-3342

Data availability

All data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text.

References

BirdLife International (2025) *Gymnoris xanthocollis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T22718294A 280902752. https://doi.org/10.2305/iucn.uk.2025-2.rlts.t22718294a280902752.en

Burton E (1838) Catalogue of the collection of Mammalia and birds in the Museum of the Army Medical Department, at Fort Pitt, Chatham. James Burril, Chatham, x + 48 pp. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.105388

Daniel JC, Ugra GW (2003) Petronia: fifty years of post-independence ornithology in India. A centenary dedication to Dr. Salim Ali, 1896–1996. Bombay Natural History Society and Oxford University Press, Bombay, India, 500 pp.

Daniels RJR (2008) Can we save the sparrow? Current Science 95: 1527–1528. https://www.jstor.org/stable/24105505

del Hoyo J, Collar NJ, Christie DA, Elliott A, Fishpool LDC, Boesman P, Kirwan GM (2016) HBW and BirdLife International illustrated checklist of the birds of the world. Volume 2: passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain, 1013 pp.

Gill F, Donsker D, Rasmussen P (2026) Old World sparrows, snowfinches, weavers. https://www.worldbirdnames.org/bow/weavers/. Accessed on: 2026-5-15.

Grimmett R, Inskipp C, Inskipp T (2016) Birds of the Indian subcontinent. Bloomsbury Publishing, New Delhi, India, 448pp.

R Core Team (2026) R: a language and environment for statistical computing. https://www.r-project.org/. Accessed on: 2026-5-14.

Summers-Smith D (2020) Yellow-throated sparrow (*Gymnoris xanthocollis*), version 1.0. In: del Hoyo J, Elliott A, Sargatal J, Christie DA, de Juana E (Eds.) Birds of the world. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.chspet1.01