Sighting of Ringed Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* in Ujani Wetland, Maharashtra, India

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Ujani wetland (18º04′24″N, 75º07′15″E) comprises the backwaters of the Ujani Irrigation Project at Bhigwan village in Maharashtra, India, which is constructed on River Bhima, a tributary of the Krishna. The wetland is situated about 140 km from Pune along the Pune-Solapur highway, and attracts a large number of terrestrial and aquatic birds. Bharucha & Gogate (1990) studied the avian profile of this wetland, while Mahabal (2005) reported 95 species of waterbirds and wetland-dependent birds from this area.

On 7 March 2010 I visited Ujani wetland and surrounds. On the way from Ramwadi, a small settlement in the area, a flock of 11 Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* was observed feeding in a nearby field. As we approached closer to photograph them, the flock turned slowly towards the water. I took many snaps of the geese till they started swimming and were far away from us. Later, while screening these photographs I found that three of the birds had rings on their legs. One goose had a green plastic ring, inscribed "G95," on its left tarsus, and a metallic ring on its right (**14**). The other two only had a metal ring on their right tarsus. G95 was ringed at Deed Ulaan Lake, Mongolia (49º01′21″N, 101.2011E) on 29 July 2009 (Dr. Nyambayar Batbayar, Wildlife Science & Conservation Center of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, *pers comm.*). It was this bird we sighted and photographed at Ujani wetland. This supports the fact that Ujani Wetland attracts the migratory birds and Geese which had migrated from Mongolia.

Bar-headed Geese are winter visitor to mainland India. They breed in Ladakh and at high elevations. They are common winter visitors to Pakistan, Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, the Gangetic plain, Assam, and Bangladesh, but are rarer in Gujarat, and the Deccan. Birds arrive in India about October–November, reaching their highest congregations in December, and returning in March (Ali & Ripley 2001).

Earlier report on sighting of Mongolian tagged Bar-headed Geese is by Raju Kasambe, *et al*. 2008.

On 14 January 2010 we visited Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, and recorded 126 Bar-headed Geese, but none of them was with ring or neck collar.

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Photo: S. Kurhade

14. Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* "G95" at Ujani, Maharashtra.