

Snapshot sightings

Spotted Crake from Vasai, Maharashtra

Amol Lopes



On 31 December 2015, a single Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* was photographed from a small marsh (19.40°N, 72.84°E) with *Typha* reeds wetland at Vasai, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Many bird-watchers were able to see the bird on 4 January 2016. This is a rarely recorded species due to its secretive habits, possibly was more common historically, but with very infrequent records from western Maharashtra in recent years (Prasad 2005, eBird 2016).

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Eurasian Hobby from Punchakari wetlands, Kerala

Abhilash A K



While photographing Amur Falcons *Falco amurensis*, a single Eurasian Hobby *F. subbuteo* was also photographed from Punchakari wetlands (08.43°N, 76.97°E), Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 14 December 2015. The bird was seen soaring the sky and feeding on insects for 20 minutes, before it flew away. This appears to be the first report of this species from Kerala (Praveen 2015).

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Spotted Sandgrouse near Ramgarh, Rajasthan

Shashank Dalvi

A flock of Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* was photographed while they visited a small water source at Netse village (27.29°N, 70.50°E) near Ramgarh, Rajasthan on 2 December 2015. At the same site, Black-bellied- *P. orientalis* and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses *P. exustus* were also photographed on the same day. Once widespread in north-west India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), these birds appear



to have dwindled drastically due to excessive hunting and there are hardly any records from Rajasthan in the recent past. Even today, Sandgrouses are being hunted and this site was located through hunters.

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Asian Stubtail at Jeypore forest, Assam

Jainy Kuriakose



A single Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* was photographed from Jeypore forest (27.24°N, 95.41°E), Dehing Patkai WLS, Upper Assam on 29 December 2015. Until recently treated as hypothetical for south Asia (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), this is a recent entrant into Indian list (Das 2014) and is the second report for Assam (Baruah 2015) and the second one to be photographed from India.

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