



128. Spot-billed Pelican. Photo: S. K. Dutta

Sighting of Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* in Bastar Plateau, Chhattisgarh, India

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The Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* is sporadically distributed in peninsular India, and is reported to breed in southern, and north-eastern India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). From Madhya Pradesh, in central India, it was known only from Shivpuri District (Chandra & Singh 2004).

On 10 March 2012, an immature Spot-billed Pelican [128] was sighted at Jagdalpur town, Chhattisgarh (19.099°N, 82.013°E). The bird first landed in Dalpat Sagar, moving then to a nearby tree, and then again to the Dalpat Sagar. The bird was not seen in the area after this, till an individual was sighted here on 09 July 2013; it remained there till 27 August 2013. The bird was roosting on a small island at the center of Dalpat Sagar, alternatively perching on mobile towers, and trees. It finally left the area on 27 August 2013. Spot-billed Pelicans are known to be widespread during their non-breeding season, for which it is assumed that Jagdalpur is on the migratory route of the species.

Dalpat Sagar, spread over an area of 142.45 ha, is a dammed lake, and an artificial water body in Jagdalpur town. More than 50 species of wetland-dependent birds have been observed roosting, and breeding in the lake. Some of the submerged, and emergent hydrophytes in the lake are *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Potamogeton* sp., *Nelumbo nucifera*, *Lotus stellata*, *Typha angustifolia*, and *Oryza rufipogon*. *Ipomoea carnea* var. *fistulosa*, and *Indigifera pulchella* are the most abundant plant species along the littoral, and a little above the littoral zone. There are two islands in the middle of the water body, approachable only by boat. Large portions of these land areas get submerged during rainy season but get exposed during summer. The land mass

supports of trees like *Ficus bengalensis*, *F. religiosa*, *F. glomerata*, *Mangifera indica* and *Lannea grandis*.

Chandra & Singh (2004) recorded 517 species, and subspecies of birds belonging to 69 families, of which 197 taxa were from Chhattisgarh and 488 from Madhya Pradesh. The present observation of Spot-billed Pelican in Jagdalpur city is the first record of the species from Chhattisgarh State. As this is a large species, it is prominent, and there is virtually no chance of it going unnoticed. It is probable that this species has started migrating to or through the Bastar area. Bastar District, situated in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, is dominated by several tribal communities that hunt birds, and it was feared that this individual would get poached. However, due to the active surveillance of the Forest Department, and the local media, it was left unharmed, and undisturbed. Further study on the occurrence of this species in other parts of Chhattisgarh is necessary to understand its local movements.

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Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* in Bengaluru, India

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This note describes the sighting of an adult Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* in Bengaluru (India).

The bird was first sighted on the morning of 19 February 2016 at 0730 hrs, near the rocky area around water at the Jubilee Garden in the Indian Institute of Science campus (13.02°N, 77.56°E; hereinafter, IISc). While we were observing Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*, Purple-rumped Sunbird *Leptocoma*

zeylonica, and Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*, an unfamiliar bird suddenly appeared in the bushes. It took a while to pinpoint the bird, as it was well camouflaged against the dry bushes. It remained very still, with minimal movement. It was probably waiting for its turn to swoop down and sip some water, but the gregarious babblers, followed by bulbuls, kept hovering around the water area. Before the bird disappeared,