

Snapshot sightings

Pied Thrush from Nainital, Uttarakhand

Prashant Kumar & Vivek Rawat



While birding on 23 June 2016 near the village of Riya (29.46°N, 79.27°E) located at the outskirts of Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve in Nainital District of Uttarakhand, a thrush

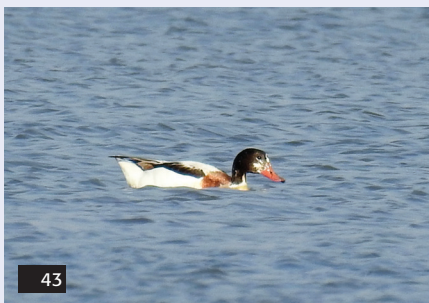
was seen and photographed and was identified as Pied Thrush *Geokichla wardii*. Two males and a female were seen at the location. Although they are expected to move above 1500 m in the breeding season (May–July) in western Himalayas (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), it is interesting to see multiple individuals of this species at c.1150 m in June.

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Common Shelduck from Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Rahul B Patil & Prabhakar R. Pawar



On 25 December 2016 at 1600 hrs we observed a Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in a mixed flock of ducks at the Panje coastal wetland (18.68°N, 72.95°E),

located on the western coast of Raigad District, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. This is probably a first report of the species from the western coast of Maharashtra (Prasad 2006), though it has been reported from elsewhere in the state, including Nashik (Khairnar, 2009), and Amravati Districts (Wadkatkar & Wagh 2014). The bird was present in this wetland for nearly a week.

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Smoky Warbler from Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh

Umar Khan

Two Smoky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuligiventer* were seen and photographed on 02 and 03 January 2017 at the village of Bairidih (25.78°N, 83.03°E), Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Neither Grimmett *et al.* (2011) nor Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) record eastern Uttar Pradesh in its wintering range, and hence this appears to be the first record from this part of the country.



Identification is based on sooty upperparts, dusky underparts, indistinct supercilium, and broken eye-ring under the eye.

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Sooty Gull from Manakudy, Tamil Nadu

M. Siva Kumar & R. Amirtha Balan



On 28 November 2016, a lone Sooty Gull *Ichthyiaetus hemprichii* was observed on the salt pans of Puthalam Estuary (8.08°N, 77.48°E) adjoining the Arabian Sea at Manakudy, Kanya Kumari District in southern Tamil

Nadu. This is only the second instance when this species has been reported from Tamil Nadu, while the first record was a stained specimen from the nineteenth century, collected in Chennai surroundings, and displayed in the Government Museum, Chennai (Kesavabharathi 2013).

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