

## Snapshot sightings

### Whimbrel at Najafgarh Drain, Haryana

Mohit Mehta & Piyush Dogra



On 14 October 2017, a lone Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* was photographed by us from Najafgarh drain (28.50°N, 76.96°E). There are no historical records of this species from Delhi NCR region (Harvey *et al.* 2006) and just one recent photograph by Deepak Mani Tripathi made last year from the same general area (Anand 2016). Perhaps this species is a rare autumn passage

migrant through the wetlands of Delhi.

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### Indian Skimmer from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

Anoop R & Ramesh Iyer



On 28 October 2017 at 1026hrs, two Indian Skimmers *Rynchops albicollis* were noted on flight above the waters of salt lake plot 1 at Puthalam (8.17°N, 77.77°E), of Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. They were in close contact with flocks of Caspian Terns *Hydroprogne caspia*, Gull-billed Terns *Gelochelidon nilotica* and Greater Crested Terns *Thalasseus bergii* and were actively flying along with Caspian Terns. This seems to be the third report of this species from Tamil Nadu in recent years (Nagarajan 2009, Sundaram 2015) and the southern-most from the country (eBird 2018, Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

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### Terek Sandpiper from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Ajinkya Supekar & Onkar Ingale

On 03 October 2017, at a site (19.21°N, 74.76°E) between the Pimpalgaon Lake and Pimpalgaon Malvi village, Ahmednagar,



Maharashtra we saw a Sandpiper with upturned bill and the orange-yellow legs which was readily identified as a Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. The bird was seen later on 8 and 14 October and probably was a bird on its migration towards southern India. This is probably the

second report from interior Maharashtra away from the western coasts (Suryawanshi 2015). Considered mainly migrating along the coasts (Ali & Ripley 1987), there is just one other report (Robson *et al.* 2016) from central India.

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### Red-tailed Wheatear from Singalila, West Bengal

Biresh Basak

On the 14 October 2017 early morning, while nearing Tumling SSB Camp, Singalila National Park (27.12°N 88.07°E) in Darjeeling district, West Bengal, I saw and photographed a Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia*. This appears to be the first report of this species from West Bengal (Ali & Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 2011, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012, eBird 2018) and the sighting in October probably indicate the bird was on passage.



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