Snapshot Sightings

Eye-browed Thrush from Kolkata, West Bengal
Sumit Sengupta

An Eyebrowed Thrush Turdus obscura was photographed on 17 February 2013 from Rabindra Sarobar (22°30’N, 88°21’E), an artificial lake in the middle of Kolkata. Considered a winter visitor to Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and hills of S. Assam, it is a straggler elsewhere in the country (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). The only record from the plains of West Bengal was in April 2009 from Chintamoni Kar WLS, near Kolkata city (www.orientalbirdimages.org) – presumably both records are of birds on passage.

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Blue-eared Kingfisher from Kolhapur, Maharashtra
Amol S. Lokhande & Ningappa C. Hiragond

A Blue-eared Kingfisher Alcedo meninting was photographed on 3 December 2011 and on 2 January 2012 from Kalamba (16°42’N, 74°13’E), Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Prior reports of this species from Maharashtra are from the districts of Pune (Shivaparakash 2005), Sindhudurg (Santharam 1996) and Ratnagiri (Prasad 2004, Palkar 2009). It is probably a sporadic visitor to W. Maharashtra from more southerly regions.

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Caspian Plover from Koothakulam, Tamil Nadu
Suresh Elamon

About 5-6 Caspian Plovers Charadrius asiaticus were seen at Koothakulam (8°29’N, 77°45’E), S. Tamil Nadu on 24th January 2013. Bal Pandy, who first reported these birds, thought they were White-tailed Lapwing Vanellus leucurus. Though considered a vagrant to India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005), it has been reported from the wetlands of SE. coast of India in 1990 (Kazmierczak et al. 1993, Balachandran 1994) apart from W. Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Sri Lanka (Sangha et al. 2010).

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Blue-cheeked Bee-eater from Kole Wetlands, Kerala
PP Sreenivasan

A single Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Merops persicus was photographed on 29 April 2013 from Uppungal (10°43’N, 75°58’E), Kole Wetlands in Central Kerala. There is only prior report of this species from S. India was from Goa (Holt 2009) and hence is a first record for Kerala. However, it is known to migrate across the Arabian sea during spring (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) and hence should be expected from the W. coast of India.

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References