

## Snapshot sightings

### Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Rushil Fernandes & Able Lawrence



On 27 September 2015, a male Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* was photographed at the edge of a clearing inside the reserve forest of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) (26.75°N, 80.93°E), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It was subsequently seen on the same perch on 11 October. Its dark brown mantle (vs black) indicates the *capitalis* race. Though known from the Himalayan landscape of Uttaranchal and Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), this is probably the first time it is observed from the plains of Uttar Pradesh.

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### Red-tailed Shrike from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Pranjal J. Saikia



While on a visit to Sudasari (26.72°N, 70.58°E), Desert National Park, Jaisalmer on 17-18 September 2015, several Red-tailed Shrikes *Lanius phoenicuroides* were noted of which an adult male photographed on 18 September clearly showed white underparts, complete mask with white supercilium, rufous crown, darker brownish mantle, white primary patch and red tail clinching the

identification. Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) states that the Red-tailed Shrikes normally seen in north-west India are closer to the Isabelline Shrike *L. isabellinus*, probably basing on Richard Meinertzhagen's statement in Ali (1955). Hence, this is perhaps the one of the first photo documentation of a definite Red-tailed Shrike from Rajasthan.

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### Desert Wheatear from Vijayapura, Karnataka

Ramesh Desai



A Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* in non-breeding plumage was photographed on 25 December 2014 and subsequently on 04 January 2015 at Bhutanal Lake (16.88°N, 75.70°E), Vijayapura [=Bijapur]. The species mainly winters in north-western India with vagrants reported as far as Kerala (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), and Chennai (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). Though its presence in Karnataka state

has not been previously documented, it is probably unsurprising for this locality as the bird is known to winter regularly in neighbouring Maharashtra as per distribution maps in [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) (Accessed on 06 November 2015).

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### Wood Snipe from Loktak Lake, Manipur

Elangbam Premjit Singh



In the evening of 27 September 2015, a Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* was rescued at Toubul (24.62°N, 93.79°E), near Loktak lake, Bishnupur District, Manipur.

Two attempts to release the bird on successive days failed as its left wing seemed to be broken. The bird was kept in captivity for four days before it succumbed to injuries. Wood Snipe is scarce everywhere in India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International, and is included in the Manipur checklist based solely on historical records (Choudhury 2009).

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