

Snapshot sightings

Bristled Grassbird at Sonkhaliya, Rajasthan

Adesh Shivkar



On 24 August 2016, a Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* was photographed in the bajra fields in Sonkhaliya (26.22°N, 74.84°E), Ajmer District of Rajasthan and on subsequent days seen in at least four different locations in the same area. The bird was particularly vocal in the mornings and late evenings and was easy to locate. Rahmani (2012) does not list any records for this Vulnerable species from Rajasthan.

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Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher on Great Nicobar Island

G. Shaktivel



An Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca* was photographed on 30 April 2016 near Magar Nallah (6.98°N, 93.90°E), Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island. The Nicobar subspecies *C. e. macrocarus*, reportedly rare (Sankaran 1998), is described as having a larger bill, darker crown,

and with a much reduced black spot (sometimes absent) on forehead (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). However, this photograph shows a clear, large black forehead spot and hence the subspecies identity is uncertain.

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Christmas Island Frigatebird at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

Uday Kumar Balasubramanian

On 02 July 2016, I photographed a frigatebird from an estuary over the Kalpakkam Bridge (12.51°N, 80.16°E), Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu; it was later identified as a juvenile Christmas



Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi*. Longer bill, belly patch which is roughly hexagonal, parallel sided wing-spurs that are angled forward, and the large humeral bulge at the base of the trailing edge eliminated Lesser- *F. ariel* and Greater Frigatebirds *F. minor*. This appears to be the sixth record for India and the third for Tamil Nadu (Karuthedathu *et al.* 2015).

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Red Knot at Vellanathuruth, Kerala

Sreejith Bharathan



On a morning visit to Vellanathuruth (9.02°N, 76.52°E), Kollam District on 28 September 2016, I photographed a wader that was later identified as a Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. Compared to the larger Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* that has also been recorded here, this species has a smaller bill, giving an even proportion between bill and head length. This appears to be the second report of this species from Kerala after Sreenivasan (2015).

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