

nominate form to compare it properly with *beicki* or *salimalii*, and until our pictures are compared with museum specimens, and analysed, Clement's advice was to recognise them at the specific level (Peter Clement, *in litt.*, e-mail dated 11 September 2018).

Turtuk is one of the few sites within the limits of public access, lying at the edge of Gilgit-Baltistan, in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. What surprises lie beyond its borders in the unexplored terrains of these northern areas is anybody's guess.

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Rediscovery of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* in Sri Lanka after 40 years

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The Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* is a wader that is listed as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (BirdLife International 2017); it has a total world population of just 240–456 birds (BirdLife International 2018). It breeds in the Chukotsky Peninsula, and in the southern and northern regions of the Kamchatka Peninsula—and mainly winters in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand. It has also been recorded from India, Vietnam, southern China, Singapore, and the Philippines (Van Gils *et al.* 2018). In South Asia, its main wintering ground is the Bangladesh Sundarbans (Bird *et al.* 2010; Chowdhury 2015), while it has been recently reported from the Sundarbans in West Bengal, India (Chakraborty *et al.* In press).

Here I report a photographic record of the species from Vankalai Sanctuary in Mannar, Sri Lanka, a Ramsar site [98]. I saw the bird on a mudflat (8.90°N, 79.93°E) that was 25 m off the B403 road, just outside Vankali town (c. 600 m) towards Mannar. On 06 June 2018, I was scanning the few remaining water bodies around the area, during the dry summer (the region receives rain from the North-East Monsoon, in winter), for waders and pratincoles. At 1700 hrs, while scanning a 250–300-strong wader flock, I spotted a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It was amongst the mixed flock of Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Lesser Sand Plovers *C. mongolus*, and a few Curlew Sandpipers *C. ferruginea* and Little Stints *C. minuta*. I was able to observe its spatulate bill as it was feeding alongside a Little Stint and seemed more active than other birds [99]. It had brownish upperparts with some dark-centered

feathers, white underparts, crown with brown streaks, brownish breast sides, and a grey-brown patch behind the eye. The dark-centered feathers indicate a first winter bird, which, probably, explain why it was over-summering in Sri Lanka.

Deepal Warakagoda, Chairman of Rarities and Records Committee of CBC, visited the site at 1000 hrs on 07 June 2018, with two other members, and saw the bird from the same mudflat.



98. Spoon-billed Sandpiper at Vankalai Sanctuary in Mannar, Sri Lanka.



99. Spoon-billed Sandpiper feeding alongside a Little Stint.

This is only the third confirmed record of a Spoon-billed Sandpiper from Sri Lanka: the previous ones being from Bundala in March 1978 (CBCN 1978a), and Bentota in November 1978 (CBCN 1978b). The CBC Rarities and Records Committee rejected a December 1979 report from Bundala (CBCN 1979; Collar *et al.* 2001) during its evaluations in 1985 (Deepal Warakagoda, *in litt.*, 01 July 2018). This is also, probably, the first report of an over-summering Spoon-billed Sandpiper from South Asia.

My special thanks to Deepal Warakagoda and Udaya Sirivardana for identifying the importance of this sighting and coordinating with Oriental Bird Club and Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force; and to Moditha Hiranya Kodikaraarachchi, Hemantha Seneviratne, and Sudheera Bandara for helping me document the sighting and reviewing this article.

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A colour-aberrant Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

On the evening of 23 November 2017, Hitesh Oberoi photographed an Indian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* that was in unique plumage. It was in the canopy of a tree in Dongargan Valley (19.25°N, 74.76°E) near Ahmednagar city. The adult white morph male had a white crest [100], an aberration, as the species normally has a black crest. In addition, the bird had white spots around its eye, and on its throat. This seems to be a case of partial leucism, or progressive greying (van Grouw *et al.* 2016). On subsequent trips to the location, Onkar Ingale, Onkar Bedre, and Yuvraj Navle saw the bird five more times. While the length of the crest varies by region (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), a comprehensive study of colour aberration in Indian birds did not include Indian Paradise Flycatcher. Other than the

plumage, we did not observe any other physical or behavioral abnormality in that individual.

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Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India.



100. A male Indian Paradise Flycatcher with a white crest, showing partial leucism.