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A Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* in Walong, Arunachal Pradesh: An addition to South Asian avifauna

On 26 December 2020, while birding enroute to Tilam Top (28.15°N, 97.02°E; c.1,200 m asl), Walong, Arunachal Pradesh, we encountered a peculiar-looking thrush *Turdus* sp., feeding along with Alpine Thrushes *Zoothera mollissima* at 0600 h. The bird had black upperparts, and white lowerparts, with black 'inverted heart' like spots on its upper belly and flanks [20, 21]. On further observation, the thrush had a dull yellowish-orange bill. The surrounding habitat was a coniferous forest with small, shady 'gullies' into which, hardly any light entered. We concluded from the above pointers that this was a Japanese Thrush *T. cardis*—a species that had not been listed for South Asia (Praveen et al. 2020).

The Japanese Thrush mainly winters in south-eastern China (including south-eastern Yunnan), Hainan, and northern Indochina (Collar & Bonan 2020). The nearest records of the sighting of a Japanese Thrush, to the current site are listed in Table 1. The closest report being less than 400 km away.

Place	Country	Date	Altitude in m asl	Aerial distance in km
Baihualing, Yunnan	China	27 November 2020	1,500 (?)	360
Bagan, Mandalay	Myanmar	14 February 2018	45–70	800
Kunming, Yunnan	China	02 March 2013	1950 (?)	660

The preferred winter habitat of Japanese Thrushes is woodland with cultivated surroundings, lightly wooded areas including urban parks (Collar & Bonan 2020)—in contrast to the thickly wooded area where we saw it. The Walong area in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh has shown several affinities to the Yunnan region of China, and the Japanese Thrush is another addition to this growing list.



Both: Dhyye Shah

20, 21. Japanese Thrush in Walong, Arunachal Pradesh.

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Presence of Sichuan Leaf Warblers *Phylloscopus forresti* in Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh

The known winter range of the Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti* extends from south-eastern Xizang and southern Sichuan, southwards to eastern Myanmar, north-western Thailand, and northern Vietnam (del Hoyo et al. 2020). In Anjaw District, there is a high probability of Sichuan Leaf Warblers being present here.

In Anjaw District, we had observed many *Phylloscopus* warblers between 25–27 December 2020, some of which