National Park on 11 March 2020 (Inskipp et al. 2020). Before the Spotted Bush Warbler complex was split, there had been several wintering records from the Chitwan National Park, Nepal, which lies south of the Annapurna Conservation Area, and also from the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Koshi Barrage, which are presumed to have been of Spotted Bush Warbler (Inskipp) et al. 2020). After the recent discovery of West Himalayan Bush Warblers in the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp & Chaudhary 2016), it became unclear whether these wintering records, belonged to Spotted Bush Warbler or West Himalayan Bush Warbler (Inskipp et al. 2020). Similarly, further south, in the Indian plains, five specimens that had been collected from Nichlaul and Kalnahi in Maharajganj District, Uttar Pradesh, in February 1947, and labelled as Spotted Bush Warbler, need reassessing (Koelz 1947; Abhinav 2021). Thus, the wintering range of the West Himalayan Bush Warbler does include Nepal, and possibly adjacent Uttar Pradesh in India, but the exact range and status is still unclear.

The West Himalayan Bush Warbler is considered a local altitudinal migrant across much of its known range; however, there is little knowledge about these movements (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Abhinav 2019). Thus, the possibility that the birds in the first two records from Pong Lake, on 7 March 2019 and 9 March 2020, were migrating, was not ruled out initially. However, multiple individuals were recorded on separate occasions during the winter of 2021-2022, which suggest that the previously recorded birds might also have been wintering at Pong Lake. Perhaps they were only noticed in late winter because they became relatively more vocal, as the breeding season approached. These records from Pong Lake are the first confirmed wintering records of the species from India. Thus, the wintering range of the West Himalayan Bush Warbler extends up to Pong Lake, Himachal Pradesh, and further wintering records from Pong Lake and from other wetlands in northern India would consolidate this. The West Himalayan Bush Warbler was not reported from Kangra District by Whistler (1926a, b) or den Besten (2004). These records, from three winters, are the first from the Kangra District and add another piece to the jigsaw puzzle that is the wintering range of the West Himalayan Bush Warbler.

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The Red Knot *Calidris canutus* in western Maharashtra

This note describes a rare wader that was observed while conducting a shorebird census at the Vashi mudflats in Thane Creek (Maharashtra, India), during autumn migration, on 9 November 2021, at 0900 h. Our rowing boat got stranded on the exposed mudflats during the lowest of low tides (tide height 1.6 m) at transect (19.04°N, 73.00°E) where we saw a single Red Knot *Calidris canutus* [182]. It was found on an open foreshore mudflat, specifically, the upper region near the mangrove line. The mudflat is uneven, and the average low tide exposes nearly one to one-and-a-half kilometres of a soft muddy-sandy substratum. Shallow ditches and runnels hold water even during the low tide. Polychaetes and Cerithium sp., gastropods are commonly seen dwelling within this area. Apart from this macrobenthic diversity, mussels are also seen forming dense beds over this tidal flat. We saw a mixed flock of 2,500 individuals of Curlew Sandpipers C. ferruginea, Little Stints C. minuta, Broad-billed Sandpipers C. falcinellus and Lesser Sand-plovers Charadrius mongolus foraging on the mudflats. The Red Knot's feeding behaviour was similar to that of Curlew Sandpipers. We identified it using Grimmett et al. (2011), based on the presence of a prominent supercilium and its smaller size compared to Great Knot. We sent this image to Tim Inskipp who also agreed with our identification (Tim Inskipp, e-mail dated 9 December 2021)

Red Knots occur regularly on the south-eastern coast of India (Balachandran 1998); migrating along the East Asian– Australasian flyway. However, its occurrence along India's the western coast (eBird 2022) is sporadic, though it has been spotted multiple times along the western coast in recent years: from Gujarat (Ganpule 2016; Solanki 2018) and Kerala (Srinivasan 2015; Bharathan 2016) while past reports from Goa (Lainer 2004; Borges & Shanbhag 2007) has not been accepted for the state checklist (Baidya & Bhagat 2018). However, ours is the first report from western Maharashtra.



182. A Red Knot at Vashi mudflat along with Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints, Broad-billed Sandpipers, and Lesser Sand-plovers, 9 November 2021.

We are grateful to Tim Inskipp for confirming the identification of the birds. We sincerely wish to thank Bivash Pandav, Director, BNHS, Rahul Khot, Deputy Director, Sameer Bajaru, Assistant Curator, Mrugank Prabhu Scientist C, and, Reshma Pitale Scientist C, for providing all the necessary resources and facilities in the organisation.

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The Asian Openbill Anastomus oscitans from the Union Territory of Ladakh, India

The Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* that mostly inhabits inland wetlands, freshwater marshlands, and paddy fields in South and Southeast Asia (Elliott et al. 2020). In India it is a widespread resident in the plains, except in the Thar landscape of Rajasthan, north-eastern India (except Assam), and the Himalayan region (Grimmett et al. 2011).

On 30 November 2021, while surveying under the GEF-UNDP funded 'Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan of UT of Ladakh' project, two Asian Openbills were sighted in flight over the Indus River (34.17°N, 77.33°E; 3,113 m asl) in Leh District, UT of Ladakh, India at 1625 h, where one of them was carrying its prey **[183]**. The birds were identified as adults and were largely white with black flight feathers and tail, and with a distinctive gap in the dull greyish yellow bill (Grimmett et al. 2011).



183. Asian Openbill flying over the Indus River at Leh, UT of Ladakh, India, 30 November 2021.

This is the first sighting record of the Asian Openbill in the UT of Ladakh. Though the species is widespread and common in its given range, it was not recorded in the trans-Himalayan region earlier (eBird 2022). Its nearest record is from Kathua in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, which is 260 km from the location of our sighting (eBird 2022). The elevation of this observation, at 3,113 m asl, is also the highest recorded for the Asian Openbill in India (assessed with GeoCAT). None of the extant published works (Ali & Ripley 1983; Kazmierczak 2000; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; eBird 2022; iNaturalist; Global Biodiversity Information Forum) mention the elevation range of the species. However, Liu et al. (2015) have recorded the Asian Openbill at an elevation of ,3840 m asl at Wudi Lake (at Yunnan province) in China.

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