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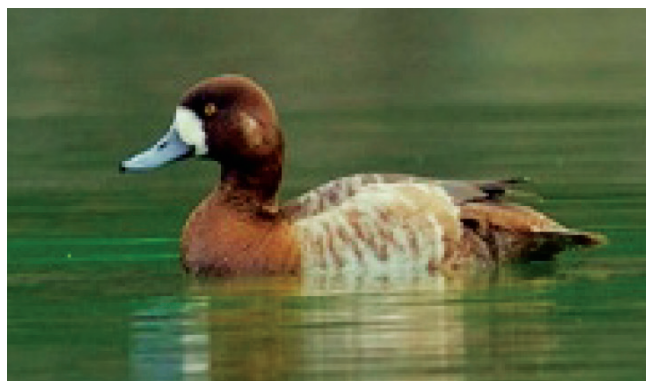
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### The Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* in Sikkim

The Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* is a winter visitor to the Indian Subcontinent (Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), with records from across the northern Indian Subcontinent from western, northern, central, eastern, and north-eastern India (eBird 2022).

On 8 April 2022, while visiting Kathok Lake (27.37°N, 88.22°E) in my hometown, Yuksom, Sikkim, to see the Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* that had arrived a week ago, I saw a duck alongside the grebe. The duck [219, 220] had a large white patch at the base of the bill and sides of face, a pale patch on the ear-coverts, and vermiculations on the mantle that were almost the same colour as the flanks. By these two striking features, it was immediately identified as a female Greater Scaup. This seems to be the first documented record of this species from the state of Sikkim. This is most possibly a bird on passage that decided to rest enroute to its breeding grounds.



219. The female Greater Scaup. Pic. Lakpa Tenzing Sherpa



220. The Greater Scaup (right) with the Great Crested Grebe (left).

### References

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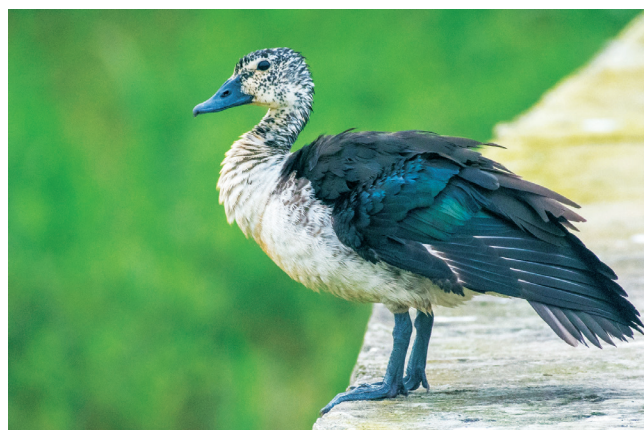
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### The Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*: An addition to the avifauna of Himachal Pradesh, India, with notes on its breeding

The Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* is quite distinctive in appearance. In India, it is a widespread, but scarce and local resident from Gujarat, eastwards to the Assam Valley, northwards to the Punjab, and southwards to northern Kerala and northern Tamil Nadu (Grimmett et al. 1998, 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). In this note we discuss records of the Knob-billed Duck from the Sirmaur District of Himachal Pradesh, India, and assess the older records of the species from the state.

HC recorded the Knob-billed Duck regularly for four years near Paonta Sahib, Sirmaur District. His sightings of the bird were between Amargarh and Ganguwala Jamniwala villages, near Bata River, a small tributary of the Yamuna (30.46°N, 77.58°E; c.400 m asl), which is less than a half kilometre from his house. The first sighting on 19 July 2018, was of a male and two females. Four birds were seen on 17 March 2019. During the Covid-19 pandemic, between March 2020 and May 2021, HC visited this rivulet three to five times per week, and saw the Knob-billed Duck on almost every one of his visits. Between 1–12 birds were seen, which were also photographed on several occasions, including of males in territorial fights [221, 222].



221, 222. Knob-billed duck near Amargarh, Sirmaur District, Himachal Pradesh, 12 August 2020.