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An Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* egg in a Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* nest

On 6 June 2022, at 1006 h, while returning after bird watching at Bhigwan, Pune (18.28°N, 74.77°E), we came across a nest with three Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and one Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* egg [34]. The nest was located in an unused agricultural field. The nest was a shallow mud scrape made up of shell fragments, twigs, and agricultural stubble. The Black-winged Stilt eggs were cream-coloured with black and brown spots, whereas the Oriental Pratincole egg was relatively smaller in size with black-brown blotches on a pale brown base.



Both: Mayank Shukla

34. Black-winged Stilt nest with an egg of Oriental Pratincole.

The extra egg presumed as the Oriental Pratincole egg based on our observations of several other Oriental Pratincoles incubating in the same agricultural field, and the egg was visually compared with other Oriental Pratincole eggs. Photographs were taken from a safe distance without approaching very close to the nest. After photographing the nest, we moved outside the field carefully to a distant point to observe the nest using binoculars. The observations were made from a distance of about 15 m. We lied down on the ground after scanning the sky and nearby area to ensure that there are no predators and then observed the nest. After a few minutes, a pair of Black-winged Stilt approached the nest and one of the birds started to incubate while the other one flew away [35]. We observed the nest for about one hour during which the eggs were continuously incubated by the parent bird

[35]. We could only observe the same nest the next day for about 15 min and found no change in egg composition and number. The Black-winged Stilt pair was found to incubate the nest.



35. Parent Black-winged Stilt incubating.

The breeding ecology of Oriental Pratincole has not been studied extensively (Maclean & Kirwan 2020), however further emphasis on this could potentially reveal if such instances are just mistakes of egg laying by Oriental Pratincole or possibly a case of brood parasitism.

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High altitude records of Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* and Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* in the Nepal Himalaya

We report sightings of Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* and Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* from altitudes previously unreported for them, from ward number 4 of Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Mustang District, Gandaki Province, Nepal, which lies in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

In Nepal, the Orange-headed Thrush is a locally common and mainly a summer visitor, with some birds remaining all year as widespread partial migrants (Inskipp et al. 2016). This bird inhabits wet ravines and understory of the moist deciduous forests (Inskipp & Inskipp 1991), evergreen forest, bamboo thickets, and plantations in tropical and subtropical zones (Collar & Juana 2020). The maximum elevations documented for this species are 1,830 m (Ali & Ripley 1971; Kazmeirczak 2000 ; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Inskipp et al. 2016; Grimm et al. 2016), and 2,300 m (BirdLife International 2022a).

On Saturday, 22 May 2021, one Orange-headed Thrush entered a house in Jomsom village (28.78°N, 83.73°E) and got

stuck inside. RB photographed the bird while rescuing it from the house at 1617 h. [36]. Jomsom is at an altitude of 2,764 m asl, and this is the highest elevation recorded for the Orange-headed Thrush. The bird was seen in the same area for one month after its release.



Rishi Baral

36. Orange-headed Thrush, Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Mustang District, Nepal, 22 May 2021.

The Asian Koel is a common and widespread resident and summer visitor, and a rare summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area. It inhabits open woodland, groves, gardens, and cultivation (Grimmett et al. 2000). The maximum elevations documented for this species are 1,800 m (Ali & Ripley 1981; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Grimmett et al. 2018; Limparungpatthanakij 2020), 1,500 m (BirdLife International 2022b), and 1,800 m (Inskipp et al. 2016). On Saturday, 6 June 2021, a female Asian Koel was found injured and dead in the Annapurna Project Nursery [37] (28.78°N, 83.73°E, 2,749m asl) under a Himalayan poplar *Populus ciliate* tree. This is highest elevation record documented for the species.



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37. Female Asian Koel, Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Mustang District, Nepal, 6 June 2021.

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Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* from Hokarsar wetland Jammu and Kashmir, India

The Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, a medium sized diving duck, breeds across the boreal forests of Scandinavia, eastern Europe, Russia, Mongolia, northern China, Canada, Alaska and northern USA, and is reported wintering in south-eastern Europe and Central and South Asia (Eadie 2020). In this note I report the sighting of a Common Goldeneye from Hokarsar Wetland Reserve in the Kashmir Valley, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Hokarsar, 10 km north-west of Srinagar, is a Ramsar Site and one of the main wetland reserves, and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) of India. It serves as a major wintering stopover habitat in the region for a great diversity of migratory ducks, geese, and swans.

On 24 February 2022, at 1645 h, while observing a group of diving ducks- Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* and Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* at Hokarsar wetland, I spotted one bird that looked quite different. I took some photographs [38] of the bird and