

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.



Rishi Baral

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

observed it carefully. On 26 February 2022, I again sighted the bird in the middle of the same habitat in Hokersar wetland. The bird had chocolate brown head, slaty-grey back and tail, and white flanks, belly, and breast. On careful observation of the field characters, examination of the photographs, and with the help of expert birders, it was identified as a female Common Goldeneye. There are historic records of the Common Goldeneye having been shot from Wular lake and in Hokersar (Ward 1907). Since then, there are no reports of sighting of this species from the region (Rahmani & Islam 2008; Suhail et al. 2020; eBird 2022) and hence this seems to be the first definitive record, with photographic evidence, of the Common Goldeneye from the Kashmir Valley since 1907.



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38. Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* at Hokarsar wetland, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Sightings of multiple individuals of Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* from various parts of Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India

The Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* is found throughout the Indian Subcontinent (southwards up to Sri Lanka), eastwards to Myanmar, south & south-eastern China (including Hainan), Thailand (except in the southern parts), and Indochina (Rowley & Russell 2020). Though the species is widely distributed in the southern parts of India, and in a few parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat (Vyas et al. 2015), it is largely absent in the northern parts of Madhya Pradesh (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Grimmett et

al. 2011).

During our two-day bird survey in Kuno National Park, we spotted more than 15 Ashy Woodswallows [39] in the Agara range (25.93°N, 77.23°E) on 30 April 2022. On the next day we recorded 10+ individuals near Ransingh Talaiya (25.95°N, 77.26°E). At both the sites, the woodswallows were flying with Red-rumped Swallows *Cecropis daurica* and Little Swifts *Apus affinis*. At the first site we observed the birds till dark and realised that this was their roosting site. They roosted in groups. Both the sites are located next to waterbodies, namely, Agara Taal and Ransingh Talaiya respectively. Apart from our observations, six more Ashy Woodswallows were reported from Pulpur, Ahera, and near Jhankyapur village by Arvind Gajbhiye, Sachin Matkar, and Jaipal Singh respectively during the bird survey.



Arvind Gajbhiye

39. Ashy Woodswallow from Agara range, Kuno National Park.

I did a literature search of the following sources, GBIF (www.gbif.org), eBird (www.ebird.org), and field guides with distribution information and maps (Ali & Ripley 1983; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Grimmett et al. 2011), to locate other reports of Ashy Woodswallows in the neighbourhood. Though the species has not been reported from northern Madhya Pradesh, there are a few reports from Rajasthan (Table 1). The nearest site from the location being reported here, is Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan (Gregory 1993; Grimmett et al. 2016) which is c. 80 km westwards. The closest site where a photograph is available for examination is from Kota (Rajasthan) which is c. 190 kms west of the present location (Singhal 2021). There are a few reports from the southern and eastern parts of Madhya Pradesh as well (Fig. 1).

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