

# First report of Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* from the Vidarbha region, Maharashtra, India

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Wadtkar, J. S., & Wagh, G. A., 2014. First report of Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* from the Vidarbha region, Maharashtra, India. *Indian BIRDS* 9 (5&6): 162.

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Manuscript received on 24 April 2014.

The Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* is a summer visitor up to eastern Afghanistan, is found sporadically in Baluchistan, and resident in modern day eastern Iran. It winters in northern and eastern Afghanistan, southern Sind, in provinces that are part of erstwhile eastern Punjab, currently in Pakistan, up to the Assam Valley. It extends down to Chilka Lake, Odisha, and has been reported from northern Maharashtra (Rasmussen *et al.* 2012).

Malkhed Reservoir (20°84'33"N, 77°91'89"E), is located in Pohara Malkhed Reserve Forest in Amravati District, Maharashtra, and is 25 km from Amravati city. We visited the reservoir on 09 January 2011 for a casual birding trip. While observing a flock of Ruddy Shelduck *T. ferruginea*, one differently coloured individual caught our attention. We took a photograph for the record, and carefully resumed observation through binoculars. The bird was about the size of a Ruddy Shelduck, but was coloured white with a black head, a chestnut breast band, had a red bill with a frontal



197. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in flight at Malkhed Reservoir.

knob, and had pink legs and feet. We identified the bird as an adult Common Shelduck (Ali & Ripley 1969; Grimmett *et al.* 1999; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) [196, 197].

The species has not been reported previously from central India—spanning the regions of Vidarbha, the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (D'Abreu 1935; Anon 2009; Wadtkar *et al.* 2010). We felt the sighting, being a first for not only Amravati District but also for Vidarbha in central India was noteworthy.

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Photos: Gajanan Wagh

196. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* at Malkhed Reservoir.