

listed as a scarce to uncommon winter visitor to eastern Myanmar (Robson 2000). The nearest known record is from Mount Popa in central Myanmar (Keaveney 2010), c.300 km southeast of our sighting. It is probably a passage or winter migrant through the eastern parts of Myanmar, but is typically unreported due to the region being under-birded.

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– **Dipu Karuthedathu, Christopher J.Z. Lawlor,
Joe R. Z. Thanga & Praveen J**

Dipu Karuthedathu, Jaya Emerald, Maruthinagar, Bengaluru 560075, Karnataka.

Email: [Corresponding author] [DK]

Christopher J.Z. Lawlor, Government Kolasib College, Kolasib-796081, Mizoram.

Email: chrislawlor68@gmail.com [CL]

Joe R. Z. Thanga, Zoram Tours, A-9, Sikulpukawn, Mission Veng, Aizawl, Mizoram.

Email: joerzthanga@yahoo.com [JRZT]

Praveen J, Villa 5, Embassy Homes, Mudavanmugal, Poojappura PO, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Email: paintedtork@gmail.com [PJ]

Frog in diet of the Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* from the National Chambal Sanctuary, India

The Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* is a small (33 cm), Endangered tern with a deeply forked tail, long orange bill, and in breeding plumage showing a black cap, distinctive black belly and vent, and long outer tail feathers in breeding plumage (Rahmani 2012; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; BirdLife International 2025). The species, like some other riverine bird species in South and Southeast Asia, was once widespread and abundant along large rivers, but its population and range has undergone a drastic decline in recent times. It is now principally confined to India, where the vast majority (>90%) of the population resides (BirdLife International 2025).

The Black-bellied Tern (BBTE) is resident from the Indus River in Pakistan, along major river systems of India, eastwards to the Assam Valley and central Bangladesh (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Gochfeld et al. 2020). It is found on large rivers with extensive sandbanks, occasionally on smaller pools and ditches, in lowlands (BirdLife International 2025). It breeds between February and May on bare sandy islands on large rivers (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The National Chambal Sanctuary (hereinafter, NCS) on the Chambal River in India is well-known for hosting a significant population of BBTE (Rahmani 2012). The species forages predominantly in shallow, slow moving stretches of the river as it provides an abundance of prey items, including small fish and invertebrates. It feeds by flying low over water and plucking food from the water surface; it also plunge-dives for fish or aerial dips for insects over water and land (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Gochfeld et al. 2020). It feeds mainly on small fishes, also insects (including dragonflies) and crustaceans (Rahmani 2012; Gochfeld et al. 2020). We reviewed 1,376 images of BBTE archived at the Macaulay Library database and found 33 images of the species with prey items. After accounting for duplicate images, we finally used 26 images (= 26 records) to ascertain the prey preference of the species. 69% (18) records had small fish as prey, 4% (1) records had small shrimp as prey; however, the prey item in the remaining 27% (7) records was unidentifiable due to the poor quality of images. In all images, the

fish species could not be identified but the images indicate that the prey items were small fish, 5–7 cm in length, and forming the major part of the diet of the species.

During our long-term nest monitoring study of riverine birds at NCS from 2017–2023, with fieldwork during March–July, we regularly observed BBTE feeding on small fish. During the same period, we also identified some of the food-items brought by adults for nestlings as small shrimp. On one occasion, we found a small, completely dried frog in an active nest in May 2023. On 01 June 2023, we observed a BBTE actively foraging at edges of the river and catching a Common Skittering Frog *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* on the river bank [52]. Based on our two observations of BBTE preying on frogs, it can probably be considered as an opportunistic prey item in the diet of the species, especially during the nesting season when the species is provisioning nestlings. Given the absence of prior research on the dietary habits of the BBTE, this record presents an opportunity for further investigation.

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52. Black-bellied Tern (breeding adult) with a Common Skittering Frog as prey, dated 01 June 2023.

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– **Parveen Shaikh & Viraj V. Athalye**

Parveen Shaikh, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Opposite Lion Gate, SBS Road, Fort, Mumbai 400001, Maharashtra, India. E-mail: parveenevs@gmail.com [Corresponding author]