

## Snapshot Sightings

### Long-tailed Duck from Gazaldoba, West Bengal

Shantanu Prasad



A female Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* was seen and photographed on 23 February 2013 from Gazaldoba (26°45'N, 88°34'E), Siliguri in West Bengal. The bird was still there when other birders visited on 2 & 3 March 2013. Prior sightings from India are from Masaki in Arunachal Pradesh in 1935 (Parsons 1935), Hokra Jheel in Kashmir in 1940 (Ludlow 1940), Asan Barrage in Uttarkhand in Jan 1991 (Singh 1991) and Harike in Punjab in Feb 2001 (Prasad 2008). This is perhaps the first photographic record of this vulnerable duck species from India.

Shantanu Prasad, 53 R N Das Road, Daspara, Dhakuria, Kolkata, India 700031.  
Email: [shantanubitech@gmail.com](mailto:shantanubitech@gmail.com)

### Greylag Goose from Koonthakulam, southern Tamil Nadu

Suresh Elamon



A Greylag Goose *Anser anser* was seen amidst a flock of Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* in a village tank near Koonthakulam (8°29'N, 77°45'E) on 19 February 2013. Bal Pandey, who showed the bird to me, indicated that the bird has been seen frequently for the last one month or so. This is the first record for Tamil Nadu and the southern-most peninsular record—previous ones from south India being unpublished reports from Kaggalipura tank, Mysore in Karnataka (Jan 2007) and Kolleru in Andhra Pradesh (Jan 2013) (Praveen *J. pers. comm.*, February 2013).

Suresh Elamon, Birdwing, CIT Road, Karamana.P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, India 695002.  
Email: [yeselamon@gmail.com](mailto:yeselamon@gmail.com)

### Brown-cheeked Rail from Kolkata region, West Bengal

Kshounish Sankar Ray

A Brown-cheeked Rail *Rallus indicus* was seen for a considerable period of time on 10 March 2013 at Joka (22°26'N, 88°19'E), Kolkata, West Bengal. The species has been recently split from the European Water Rail *R. aquaticus*, which winters widely in north



India (Rasmussen & Anderton, 2012). Though its range includes the entire NE India including Kolkata area; due to its secretive habits, this species is rarely reported from India and this perhaps is the only recent photo documentation from West Bengal.

Kshounish Sankar Ray, 46, Abdul Halim Lane, Kolkata 700016, West Bengal, India.  
Email: [kshounishray@gmail.com](mailto:kshounishray@gmail.com)

### Kashmir Flycatcher from Munnar Hills, Kerala

Shashank Dalvi



A first-winter Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra* was photographed from the outskirts (10°07'N, 77°05'E) of Eravikulam NP, Munnar Hills, Kerala on 7 December 2012 while trekking to our basecamp inside Eravikulam NP for a bird survey organised by PO Nameer & Praveen J in Munnar Hills. Orange-wash all the way till flanks, white between throat and lower breast, clear black rump and continuous 'trrr' call like Red-breasted Flycatcher, but comparatively higher pitched were noted. The photos and description were also opinioned by Prasad Ganpule who studied this species in Gujarat recently (Ganpule 2011). This is the first record of this species south of Palakkad gap in the Western Ghats (Sashikumar *et al.* 2011), though it is a regular winter visitor to Sri Lanka.

Shashank Dalvi, Alumnus Post graduate Program in Wildlife Biology and Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society-India, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India 560065.  
Email: [shashank.da@gmail.com](mailto:shashank.da@gmail.com)

### References

- Ganpule, P., 2012. The female/first winter Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra*: an identification conundrum. *Indian BIRDS* 7 (6): 153–158.
- Ludlow, F., 1940. The Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) in Kashmir. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 41 (3): 666.
- Parsons, R. E., 1935. A second record of the occurrence of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis* Linn.) in India. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 38 (1): 193–194.
- Prasad, A., 2008. Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* at Harike Lake, Punjab, India. *Indian Birds* 4 (1): 16–17.
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. 2 vols. Pp. 1–378; 1–683.
- Sashikumar, C., Praveen J., Palot, M. J., & Nameer, P. O., 2011. *Birds of Kerala: status and distribution*. 1st ed. Kottayam, Kerala: DC Books. Pp. 1–835.
- Singh, A. P., 1991. Sighting of Longtail or Old Squaw Duck after 52 years in India. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 31 (3&4): 9.