

Snapshot sightings

Smew from Gazaldoba, West Bengal

Some Subhra Patra



A female (or a first winter male) Smew *Mergellus albellus* was photographed on 3 March 2013 from Gazaldoba (26°45'N, 88°34'E), Siliguri in West Bengal. Grimmett *et al.* 2011 maps a total of 14 records from India, almost all are historical, and it is considered a rare winter visitor to the eastern part of the subcontinent (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). This is perhaps the second photographic record from India, the previous one was also a similar plumage bird by Mike Prince from the same site in December 2010, and that bird stayed for almost a month and was photographed by others too.

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Red-necked Grebe from Leh, Ladakh

Mandar Khadilkar



A Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* in breeding plumage was observed on three consecutive days from 10 July 2013 onwards in a lake (34°08'N, 77°30'E) near Spituk, Leh, Ladakh. Apparently the same individual has been photographed by others during an extended period from 12 June till 18 August 2013. This is the first record for Ladakh (Pfister 2004) and the breeding adult is considered unlikely in the South Asian region; though winter plumage birds have been recorded from Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, western Gangetic plains and Assam. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

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Mew Gull from Bhuj, Gujarat

James Eaton



A first winter Mew (Common) Gull *Larus canus* was recorded amidst a mixed flock of Gulls on 30 January 2013 at Bhuj (22°45'N, 69°35'E), Gujarat during a tour of *Birdtour-Asia* that I was leading along with Frank Lambert. This is a winter vagrant to India with a handful of sight records from the north and west of India while there are neither documented specimens (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) nor published photographs and hence of interest.

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Indian White-rumped Spinetail from Maredumilli, Andhra Pradesh

Anand Kalinadhabhatla



A group of 4–5 Indian White-rumped Spinetails *Zonavena sylvatica* were photographed in Maredumilli coffee plantation (17°36'N, 81°42'E) in Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, at 0800hrs on 11 March 2013. This appears to be the first record of this species from Andhra Pradesh (Pittie 2012) though it occurs further north in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha.

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