



33. Yellow-legged Buttonquail in Nainital.

were all from southern India: 1,880 m in Idukki District, Kerala (Robson 1984); 1,190 m in Chamrajnagar District, Karnataka (Jacob 2013); and 1,170 m in Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu (Raghunathan 2014). The top three global altitudinal records were all from China, all above 4,000 m: Sichuan Province (Artuso 2005; Pepper T 2013), and Qinghai Province (Eaton 2014). The species range map in www.ebird.org clearly shows the bird's records in the Himalaya are all along the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), i.e., in the foothills of Himalaya and hence this sighting record is significant. The species inhabits, grasslands, scrub, and crop fields (Debus & Kirwan 2020). However, the present sighting is from a forested area with sparse grassy habitat. This species is not included in Mohan & Sondhi (2017) though the authors mention that it could occur in wetlands in the Uttarakhand plains. We cannot rule out a possible escapee, but Yellow-legged Buttonquails entering homes during migration is well known. There are many photographic records in eBird, of captured individuals, with two records from Bengaluru, one record each from Kottayam, Idukki, Mysuru, and Mumbai in India, and from Bangkok and Udon Thani in Thailand (eBird 2020).

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Large flocks of Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone* and Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* in Nepal

'Congragating' is a common behaviour amongst waterbirds, some storks and cranes use it strategically in their behavioural repertoire (BirdLife International 2008). Information on congregations is useful as it can aid in monitoring populations as well as conserving key sites. In this note, we report on the large flocks of Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone* and Painted stork *Mycteria leucocephala* in Nepal.

Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone*

At 1630 h, on 11 May 2017, 120 Sarus Cranes were recorded at Jagadishpur Reservoir (27.62°N, 83.10° E) in Kapilvastu District [34]. Moreover, we had counted 94 Sarus Cranes in fields of harvested wheat, 50 m southwards of the same reservoir on 17 April 2018 [35]. A flock of mixed age group (i.e., juveniles and adults) were spotted during both observations, though the ratio of adults and juveniles was not estimated. Preening, courtship displays, and feeding were the dominant behaviours at the time of observation.



34. A part of the flock of Sarus Crane observed at Jagadishpur Reservoir.

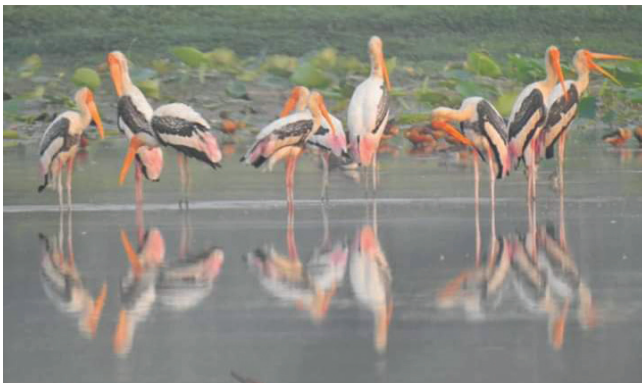


35. A part of the flock of Sarus Crane observed in farmland nearby Jagadishpur Reservoir.

The Sarus Crane is a globally Vulnerable crane, and is distributed within a cluster in Nepal (BirdLife International 2016a; Inskipp et al. 2016). The present record is from the Kapilvastu District, which, combined with the Rupandehi District harbours more than 85% of the total population of Sarus Crane in Nepal (Katuwal 2016). Previous studies (Kumar & Kanaujia 2015; Prakash & Verma 2016) found congregations during pre-breeding (pre-monsoon) and post-breeding (winter) periods. The behaviour during the present observation also supports the argument that the congregation might help with the pairing of unmated cranes (Kumar & Kanaujia 2015; Prakash & Verma 2016); however, a structured study on this aspect is required. Hence, efforts should be made to conserve such congregation sites to aid with species' sexual selection and reproduction.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

At 1800 h on 25 April 2018, we recorded 102 Painted Storks, including three immature birds, at Badhaiya Lake (28.20° N, 81.52°E), Bardia District, Nepal [36]. On the same lake, the flock was clustered in two groups of 48 and 54 storks respectively.



36. A part of the flock of Painted Stork recorded at Badhaiya Lake, Bardia.

The Painted Stork is globally Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2016b) and a nationally endangered stork with an estimated population of 50 (Inskipp et al. 2016). The largest flock of the Painted Storks, before the above, was recorded in December 1979, when 57 birds were counted at Gaidahawa Lake, Rupandehi District (Underwood 1980) 185 km east of the present record. Southwards of Badhaiya Lake, in Uttar Pradesh, India, there are 12 colonies of Painted Stork (Tiway et al. 2014) that could be the source population for this congregation in Nepal. The present record spreads optimism as Nepal was earlier known to harbour very few populations of the Painted Stork.

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Brood parasitism by Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* on Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* in Kerala

The Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* is a known brood parasitic of six different species in South Asia, namely, Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*, Orange Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*, Black-headed Cuckooshrike *Lalage melanoptera*, Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*, Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*, and Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*. Of these, its most observed host is the Common Iora (Payne 2005; Erritzøe et al. 2012; Krishna & Rodrigues 2020; Praveen & Lowther 2020). Here we report a new host for this cuckoo, the