

There is a earlier record of Black-bellied Tern from Baramulla, J&K (34.06°N, 74.79°E) on 11th of May, 2016 but no photographic evidence was available. Also, Grimmett et al. 2011 map a small location in Pakistan administered Kashmir, the source of it which we could not trace.

Moustached Warbler

On 22nd of September, 2019, 10:30 hrs, we (PC and AK) spotted and photographed a warbler species in the reed along the Chenab river at the same location (Jourian, Akhnoor) where Black-bellied Tern was observed. It was later identified as Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* after carefully looking at the characters like broad square-ended supercilium with blackish sides of crown and black eye-stripe (Grimmett et al. 2011) [63]. Our observation marked its first confirmed report from Jammu and Kashmir. Grimmett et al. 2011 map a vast area in Pakistan and Pakistan administered Kashmir and some trace records in Indian plains as its winter migration grounds whereas Shah (2017) reported its presence from Marala, Punjab (Pakistan). After our observation, one individual was spotted in the reeds near Gharana Wetland Reserve (32.54°N, 74.69°E), 30 km south of Jammu on 29th December, 2019 (Chibber & Kumar 2019). Kumar (2019) spotted one individual in the reed bed around Basantar rivulet (32.51°N, 75.02°E), Samba, whereas Shagoo (2019) spotted two individuals near Indo-Pak border at Samba (32.50°N, 75.09°E) on 1st March 2020). Again, on the 12th of January, 2021, at 17:00 hrs, two individuals were spotted by PC & RM in the reed near Ravi river at Keeriyian (32.32°N, 75.51°E), Kathua (J&K) (Chibber & Mahaldar 2021).



Pankaj Chibber

63. Moustached Warbler

Our present sightings and photographic records establish the presence of Black-bellied Tern and Moustached Warbler in Jammu and Kashmir.

References

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. London: Oxford University Press. 528.
Chibber P., & Kumar P., 2020. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S64305329>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.

Shah I., 2017. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65184711>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.
Chibber P., & Kumar S., 2019. <https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S62740462>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.
Kumar P., 2020. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S64903726>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.
Shagoo P., 2020. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S65304794>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.
Chibber P., & Mahaldar R., 2021. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S79115808>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.

– Pankaj Chibber^{1*} and Ajay Kumar²

¹ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Canal Road, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 180001.

² Department of School Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir - 180001.

* Corresponding author: Pankaj Chibber, pankajchibber@live.com, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Canal Road, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 180001.

Acronyms: Dr Pankaj Chibber (PC), Ajay Kumar (AK), Dr Parmil Kumar (PK), Sudesh Kumar (SK), Rommel Mahaldar (RM).

The Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* in Uttarakhand, western Himalaya

The Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* is found in the highlands of the Tibetan Plateau, and the high-altitude regions of India and Bhutan. It inhabits and breeds at high elevations between 2,500–5,000 m asl, largely around Alpine bog meadows and fresh water wetlands (Archibald et al. 2020). It is distributed from eastern Ladakh in north-western India to Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh in the east, through Tibet to Sichuan in south-western China (Ganguli-Lachungpa 1998; Lhuendup & Webb 2009; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Chandan et al. 2013; Daniel Mize et al. 2018; Menzies et al. 2019).



64. A pair of Black-necked Crane observed in wet meadow habitat.

On 20 May 2021, during a bird diversity survey in the higher Himalayan reaches of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand, we spotted a pair of Black-necked Cranes wandering through shallow marsh and wet meadow habitat (30.20N, 79.66°E) at an elevation of 3,666 m asl. We observed the pair all through the day, as they fed in the meadow near the marshy area, and presume that a better habitable condition, and the availability of an ample supply of food at such a high altitude wetland may have attracted the birds to this area [64]. This is the first report of the species from Uttarakhand. It has not been included in the updated list of birds of this region (Mohan & Sondhi 2017).

We would like to thank Deepak Kaparwan, (NTPC Joshimath Chamoli), and Nayan Farswan for their help during the field work.

References

- Archibald, G. W., Meine, C. D., & Kirwan, G. M., 2020. Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), version 1.0. In: *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Webpage URL: <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.blncra1.01>. [Accessed on 03 December 2021.]
- Chandan, P., Khan, A., Takpa, J., Hussain, S.A., Mehdi, K., Jamwal, P. S., Rattan, R., Khatoon, N., Rigzin, T., Anand, A., Datta, P. K., Ahmad, T., Ghose, P. S., Shrestha, P., & Theengh, L. T., 2014. Status and distribution of Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) in India. *Zoological Research* 35 (S1): 39–50.
- Ganguli-Lachungpa, U., 1998. Attempted breeding of the Blacknecked Crane *Grus nigricollis* Przevalski in North Sikkim. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 95 (2): 341.
- Lhendup, P., & Webb, E. L., 2009. Black-necked Cranes *Grus nigricollis* in Bhutan: migration routes, threats and conservation prospects. *Forktail* 25: 125–129.
- Menzies, R. K., Rao, M., & Kumar, A., 2019. Two new locations for the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* (Przhevalsky, 1876) (Aves: Gruiformes: Gruidae) in Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 11 (10): 14381–14384. doi: <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.5337.11.10.14381-14384>
- Mize, D., Tamir, T., Biju, T., Ngukir, J., Kimsing, A. T., & Taba, R., 2018. Review of Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* in Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India, including a new wintering site. *BirdingASIA* 30: 96–97.
- Mohan, D., & Sondhi, S., 2017. *An updated checklist and bibliography of the birds of Uttarakhand*. Dehradun, India: Uttarakhand Forest Department. Pp. i–vi, 1–98.
- 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.

– Anand Kumar, Rajeev Lochan, Saurabh Dewan & Dinesh Kumar Sharma

Anand Kumar, Government Post Graduate College Joshimath, Chamoli, Uttarakhand, India.
E-mail: akumar.ags@gmail.com [Corresponding author]
Saurabh Dewan, Turtle Survival Alliance - India Program, Jankipuram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
Rajeev Lochan & Dinesh Kumar Sharma: HNB Garhwal University Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India.



In Memoriam

AVINANDAN DEENDAYALAN

(1980–2022)

Avinandan, fondly known as Avin, was fascinated by birds since childhood. Avin passed away on 17th March 2022 after a year-long battle with Leukaemia. He is survived by his parents, wife, sister and daughter Aurea. His gentle being, wonderful and quirky humour and deep compassion for his avian friends will be missed.

He was passionate about environmental issues and doing his bit for the planet as early as thirteen. He was actively involved in the Deccan birders society, one of India's leading birding societies. In Rishi Valley School, where Avin finished high school, he served as the warden of the Rishi Valley Bird Preserve. After school, Avin obtained a bachelor's degree in Farm Science from the Loyola Academy, Hyderabad. He then got an MSc in Wildlife Biology from India's prestigious Wildlife Institute of India. Avin's paper Prey Selection by Tigers in Sariska Reserve was initially published in The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Several times, it has been cited concerning the pioneering initiative that reintroduced tigers at the Sariska Reserve.

Avin was the Regional Research Coordinator for the Indo Malayan Region of the Parrot Researchers Group (PRG) that establishes and promotes research needs and priorities with particular attention to regional conservation strategies for parrots of the world. He was also the India Representative of the World Parrot Trust, an organisation he had been a member of since 2001. Avin was a member of the Working Group on Ethics in Ornithology (International Ornithologists Union).

In Chennai and Bangalore, Avin coordinated rescue efforts of endangered birds that were illegally traded or kept and worked in collaboration with forest wardens. He also played an active role in rehabilitating birds kept in cruel conditions.

Apart from birds, Avin was an enthusiastic scholar of the Mahabharata, the classical Indian epic. Avin had a day job in human resources and led many nature-inspired outdoor training programs for corporate executives.

–Yamini Deen (sister)