



Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), Bengaluru

228. The Common Tern was measured post-mortem, ARRC, Bengaluru, 1 May 2022.

Common Terns are considered a widespread winter migrant, mainly to the coasts of southern India (Grimmett et al. 2011). However, they are rare inland. The only other eBird record from Bengaluru was in October 2014 (Singh 2014), from Agara Lake (12.91°N, 77.64°E) at HSR Layout, which is ~18 km (aerial distance) from the location reported here. The next closest eBird record of the species, to Bengaluru, is about 28 km (aerial distance) away from Sahakar Nagar at the Thippagondanahalli Reservoir, when a bird was reported on 24 July 2020 (Bowden 2020). Since this species is recorded almost throughout the year from coastal Karnataka, it is likely that this individual is a straggler; however, the waterbodies in and around Bengaluru are possibly visited by Common Terns more often than reported.

We are grateful to the residents of Sahakar Nagar who alerted ARRC to the injured bird.

References

- Bowden, C., 2020. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S71773247>. [Accessed on 14 August 2022.]
- Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft, ed. 2011. *Measuring birds – Vögel vermessen*. Minden: Christ Media Natur.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
- Singh, R., 2014. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S40140432>. [Accessed on 14 August 2022.]
- Jayanthi Kallam, Saleem Hameed,
Subiksha Venkatesh & Rohan K. Menzies
- Jayanthi Kallam, Saleem Hameed & Subiksha Venkatesh: Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), 4th Main Road, Kallumantapa, Horamavu, Bengaluru 560043, Karnataka, India. Email: arrcindia@gmail.com
- Rohan K. Menzies, Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), No. 361, 'Hari Hara', 5th Main Road, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru 560097, Karnataka, India. Email: rohanmenzies@ncf-india.org

A White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh: An addition to Northeast Indian avifauna

At 0815 h on 30 April 2022, while birding around Khellong (26.98°N, 92.42°E; c.800 m asl), Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India, we encountered an unfamiliar bunting (Emberizidae) that was feeding on ground. We were in semi-evergreen forest and broadleaved subtropical forest dominated by various oak species. The bird had an elegant black-and-white facial pattern and silver bill, white upper breast below throat, chestnut lower breast up to belly, and white vent [229]. We concluded from the above plumage that this was a male White-

capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* – a species that had not been recorded in north-eastern India (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; eBird 2022).



Philip Chaon

229. White-capped bunting showing elegant black-and-white facial pattern and silver bill, white upper breast below throat, chestnut lower breast up to belly and White vent.

The White-capped Bunting is found in Afghanistan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (BirdLife International 2022). It breeds in rocky gullies, valleys, and hillsides at middle to upper elevations, and winters at lower altitude, in fields, scrubland, and open dry forest (Madge 2020).

The closest sighting of the bird in India, to our location, is from Simring Tea Garden, West Bengal on 5 Mar 2021 (Ramz 2021); and the closest record from outside India's borders, is from Kazhi, Wangdue Phodrang, Bhutan, on 2 January 2019 (Dorji 2019). These locations are 545 km and 522 km away, respectively, from the current site at Khellong, Arunachal Pradesh.

References

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1987. *Compact handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka*. 2nd ed. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. i–xlii, 1 l., 1–737, 52 ll.
- BirdLife International. 2022. Species factsheet: *Emberiza stewarti*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 28/11/2022.
- Dorji, S., 2019. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S51202946>. [Accessed on 28 November 2022.]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
- Madge, S., 2020. White-capped Bunting (*Emberiza stewarti*), 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. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.chbbun1.01>
- Ramz, S., 2021. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S83799025>. [Accessed on 28 November 2022.]
- 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.

– Manash Pratim, Philip Chaon, Terry Rich, Carol Beardmore,
Gary Nunn, Tom Will, Greg Butcher & Linda Fuller

- Manash Pratim, Duliajan, Dibrugarh, Assam, India. Email: manashjinga@gmail.com
- Philip Chaon, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States. Email: macrodipteryx@gmail.com
- Terry Rich, Boise, Idaho, United States. Email: amphispiza@gmail.com
- Carol Beardmore, Phoenix, Arizona, United States. Email: Dchrysoparia@gmail.com
- Gary Nunn, San Diego, California, United States. Email: garybnunn@gmail.com
- Tom Will, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States. Email: tomwill@umn.edu
- Greg Butcher, Reston, Virginia, United States. Email: gregbutcherwi@hotmail.com
- Linda Fuller, Reston, Virginia, United States. Email: lfbirding@gmail.com