

the Sumatran Laughingthrush adjusted their behaviour to match the optimal foraging speed of the entire flock, whereas in single-species groups they moved at their own pace, allowing them to stay longer in a fruiting tree (Valburg 1992). This could reflect the fact that frugivorous birds are usually in a minority in mixed-species flocks because their food resources are patchy in distribution and must be actively searched for, making it less beneficial to follow a flock (Powell 1985, Kotagama & Goodale 2004, Arbeláez-Cortés & Marín-Gomez 2012). Sumatran Laughingthrush may therefore be more frugivorous when foraging in single-species flocks and more insectivorous when part of mixed-species flocks. Given that well over 90% of our observations involved single-species flocks, it may be that fruits form a higher proportion of the diet of the species than we yet know.

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Records of Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* from the coastal areas of the Kutch district of Gujarat, India

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The Near Threatened Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* is found in South Asia, South-East Asia and Oceania. Its population has declined over the last two decades, largely because of loss of habitat and ongoing changes in land use (Dorfman *et al.* 2001, Sundar 2011). It inhabits freshwater marshes and lakes, pools in open forest, large rivers and flooded grassland (Clancy 2010) up to 1,200 m (Sharma 2007). It also occasionally uses coastal habitats such as estuaries and brackish lagoons and is known to frequent

man-made wetlands and reservoirs (Maheshwaran *et al.* 2004), sewage ponds and irrigation reservoirs (Sundar 2004). Although the species shows a preference for natural wetlands throughout the year, for short periods, particularly during and after the monsoon season when natural wetlands may become too deep for foraging, it uses irrigated crop fields, particularly rice paddies (Sundar 2004). The majority of the ecological information on this species in India has been obtained from inland freshwater wetlands and associated

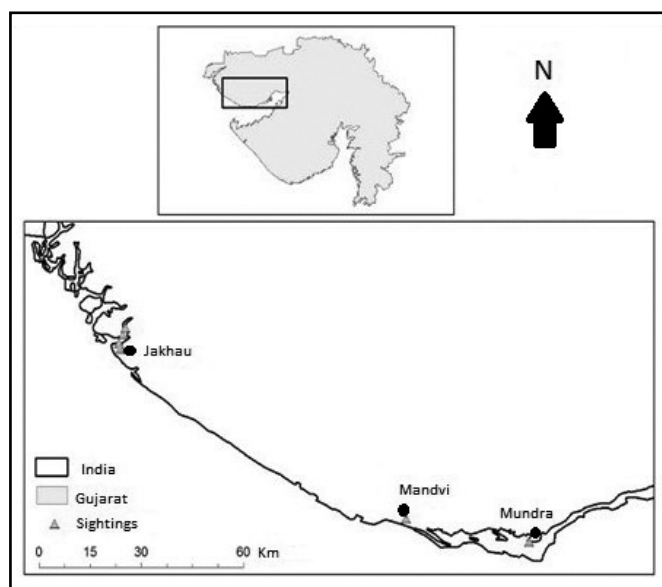
landscapes (Sundar 2003, 2004, 2011, Maheshwaran & Rahmani 2001, 2002, Ishtiaq *et al.* 2004). The only records from coastal habitat come from the Jamnagar coast, Gujarat—sighting records (Sundar & Kaur 2001), records of nests (Pathak *et al.* 2013) and records of fledging chicks (Sundar *et al.* 2007). There are also scattered records of the species in checklists from the Jakhau region, Kutch district, Gujarat (Maheshwaran *et al.* 2004).

In November and December 2014, during a survey to assess the conservation value of mangroves in Gujarat, we recorded nine sightings of Black-necked Stork from the coastline of Kutch district, a distance of some 406 km, two from the south and seven from the west of the region (Table 1). Opportunistic observations of the species were made while collecting data on the mangroves; those on land near the coast were made from vehicles or when surveying on foot, whilst birds on mudflats and in the mangroves were recorded from a boat. The two sightings in the south were near busy roads with heavy vehicular and human traffic, but the other seven were in the mangroves, away from human habitation,

Table 1. Sightings of Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* in coastal Gujarat, western India, in November and December 2014.

Date	Location	No. of individuals	Remarks
25 November 2014	22.782°N 69.683°E	1 pair	In Mundra port, near busy road
26 November 2014	22.836°N 69.525°E	1 bird	In saltwater creek, near busy road in Mandvi city
3 December 2014	23.262°N 68.612°E	1 bird	Foraging on the mudflats, Jakhau to Pagado creek
3 December 2014	23.242°N 68.602°E	1 pair	Jakhau to Pagado creek
4 December 2014	23.258°N 68.613°E	1 bird	Foraging on mudflats near Jakhau for about 4 hours
4 December 2014	23.279°N 68.612°E	3 birds	Near Jakhau
4 December 2014	23.229°N 68.604°E	1 pair	Near Jakhau
5 December 2014	23.468°N 68.555°E	1 bird	Near Ber Moti village, north of Jakhau
5 December 2014	23.175°N 68.739°E	2 pairs	Budiya village near Naliya [Nesting recorded in 2010 in <i>Salvadora persica</i> tree and in 2013 in 3 m high <i>Acacia nilotica</i>]

Figure 1. Map showing the locations of Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* sightings in coastal Gujarat, western India, in November and December 2014.



with the only disturbance being occasional boat traffic. Of the five sightings around Jakhau, three were in mangrove creeks and two in mangrove forest.

Black-necked Storks prefer to nest on secluded trees in wetlands (Ishtiaq *et al.* 2004), but may also breed in areas with intense human activity and are not necessarily dependent on trees in wetlands (Sundar 2003, Pathak *et al.* 2013). The species has been recorded nesting in a wide variety of tree species (Sundar 2003, Ishtiaq *et al.* 2004, Maheshwaran & Rahmani 2005, Pathak *et al.* 2013), and we recorded two nests near Budiya village, Jakhau port, in farmland with moderate human activity. On enquiring locally, we learned that one nest in a *Salvadora persica* tree was last active during 2010, while the second in an *Acacia nilotica* tree was active in 2013; neither was active in 2014. Pathak *et al.* (2013) stated that a significant amount of rainfall is necessary before Black-necked Stork commences nesting, and the rainfall in Kutch district (average 350 mm per annum) is rather irregular. The effect of rainfall on the breeding biology of Black-necked Stork in Kutch district would be worth studying. In addition, there is very little information on the distribution, status, abundance, habitat use and feeding habits of Black-necked Stork in coastal areas, and further studies in the coastal areas of Gujarat would be useful.

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Comments on the status of Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* in the Indian subcontinent

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Forktail 30 carried a note on the occurrence of Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* in the Indian subcontinent (Zacharias & Rice 2014) and the purpose of this note is to clarify the stand on this matter taken by various publications on the regional avifauna. As reviewed by Zacharias & Rice (2014), Willow Warbler was erroneously listed for the subcontinent based on misidentified or fraudulent specimens and has been removed from the lists for the subcontinent. The authors listed two extra specimens as taken from within the limits of the region, which we review here.

The first specimen, from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (AMNH 449058), was listed by the authors as taken from 'Bampur, Baluchistan, Pakistan'. However, in reality it was taken from Bampur [=Bampur] (27.20°N 60.43°E) in Sistan and Baluchestan province, Iran, by N. A. Zarudny on 13 April 1901. It must be mentioned that this record was erroneously listed for 'India: Bampur, Baluchistan' in the AMNH catalogue until one of us advised the curator concerned to cross-check and correct this error (<http://sci-web-001.amnh.org/>). This fact is also clear from the expedition dates of N. A. Zarudny, who apparently spent 13–17 April 1901 in the surroundings of Bampur (Roselaar & Aliabadian 2007).

The second specimen, from the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (ANSP ORN 52636), is listed as taken in 'Nepal' and as 'undated', although the ANSP catalogue gives the year of collection as 1935 without details of the collector or the collection locality (http://phylo.ansp.org:8080/ipt/resource.do?r=ansp_orn). Although details are not presented, the authors apparently verified the identification. The ANSP has at least 56 other specimens of this species for comparison and we therefore treat the identification of this specimen as probably correct. However, very few collectors were allowed to operate in Nepal in 1935; the most likely is F. M. Bailey, but it is improbable that any of his specimens would have been lodged in ANSP. According to <http://portal.vertnet.org/> (which compiles specimen data from several American and European museums), only one other specimen was collected in Nepal in 1935. Among the list of bird specimens collected between 1933 and 1937, there are five specimens in the Natural History Museum, London, UK (NHMUK), all by Bailey, while there is one in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Michigan, USA (UMMZ 157833), collected by R. L. Fleming and listed as taken in 1937. Hence, in the absence of a collection date, locality or the name of the collector, the authenticity of ANSP ORN 52636 is insufficient to be acceptable as the first for Nepal and South Asia. As an aside, the year stated on the UMMZ specimen is probably an error, as R. L. Fleming Sr only arrived in Nepal in 1949. Sometimes the sequence of catalogue numbers gives away the details of collection; however, in this case, it appears to have been sorted taxonomically, as 39 specimens around this catalogue number (52621–52659) are all *Phylloscopus* specimens from Asia and Europe, except for one *Tarsiger calliope*.

Zacharias & Rice (2014) also mention a recent 'sighting' of Willow Warbler from Kerala, south India (Zacharias *et al.* 1997). However, the original note stated that it was an aural report (not a sighting), identified by the second author based on his familiarity with the species's vocalisations in Europe and Kenya. There are no further details available and apparently no effort was made to see the bird and take notes of field features. This report has consequently been treated as unconfirmed by Kazmierczak (2000), excluded from the main list by Sashikumar *et al.* (2011), and ignored by Grimmett *et al.* (1998, 2011) and Rasmussen & Anderton (2005, 2012). The species is not included in the Kerala state list (Praveen 2015) or for the India national list (Praveen *et al.* 2016).

In summary, the status as 'hypothetical' should be retained for the Willow Warbler in South Asia until further unequivocal and definitive evidence emerges.

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