

WHITE STORK

Sighting record of *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris, India



White stork recorded in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu (Photo credit: Sathyamoorthi)

IUCN Red List:
Least Concern
(BirdLife International, 2016)

Aves
[Class of Birds]

Ciconiiformes
[Order of Storks like birds]

Ciconiidae
[Family of typical Storks]

Ciconia ciconia
[White Stork]

Species described by
Linnaeus in 1758

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758) usual winter migrants to India, are widespread in the country, generally occurring in low densities in their winter habitat (Ali & Ripley 1968). There are few sites with regular annual observations of numbers of these species in their wintering grounds (Pande et al. 2003). The White Stork is a large bird in the stork family Ciconiidae. Its plumage is mainly white, with black on its wings. Adults have long red legs and long pointed red beaks. It breeds from Europe to northwest Africa and westernmost Asia, and in southern Africa, and winters mainly in Africa south of the Sahara Desert (del Hoyo et al. 1992), though some birds winter in India (Ali et al. 2001). The White Stork has been rated as Least Concern by the IUCN (BirdLife International 2016).

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

On 24 December 2013 the White Stork was recorded in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu followed by 13

February 2018 the second record was registered in this region. In Indian region previous records of White Stork was recorded in Maharashtra (Kurhade 2003; Pande et al. 2007; Kasambe et al. 2010) Karnataka (Sridhar 1990; Sant 1996; Venkateshwara 1998; Pande et al. 2007), Andhra Pradesh (Kannan 2008), Kerala (Praveen 1997; Jayson & Sivaperuman 2005) and Tamil Nadu

(Manakadan 1994; Zarri & Rahmani 2005). There are very few records sporadically recorded from Tamil Nadu State especially five records from Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary (since December 2016) and other records from Vijayanarayanam in Tirunelveli District and Urapanur Kanmai from Madurai District (eBird 2018). Literature survey revealed that a total of four genus and six

Global Distribution:

Native: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Territory, Occupied, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation (Central Asian Russia - Vagrant, European Russia), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain (Canary Is. - Present - Origin Uncertain), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, United Republic of, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Vagrant: Antigua and Barbuda, Congo, Finland, Gambia, Iceland, Ireland, Liberia, Norway, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom (BirdLife International, 2016).

species of storks were reported in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve namely Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*, Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* (Gokula & Vijayan 1996). The present record of White Stork is an additional record to migrating stork in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve which ensures preferable habitat for migrating storks in southern India.

References

- Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley (1969). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan - 1*. Oxford University Press, Mumbai.
- Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley (2001). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan (paperback). Vol. 1 (2nd Edition)*. Oxford University Press, India, 99–101pp.
- BirdLife International (2016). *Ciconia ciconia*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22697691A86248677. <http://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.20163.RLTS.T22697691A86248677.en>. Downloaded on 15 February 2018.
- eBird (2018). eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: Date [June 17, 2018]).
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott & J. Sargatal (1992). *Handbook of the Birds of the World - Vol. 1. Ostrich to Ducks*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- IUCN (2017). *Ciconia ciconia* (White Stork) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <http://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22697691A86248677.en>
- Jayson, E.A. & C. Sivaperuman (2005). Avifauna of Thrissur District, Kerala, India. *Zoos' Print Journal* 20(2): 1774–1783.
- Kannan, V., R. Manakadan, P. Rao, K.K. Mohapatra, S. Sivakumar & V. Santharam (2009). The water birds of Pulicat Lake, Andhra Pradesh - Tamil Nadu, India, including those of the adjoining wetlands and heronries. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 105(2): 162–180 (2008).

- Kasambe, R., R. Chakravarty, P. Lad & U. Dharmadhikari (2010).** Sighting records of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 49(5): 78.
- Kurhade, S. (2003).** Sighting of Black Stork and White Stork in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 43(3): 41.
- Manakadan, R. (1994).** The White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (Linn.) at Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 90(2): 285.
- Pande, S., A. Pawashe, P. Deshpande, R. Kasambe & A. Mahabal (2003).** Recent records, review of wintering distribution, habitat choice and associations of Black Stork in India. Proceedings of 3rd International Black Stork Conference. Hungary
- Pande, S., N. Sant, R. Bhate, A. Ponkshe, P. Pandit, A. Pawashe & C. Joglekar (2007).** Recent records of wintering White *Ciconia ciconia* and Black *C. nigra* storks and flocking behaviour of White-necked Storks *C. episcopus* in Maharashtra and Karnataka states, India. *Indian Birds* 3(1): 28–32
- Praveen, J. (1997).** Storks of Walayar. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 37(1): 9.
- Sant, N.R. (1996).** White Storks in Belgaum city. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 35: (6) 117.
- Sridhar, S. (1990).** A record flock of White Storks sighted in Karnataka. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 30(3-4): 10.
- Venkateshwara, H. (1998).** Occurrence of White Stork in Dakshina Kannada District. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 38: 4
- Zarri, A.A., A.R. Rahmani & B. Senthilmurugan (2005).** Annotated avifauna of the Upper Nilgiris, Western Ghats, Tamil Nuda, India. *Buceros* 10(1): 1–46.

Arockianathan Samson¹ & Balasundaram Ramakrishnan²

^{1&2}Mammalogy and Forest Ecology wing, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu 643 002
Email: 'kingvulture1786@gmail.com (Corresponding author)

Citation: Samson, A. & B. Ramakrishnan (2018). White Stork: Sighting record of *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris, India. *Bird-o-soar* #19. In: *Zoo's Print* 33(8): 16-18

Advertisement

The Chennai Snake Park Trust's Programme Study Centre (PSC) offers new courses on Wildlife Tourism



Be a wildlife guide to yourself and friends/neighbours

To explore Nature's greatest treasure in the world with safety and responsibility, we invite you to join Chennai Snake Park's PSC (Programme Study Centre) recognized by the Tamil Nadu Open University. We offer online Diploma and Certificate Courses on Indian Wildlife;

1. Diploma in Wildlife Tourism – (1 Year)*
2. Certificate course on Wildlife Tourism Guide – (6 months)*

*Correspondence course with field exposure in forest areas. Diploma and Certificates will be offered by TN Open University.

Qualification: 10th Pass and Residents of Tamil Nadu only are eligible to apply

For Admission Contact: Course co-ordinator, 9443568445, Email: cspt.edu@gmail.com