

# Sighting of Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* in Assam University, Silchar Campus with its current distribution in Assam, India



Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* in Assam University, Silchar (Photo: M. Miraj Hussain).

Once grouped under genus *Aquila*, *A. hastata* and *A. clanga* have been placed under a new genus *Clanga*, and now they are known as *Clanga hastata* (Indian Spotted Eagle) and *Clanga clanga* (Greater Spotted Eagle) (Praveen et al. 2017; BirdLife International 2018). Both species are categorized as Vulnerable (Praveen et al. 2017).

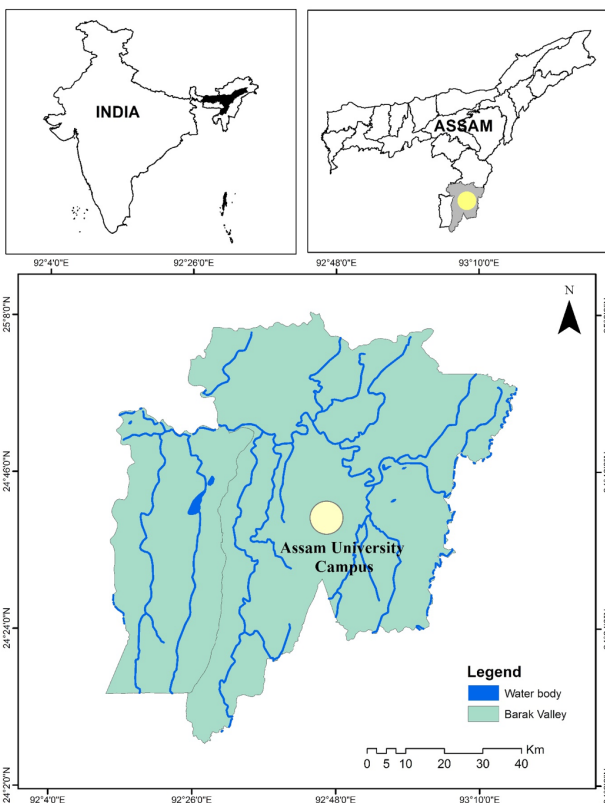
Greater Spotted Eagle (GSE), *Clanga clanga* is locally uncommon and a winter resident called as *Kurua*, *Bor Chorai* (Assamese), *Boloa* (Bengali) or *Go-nor*

(Mishing) in Assam (Choudhury 2000). A large bird of prey usually dark blackish brown, sometimes with tiny white specks. It also has some white on upper tail coverts. Sexes are alike but females are larger than the males. Immature individuals have conspicuous white or buff streaks and spots. Crown and nape are buffy. Underparts are dark brown with bold buff streaks (Choudhury 2000). It is partially a resident bird but mainly a winter visitor and visits northern part of Indian subcontinent widely during winters (Rahmani & Choudhury 2012; Grimmett et al. 2013).

On 28 October 2017 at around 0820 hr, a lone raptor was sighted soaring four to five times above the hillocks of the eco-forest region of Assam University, Silchar campus (24.681°N, 92.068°E, 24 MSL). The bird was seen soaring and hovering above the hillocks for about three minutes, until it finally disappeared. Few record shots were taken for identification of the raptor, which was later confirmed as Greater Spotted Eagle by Firoz Hussain (Admin., Oriental Birding Tours), Wichyanan Limparungpatthanakij (AIDIB 2017) and confirmed by Tim Inskipp (OBC 2017). The bird was identified on the basis of its tail and wing fingers which separate it from the other similar species like Black Eagle and Indian Spotted Eagle.

The Assam University, Silchar (AUS) campus, located in Cachar District of Assam spreads over 600 acres of land and surrounded by several small hillocks, natural lakes, tea gardens and agricultural lands (Dutta et al. 2008). The area experiences a warm, humid climate having mean annual rainfall of 2660mm, most of which is received during May to September. The university campus has different habitats viz., degraded forest, secondary forest, marshy areas and scrublands. A checklist of 113 species of birds in Assam University, Silchar campus and its adjoining areas were reported (Dutta et al. 2008). The recent published checklist of the campus, however, mentioned only 73 species, where Greater Spotted Eagle was not sighted or recorded (Chakdar et al. 2016).

Greater Spotted Eagle is a medium-sized eagle with rather short and broad wings, stocky head, and short tail. Wings are distinctly angled down at carpals when gliding and almost flat when soaring (Grimmett et al. 2013). It can be easily confused with the Indian Spotted Eagle; it has a slightly broader wing, a marginally shorter, somewhat wedge-shaped tail, more deeply emarginated primary fingers and squarish tips than the Indian Spotted (Rahmani & Choudhury 2012). When compared with the Steppe Eagle, it has less protruding head in flight, with shorter wings and less deep-fingered wing-tips; at rest, trousers less baggy, and bill smaller



**The location of Assam University, Silchar campus (Courtesy: Anukul Nath)**

**Table. Sightings of Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* in Assam (chronological order).**

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
1.	20-xi-1987	1	Pani-Dihing Bs	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1991
2.	29-xi-1987	1	Phokolai <i>Beel</i> , Sibsagar	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1991
3.	2-xii-1987	1	Doboli <i>Chapori</i> , Sibsagar	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1991
4.	27- xii-1987	1	Near Saragua, Sibsagar	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1991
5.	23-x-1989	2-3	Bakri <i>Haor</i> , Hailakandi District	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
6.	08-ii-1990	1	Orne <i>Chapori</i> Near Mat-mora, Lakhimpur District	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
7.	04-iii-1990	1	Bordoibam-Bilmukh Bs	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
8.	28-xi-1990	1	Orne <i>Chapori</i> Near Mat-mora, Lakhimpur District	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
9.	23-iii-1991	1	Andharu <i>Beel</i> , Lakhimpur District	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
10.	1-xi-1992	1,1	Torali and Dighali, Dibru-Saikhowa Np	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1994
11.	08-xi-1992	1	Churke <i>Chapori</i> , Dibru-Saikhowa Np	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1994
12.	06-xii-1992	2	Rongmola <i>Beel</i> , Dibru-Saikhowa Np	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 1994
13.	1995	1	Dhakra <i>Beel</i> , Dhubri District	M. Barua	Barua 1995
14.	1996	9 lone birds	Kaziranga Np (9 Sites)	M. Barua	Barua 1996
15.	25-i-1996	1 (immature)	Deepor <i>Beel</i> , Bs	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
16.	04-iv-1996	1	Orang Np	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
17.	04-xi-1997	1	Pabitora Ws	Anwaruddin Choudhury	Choudhury 2000
18.	18-i-1998	1	Chenimari <i>Beel</i> , Burhachapori Ws	K. Lashkar pers. comm.	Choudhury 2000
19.	December 1998	3	Between Kurua And Singri, Darrang District	M. Barua pers. comm.	Choudhury 2000
20.	1999	*	Kaziranga National Park	M. Barua and P. Sharma	Barua & Sharma 1999
21.	24-ii-2004	*	Kaziranga Np, Eastern & Central Range, Golaghat, As	John Allcock	Ebird 2018
22.	28-ii-2004	*	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	John Allcock	Ebird 2018
23.	06-i-2005	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Rita Swinnen	Ebird 2018
24.	07-i-2005	2	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Rita Swinnen	Ebird 2018
25.	2005	<10	Nameri National Park	Maan Barua and Pankaj Sharma	Barua & Sharma 2005
26.	31-iii-2006	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Howard Laidlaw	Ebird 2018
27.	09-ii-2007	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Craig Robson	Ebird 2018
28.	01-iv-2007	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Mike Prince	Ebird 2018

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
29.	01-i-2008	3	Orang Np, Darrang	David Stanton	Ebird 2018
30.	29-i-2010	1	Brahmaputra River Launch, Debaswasi, Golaghat	Anne Sammis & Eric Gropp	Ebird 2018
31.	21-iii-2010	*	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Jan Rosender	Ebird 2018
32.	01-iv-2010	2	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Josh Engel	Ebird 2018
33.	30-iii-2011	*	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Josh Engel	Ebird 2018
34.	16-iv-2011	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Jude Power	Ebird 2018
35.	17-iv-2011	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Jude Power	Ebird 2018
36.	16-iv-2013	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Bryan J. Smith	Ebird 2018
37.	16-iv-2013	3	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Deborah Power	Ebird 2018
38.	22-xi-2013	1	Brahmaputra River, Darrang	Forest Venkat	Ebird 2018
39.	24-xi-2013	1	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Forest Venkat	Ebird 2018
40.	24-xi-2013	2	Kaziranga Np, Eastern Range	Forest Venkat	Ebird 2018
41.	26-xi-2013	*	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Forest Venkat	Ebird 2018
42.	08-i-2014	*	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Ameeth Zaveri	Ebird 2018
43.	16-ii-2014	2	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Pritam Baruah	Ebird 2018
44.	28-ii-2014	*	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Vivek Menon	Ebird 2018
45.	10-iii-2014	1	Kaziranga Np, Nagaon	Marie Lister	Ebird 2018
46.	29-x-2014	1	Pobitora Ws, Morigaon	Shrikanth Nayak	Ebird 2018
47.	03-xi-2014	*	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Avisek Chatterjee	Ebird 2018
48.	09-xi-2014	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Simon Tonge	Ebird 2018
49.	16-xi-2014	1	Nameri Np, Nagaon	Mihir Joshi	Ebird 2018
50.	24-xi-2014	3	Dadara, Kamrup	Jaydev Mandal	Ebird 2018
51.	01-xii-2014	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Toby Austin	Ebird 2018
52.	17-xii-2014	1	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Sutirtha Lahiri	Ebird 2018
53.	03-i-2015	1	Deepor Beel Ws, Guwahati	Jaydev Mandal, Somoyita Sur	Ebird 2018
54.	21-i-2015	1	Deepor Beel Ws, Guwahati	Jaydev Mandal, Somoyita Sur	Ebird 2018
55.	26-i-2015	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Sophia S., Vishal Dutta	Ebird 2018
56.	13-ii-2015	2	Guahati University Campus, Botany Garden, Guwahati	Shah Nawaz Jelil, Pranjal Mahananda, Hrishikesh Choudhury, Shah Sofiullah Mahmud Hussain, Jaydev Mandal, Somoyita Sur	Ebird 2018

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
57.	20-ii-2015	1	Kaziranga Np, Nagaon	Pankaj Raina, Karma Choden Bhutia	Ebird 2018
58.	02-iii-2015	*	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Siddhesh Surve	Ebird 2018
59.	29-iii-2015	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Abhinand C.	Ebird 2018
60.	18-iii-2015	2	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Craig Morley	Ebird 2018
61.	04-iv-2015	*	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Stuart White	Ebird 2018
62.	14-xi-2015	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Sujan Chatterjee	Ebird 2018
63.	19-xii-2015	*	Kaziranga Np, Sonitpur, As	Nawal Ahuja	Ebird 2018
64.	28-xii-2015	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Soham Sinha, Ruma Sinha, Snehasis Sinha	Ebird 2018
65.	30-xii-2015	1	Nameri Np, Sonitpur	Snehasis Sinha	Ebird 2018
66.	17-ii-2016	1	Kokilamukh, <i>Beel</i> , Jorhat	Firoz Hussain	Ebird 2018
67.	21-ii-2016	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	10,000 birds collaborative & Donna Schulman	Ebird 2018
68.	22-ii-2016	2	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	10,000 birds collaborative & Donna Schulman	Ebird 2018
69.	19-iii-2016	1	Pobitora Ws, Morigaon	Cathy Pasterczyk	Ebird 2018
70.	24-iii-2016	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Sue & Gary Milks	Ebird 2018
71.	24-iii-2016	1	Bihpuria, Lakhimpur, As	Anuj Saikia	Ebird 2018
72.	27-iii-2016	*	Nameri Np, Sonitpur	Ajay Gadikar	Ebird 2018
73.	08-iv-2016	*	Maguri <i>Beel</i> , Tinsukia, Assam	Vivek Govind Kumar	Ebird 2018
74.	10-iv-2016	1	Maguri <i>Beel</i> , Tinsukia, Assam	Albin Jacob, Manjula Ravi	Ebird 2018
75.	30-x-2016	2	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Anonymous ebirder, Sahana M	Ebird 2018
76.	19-xi-2016	*	Kaziranga Np, Burapahar Range (Ghorakati)	Roy & Lorraine Ingleston	Ebird 2018
77.	20-xi-2016	*	Kaziranga Np, Burapahar Range (Ghorakati)	Roy & Lorraine Ingleston	Ebird 2018
78.	25-xi-2016	*	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat	Harsha Jayaramaiah	Ebird 2018
79.	02-xii-2016	1	Kaziranga Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Gavin Emmons, Alacia Welch	Ebird 2018
80.	02-xii-2016	1	Dehing Patkai Ws, Tinsukia, Assam	Micheal Bird	Ebird 2018
81.	25-xii-2016	6	Kaziranga Np, Burapahar Range (Ghorakati)	Firoz Hussain, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
82.	27-xii-2016	2	Kaziranga Np, Eastern Zone, Nagaon	Archit Hardikar, Pushkar Chaubal	Ebird 2018

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
83.	28-xii-2016	3	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Firoz Hussain, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
84.	28-xii-2016	2	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Firoz Hussain, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
85.	29-xii-2016	2	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Firoz Hussain, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
86.	29-xii-2016	1	Kaziranga Np, Eastern & Central Range, Golaghat, As	Firoz Hussain, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
87.	30-xii-2016	1	Guwahati Airport, Guwahati	Wichyanan (Jay) Limpurungpatthanakij	Ebird 2018
88.	31-xii-2016	1	Borpukhuri, Kamrup	Jitendra Sarmah	Ebird 2018
89.	04-i-2017	4	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
90.	12-i-2017	2	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Aashutosha Lele, Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
91.	16-i-2017	1	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	John Fitzpatrick, Sahas Barve	Ebird 2018
92.	16-i-2017	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	John Fitzpatrick, Sahas Barve	Ebird 2018
93.	20-i-2017	3	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Aashutosha Lele, Prajval Shastri, Pallab Prakash Saikia, Abhimanyu Lele	Ebird 2018
94.	26-i-2017	1	Kokilamukh, Barsaral Beel, Jorhat	Nilutpal Mahanta	Ebird 2018
95.	26-i-2017	4	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Subhojit Chakladar	Ebird 2018
96.	30-i-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Nijib Ahmed, Pallab Prakash Saikia, Rick Yetter, Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
97.	30-i-2017	3	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Rofikul Islam, Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
98.	03-ii-2017	1	Borbeel Karakuch, Barpeta	Jitendra Sarmah	Ebird 2018
99.	07-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Pallab Prakash Saikia, Nijib Ahmed, Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
100.	07-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Pallab Prakesh Saikia	Ebird 2018
101.	08-ii-2017	4	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam & Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
102.	09-ii-2017	2	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam & Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
103.	10-ii-2017	2	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam & Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
104.	15-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Ss. Cheema	Ebird 2018
105.	16-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam & Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
106.	16-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Robert Gowan	Ebird 2018
107.	19-ii-2017	3	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Yoav Perlman	Ebird 2018
108.	19-ii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Pallab Prakesh Saikia, Rofikul Islam & Nijeb Ahmed	Ebird 2018
109.	19-ii-2017	2	Kaziranga, Np, Central Range, Golaghat	Yoav Perlman	Ebird 2018
110.	08-iii-2017	2	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
111.	09-iii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
112.	11-iii-2017	1	Manas National Park, Mathanguri	Vineeta Dixit, Sudesha Dey	Ebird 2018
113.	12-iii-2017	3	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam, Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
114.	12-iii-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Harsha Jayaramaiah, Scott Lukens	Ebird 2018
115.	13-iii-2017	1	Kaziranga Agaratoli Range	Anuj Saikia	Ebird 2018
116.	14-x-2017	1	Manas National Park, Kaklabari No.2 Bauyan Para Range	Chagan Boro	Ebird 2018
117.	02-xi-2017	1	Kaziranga Np, (26.5974°N, 93.3812°E), Golaghat	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
118.	03-xi-2017	1	Kaziranga Np (Western & Central Range) Golaghat, As	Catherine Hamilton, Peter Trueblood	Ebird 2018
119.	04-xi-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Catherine Hamilton, Peter Trueblood	Ebird 2018
120.	05-xi-2017	1	26.584° N, 93.291° E, Nagaon, As	Rana and Sugandhi Belur	Ebird 2018
121.	06-xi-2017	1	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Anonymous ebirder, Vijaya Lakshmi	Ebird 2018
122.	24-xi-2017	1	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam, Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
123.	25-xi-2017	2	Kaziranga, Np, Golaghat As	Rofikul Islam, Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
124.	04-xii-2017	2	Kaziranga Np (Kohora Range, Golaghat)	Ashok Madaravally	Ebird 2018
125.	27-xii-2017	*	Pobitora Ws, Morigaon	Prosenjit Dawn	Ebird 2018
126.	04-i-2018	1	Kaziranga Np, Golaghat, As	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
127.	04-i-2018	1	Kaziranga Np (26.6102° N, 93.3027° E) Golaghat, As	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018

	Date	No. of individuals	Location	Sighted by	References
128.	07-i-2018	1	Orang Np	Nejib Ahmed	Ebird 2018
129.	15-i-2018	1	Kaziranga Np, Western Range, Nagaon	Vikas Madhav Nagaran-jan	Ebird 2018
130.	26-i-2018	1	Kaziranga, Np, Central Ranga, Golaghat	Pankaj Lad	Ebird 2018
131.	27-i-2018	1	Kaziranga Np Eastern Range	Pankaj Lad	Ebird 2018
132.	29-i-2018	2	Kaziranga Np (26.6641°N, 93.5656°E)	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
133.	02-ii-2018	1	(26.661°N,92.95°E) Sonitpur	Neeraj Bora	Ebird 2018
134.	02-ii-2018	1	Kaziranga Np (26.6632°N, 93.5660°E)	Simon RB Thompson & Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
135.	03-ii-2018	2	Kaziranga Np, (26.6064°N, 93.3888°E), Golaghat	Simon RB Thompson & Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
136.	07-ii-2018	1	Bagori Range, Kaziranga Np	Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
137.	08-ii-2018	1	Agoratoli Range, Kaziranga Np	Pallab Prakash Saikia	Ebird 2018
138.	09-ii-2018	*	(26.662°N, 92.948°E) Sonitpur As	Pranjal Baruah	Ebird 2018
139.	14-ii-2018	1	Kohora Range, Kaziranga Np	Kranti Singh	Ebird 2018
140.	23-ii-2018	1	Pobitora Ws	Gaurang Bagda	Ebird 2018
141.	01-iii-2018	1	Kaziranga Np, (26.6641°N, 93.5657°E)	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
142.	02-iii-2018	1	Kaziranga Np, (26.6108°N, 93.3802°E)	Rofikul Islam	Ebird 2018
143.	06-iii-2018	1	Assam University, Silchar	M Miraj Hussain pers. obs.	-
144.	13-iii-2018	1	(26.663°N, 93.566°E) Dif-floo Pathar, As	Alain Pataud & Frédéric Pelsy	Ebird 2018
145.	14-iii-2018	1	Aranya Lodge, Kaziranga Np	Alain Pataud & Frédéric Pelsy	Ebird 2018

Table legends: BS: Bird Sanctuary, WS: Wildlife Sanctuary, NP: National Park, AS: Assam, Beel: Lake/wetlands, Chapori: Riverine Islands, Haor: Wetlands, \*: no. of individuals is not mentioned, Pers. Obs.: Personal Observation, Pers. Comm.: Personal Communication. Ebird 2018: see the references.

with rounded nostril and shorter gape; lacks adult Steppe's barring on underside of flight and tail feathers, and dark trailing edge to wing, and has a dark chin (Grimmett et al. 2013). This species can be seen near wetlands and waterbodies, where it sits and waits for its prey. It preys

upon rodents, small mammals, water birds, frogs and snakes, hunting over swamps and wet meadows (Ali & Ripley 1987; BirdLife International 2018).

The global distribution of this species ranges from Eastern-Central Europe

East through Russia to South Ussuriland (Siberia, Russia) and North East China. In winters, locally, from South Europe, North East and East Africa (mainly Ethiopia, with occasional records in West Africa and South to Tanzania and Zambia) and Middle East (and perhaps North to Kazakhstan) through Pakistan and India (South mainly to about West Maharashtra) to South & East China and Indochina to Singapore; exceptionally south as far as Sumatra, irregularly to Taiwan, and exceptionally North to Southeast Russia and Japan (Meyburg et al. 2016). But it breeds mainly in northwestern part of the subcontinent, Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China (Rahmani & Choudhury 2012). Passage or wintering individuals, however, are observed in many countries (del Hoyo et al. 1994; Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001).

In Assam, most of the sightings are reported from the Brahmaputra valley (Table). It is still widely but very patchily distributed, and mainly reported from Kaziranga National Park (Barua & Sharma 1999), open areas along the river Jia Bhareli and its tributaries in Nameri NP (Barua & Sharma 2005). It was also reported from Dibru-Saikhowa NP (Choudhury 2006). Out of 145 sighting records, 93 (64.83%) were from Kaziranga National Park; this is may be due to more number of birders visiting this site. One hundred twenty-six sighting records have been retrieved from Ebird

2018. Maximum sighting records were of single bird; 36 sightings had more than one bird. The highest record of the species from a single area, i.e., Kaziranga National Park was nine “lone birds” by Maan Baruah during 1996.

Apart from Bakri ‘haor’ (Hailakandi District) in Southern Assam (Barak Valley) most of the sightings are from the Brahmaputra valley (Rahmani & Choudhury 2012). Choudhury (2000) has listed about 18 localities (ten are protected areas) of its distribution records throughout Assam but when we collated with all the recent sightings, we found it is to be very rare in the southern Assam i.e., Barak Valley. Apart from Bakri ‘haor’ (Hailakandi District) (Choudhury 2000), no previous report mentioned its presence in the Barak Valley (Birand & Pawar 2001; Hussain 2015). Although, Rahmani et al. (2016) mention its presence in two of the IBAs of Barak Valley i.e. Bauwwa Beel (Hailakandi District) and Son Beel (Karimganj District), that were of no recent sighting. Hence, this is an important recent sighting record, which shows its pocketed presence in the Barak valley. More detailed survey for this species should be initiated to understand its status, distribution and population across this valley.

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**Mohammad Miraj Hussain<sup>1</sup>, Arun Doley<sup>2</sup>, Ritu Dutta<sup>3</sup> & Hillojyoti Singha<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1-3</sup> Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar, Assam 788011, India.

<sup>4</sup> Centre for Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar, Assam 788011, India. Email: [hillojyoti.singha@gmail.com](mailto:hillojyoti.singha@gmail.com) (Corresponding author)

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