

## Long-toed Stint - first inland record from Coimbatore

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, I was birding at Ukkadam Lake, and was looking for passage migrant waders. The month of September is usually the peak migration time in Coimbatore since some uncommon and interesting vagrants like Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and Slender-billed Gulls have been recorded. At around 0730 hrs, I noticed a rather different looking wader vigorously feeding amidst a flock of Little Stint, Temminck's Stint, Kentish Plover, Lesser Sand-Plover and Little ringed Plover. The bird that I noticed was bigger and had a different posture compared to the aforementioned stints and plovers. Photographic record was done after further perusal of the photograph thoroughly I found the neck was long and slender, and the upperparts were brown with dark brown centres to the feathers. The breast was speckled with pale brown, the underparts were white, and



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the legs were yellow. The bird was identified as a Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (Heyman et al. 1986). According to eBird, previous records in Tamil Nadu are mainly from the eastern coast. The only other inland record from Tamilnadu is from Kadangulam, Tirunelveli (TheNatureTrust, 2016). This is the first scientific record from inland Tamilnadu.

According to Rasmussen & Anderton (2012), Long-toed Stint breeds in N Asia and winters in Asia and Australia. It is a regular winter migrant to an extensive part of the eastern coast of India, and a slightly lesser extent to the western coast. In China, it is common in inland locations during non breeding season (Brelsford 2020), while in India inland records are scarce.

#### References

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