

Photographic record of juvenile Black-necked Stork from Punjab, India

During a field visit to Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Patiala on 17 August 2021, while I was riding my bike, a single bird was spotted along the edge of the pond in the vicinity of the Sanctuary. On the very first sighting, I was clear the bird was a Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*. Because of the noise created by my bike, the bird got disturbed and flew away. However, I managed to click two photographs. Geographically, this area falls at 30.33°N, 76.38°E with 257 m elevation.



Later on, while identifying and literature survey, I came to know that the bird was a juvenile. Its head, neck, mantle, wing with dull brown plumage and white mottling on lower back rump, breast, belly with dark legs (Grimmett et al. 2011). Population of this species is declining and it is globally Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2016). This species was found majorly near water bodies like well irrigated agricultural land, lake, pond, river, marshes, and wetlands (Choudhary et al. 2010). As per the earlier records, the species is widely distributed in Haryana (Singh et al. 2021) but is not a resident of Punjab (Maheswaran et al. 2004). Till date, only two records are available from Punjab; one from Harike Wildlife Sanctuary and the other from Ropar Wetland but without any photographic evidence (<https://ebird.org/species/blnsto1/IN-PB>). Hence, this is the first ever photographic record of Black-necked Stork (juvenile) from Patiala (Punjab).

References

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