

Rufous-throated Thrush resighted in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh, India



Rufous-throated Thrush at Seri, district Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
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The Rufous-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* is a regular winter visitor in India that breeds in south-central Siberia, northern Mongolia, and northwestern China (Collar 2019). Its distribution in the subcontinent ranges from Pakistan and adjacent plains from the Indus Valley through Nepal, India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam), Bhutan, and Bangladesh. The altitudinal range varies from 3,000 to 4,200 m as we move from Himalaya in the west to Sikkim in the east (Ali & Ripley 1981).

During a bird survey in February 2022 at Seri Village (31.110 N, 77.073 E), Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh, we sighted a

Rufous-throated Thrush in an area occupied by shrubs and few trees. There are only a few records of Rufous-throated Thrush from Himachal Pradesh. It has been reported from different parts of Kangra, Lahaul, and Spiti districts (Abhinav & Rawal 2019); two individuals were shot after a snow storm at Chamba District (Marshall 1884) and Goller (2011) photographed one individual from Prashar Lake, Mandi District.

In the past decade, the species has been recorded from the states surrounding Himachal Pradesh based on eBird records: Uttarkashi (Sondhi 2022) and Nainital (Warr 2019) in Uttarakhand, Suhail et al. (2020)

reported the presence of this species from Jammu & Kashmir. However, many studies on avian communities have been carried out within other states neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, but none of them, for example, Kumar & Sahu (2019) and Ahmed et al. (2014) have reported the sighting of Red-throated Thrush.

The last record of Rufous-throated Thrush from Shimla was by Bhardwaj (2003), afterward, several avifaunal surveys (Mattu & Thakur 2006) have been conducted in Shimla and adjoining districts in Himachal Pradesh, but no study has reported the presence of this species. For example, Mattu & Thakur (2006) reported 70 species from the Shimla District but not this species. Hence, our record of Rufous-throated Thrush is after 19 years from the district. The nearest earlier record of the species (Kumar 2022) is from Udaipur in Lahaul Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, which is about 180 km north-west of Seri.

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