

Table: Marking and re-sighting details of Greylag Geese

	Marking details – all	Re-sighting details Gujarat – 2 geese	Re-sighting details Maharashtra – 1 Goose
Date of marking	July 2019	10 February 2021	22 January 2021
Metal ring	-	On right leg	On right leg
Code on ring	-	Not legible	Not legible
Location	Airag Lake, Hovd Province, Mongolia	Nava Talav, Surendranagar, Gujarat, India	Sirpur Wetland, Gondia district, Maharashtra, India
Location latitude	48.901727° N	23° 12' 34.4" N	21° 32' 52.1" N
Location longitude	93.401346° E	71° 44' 26.0" E	80° 17' 09.2" E
Ringer/Observer	Nyambayar Batbayar	Devvratsinh Mori	Sandeep Gabhane and Mukund Dhurve
Distance from ringing site	-	3442 km	3251 km
Time from ringing to re-sighting	-	19 months	19 months

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References

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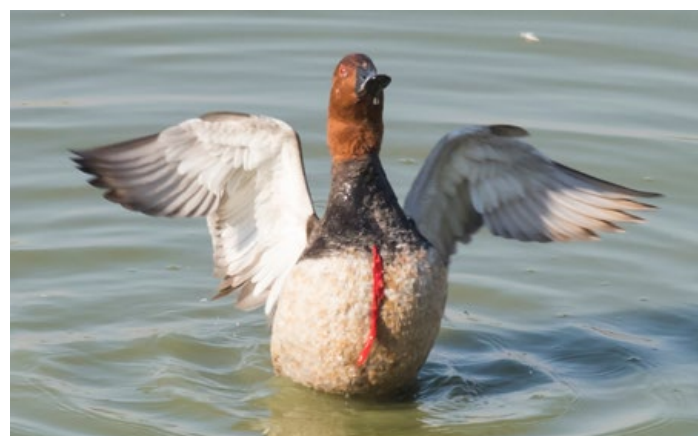
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Injured Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* surviving in the wild

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I present here two instances of injured birds which were surviving in the wild. In both these cases, the injuries looked quite serious but the birds survived. The first instance was of a Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the second observation was of a Common Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Common Pochard: Due to very less rain this year (2018), the waterholes were almost empty and at some places, very little water was available. In November-end 2018, Hamirsar Lake, in the heart of Bhuj, Kachchh, had very little water. My son Nirav and I go regularly there in the winter for photographing birds. At the edge of the lake, the water was looking very dirty and dark green, mixed with mud. Garbage, glass bottles and other useless objects were thrown here. There were 60-70 Common Pochards, 4 pairs of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 50-60 Indian Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), 3 Great White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), a mixed flock of waders (*Calidris* sp.) and other common birds. Here, I observed a



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Common Pochard which had a puncture in the front of its upper breast and some part of its digestive tract (possibly the esophagus) was hanging outside its neck. I assumed that as the water was very shallow, the pochard might have been injured when diving for food. Its chest may have been damaged by

Injured....

some sharp objects present in the water and possibly, its digestive tract or a part of the esophagus (or maybe some other part?) may have come out. Since I was not aware of bird anatomy, I could not identify the body part conclusively. Due to the natural healing process, the wound may have healed but the body part was hanging on its chest. This was visible only when duck flapped its wings and was not seen while it was swimming. Seeing the pochard carrying out its normal activities with this wound was quite surprising. The bird looked normal and was moving around without any difficulties. Thus, it was quite unusual to see this bird surviving in the wild with what appeared to be a serious injury.

Common Pigeon: On 26 April 2016, at around 09:30 hrs, I saw a Common Pigeon drinking water from the Narmada Canal water supply line (water had spilled due to valve leakage) and was shocked to see a major injury on its chest. The water which the bird was drinking through its beak was surprisingly coming out directly from a large wound on its breast. Another interesting thing was that some food grains and dust were also clearly seen on the wound. I suspected that some raptor must have attacked it but the pigeon was able to escape. Or it might have been injured by some sharp object or by collision. I could

not determine the exact cause of the injury. After that, I went there regularly and documented the Rock Pigeon drinking. Luckily for me, the bird was visiting this spot regularly. After almost 10 days, the wound was partly healed, and the size of the wound had reduced noticeably. Although water was still leaking from the wound when the bird drank, it was very less. I continued documenting it but after 2-3 days, I could not see that injured bird. But, on 2 May 2016, once again this Rock Pigeon visited the spot and was drinking water but this time, the wound had totally healed and there was no leakage from the breast. The wound had healed completely! As it was a free-flying wild bird, it is unlikely that any veterinary doctor would have treated it and it looked like the wound had healed naturally.

It is amazing that how nature heals wounds, sometimes even really large ones, as in these cases. The ability of the birds to survive in the wild with serious injuries shows the resilience of these birds and is a part of the natural healing process in avian species. It is important to note here that waste thrown in the water, like glass bottles and other sharp objects, can cause injuries to birds. Proper waste management is essential for the well being of the birds in ponds and lakes. □



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