

Re-sightings of satellite tagged Greylag Geese *Anser anser* from Mongolia in Gujarat

Raju Kasambe: Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Dr. Sálim Ali Square, Opp. Lion Gate, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai 400001. r.kasambe@bnhs.org

Devvratsinh Mori: Natraj Cinema, Kharava Pole, Wadhwan 363030. devvratsinhmori@gmail.com

Sandeep Gabhane: 18, Saikripa Housing Society, Narendra Nagar, Near K Square Building, Nagpur 440015. sandeepgabhane76@gmail.com

We report here re-sighting records of three satellite tagged Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*) from Mongolia. These birds were re-sighted in Gujarat and we give additional details of one sighting from Maharashtra.

Gujarat: On 10 February 2021, two Greylag Geese with satellite tags around their neck were photographed at Nava Talav, a wetland near Patdi in Surendranagar district, on the periphery of the Little Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat (23° 12' 34.4" N, 71° 44' 26.0" E) by the second author [DM]. He visited the site again on 14 February 2021 and saw both tagged birds there. Both the tagged geese also had a ring on the right leg but the numbers on the rings were not legible. The border around the solar panel of the geo-tag was white in one bird and brown in the other bird. The second author had earlier seen a geo-tagged bird at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary in December 2020 but he could not take photographs.

Later, we got information from a young bird watcher, Dhyey Shah, about re-sighting of a similarly tagged Greylag Goose on 16 November 2019 at Wadhvana Lake, near Vadodara, in Gujarat (22° 17' 29" N, 73° 47' 19" E). He sent the first author an image of the goose showing a geo-tag around the neck, having a grey coloured border around the solar panel.

Report from Maharashtra: On 22 January 2021, while watching birds at Sirpur Wetland near Paraswada Lake, Gondia District, Maharashtra (21° 32' 52.1" N, 80° 17' 09.2" E) the third author and Mukund Dhurve sighted a Greylag Goose with a satellite tag which was golden-yellow. This particular goose had a ring on the right leg but the number was not legible in the photograph.

The first author shared the re-sighting information with various ornithologists across the Central Asian Flyway countries. Dr. Nyambayar Batbayarat, from the Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia, replied with the tagging information and informed the first author about the research they are carrying out in Mongolia.

Dr. Nyambayar informed that all these geese were marked at Airag Lake (also called Ayrag Nuur) in July 2019 in Hovd Province in western Mongolia (48° 54' N, 93° 24' E) by his team. They had marked almost 70 Greylag Geese during 2017–2019 in Mongolia and fitted these birds with Global Positioning System/Global System for Mobile Communications (GPS/GSM) loggers to identify breeding and wintering areas,

migration routes and stopover sites. He added that, 'these neck collar GPS trackers do not have any visible code for some reasons. Therefore, it is hard to tell the exact origin of each of these birds right away. Also, many of these transmitters stopped working. But, I was lucky to find out about the origin of these two particular birds' (one from Gujarat and one in Gonia).

Airag Lake is a Ramsar site and also a proposed National Park. It is a shallow, freshwater lake in the Mongolian Great Lakes Basin. He informed that many of these geese went to India and some went to East China.

The marking and re-sighting details, with key findings, are listed in the table given here. The 'Indian Bird Migration Atlas' published by the Bombay Natural History Society (Balachandran *et al.* 2018) has information about 25 ring recoveries of Greylag Geese ringed at Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The northernmost recovery was from Khar-Us Lake (49° N, 92° E) in western Mongolia. Other important long distance ring recoveries were from eastern Batken (39° 52' N, 69° 39' E) in Kyrgyzstan and four from Kazakhstan.

BNHS had also conducted studies using neck collars and fitted eight Greylag Geese with neck collars at Pong Dam in Himachal Pradesh (31° 58' N, 76° 03' E) during December 2012 and February 2013. One of these neck-collared bird was re-sighted at Wadhavana Lake in Gujarat (22° 10' N, 73° 29' E), *i.e.*, about 1000 km southwest of the marking site. Following two geese collared in other countries were re-sighted in India: one marked in Qinghai Province in China (35° 50' N, 96° 22' E) was re-sighted in Kokilamukh Lake in Assam (26° 49' N, 94° 10' E) and another marked in Darkhad Valley in Kazakhstan (51° 10' N, 99° 30' E) was re-sighted in Kaziranga National Park, Assam (25° 34' N, 93° 10' E).

Considering the previous re-sighting records about the migration of Greylag Geese (Balachandran *et al.* 2018), we now have additional information about the birds visiting Gujarat and Maharashtra. For Gujarat, there is one previous sighting of a geo-tagged Greylag Goose, which was photographed at Vadla, Nalsarovar; this individual had been tagged in Lake Dorgon, in province of Khovd, Mongolia (Sarangi 2019). Previously, there was no information about birds visiting Maharashtra. Also, with present findings mentioned in this paper, we now know that birds wintering in Gujarat mainly involve individuals from populations breeding in Mongolia.

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

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr. Nyambayar Batbayarat, Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, for providing the tagging information. We are thankful to Mukund Dhurve for accompanying SG. Thanks to young bird watcher Dhyey Shah from Vadodara, for sharing his resighting information with us.

References

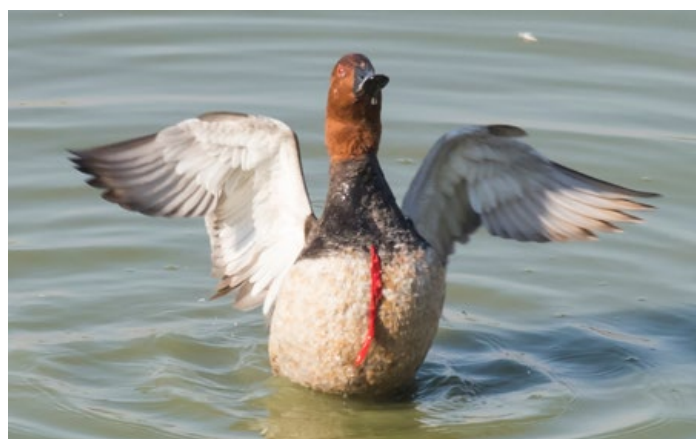
Balachandran, S., Katti, T. & Manakadan, R. 2018. *Indian Bird Migration Atlas*. Bombay Natural History Society. Oxford University Press. Mumbai.
 Sarangi, B., 2019. Radio-collared Greylag Goose Anser anser at Vadla, near Nal Sarovar. *Flamingo Gujarat* 17 (1): 18–19 □

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

Jaysukh Parekh ‘Suman’: Suman Remedies, C/17 R.T.O. Relocation Site, Bhuj - 370001, Kachchh. nisusuman@gmail.com

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



Jaysukh Parekh

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