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– **A. M. K. Bharos, Jageshwar Verma, Dilip Verma, Amar Mulwani, Ravi Naidu, Gopi Krishan Sahu & Vidhi Jain**

A. M. K. Bharos, State Coordinator IBCN Chhattisgarh, B-101, Gayatrinagar, Raipur, 492007, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: arunmkbharos@gmail.com [AMK]

Jageshwar Verma, LIG-1219, Sector-8, Housing Board Colony, Village Saddu, Raipur 492014, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: vermajageshwar12@gmail.com

Dilip Verma, Sarvodaya Hospital, Dubey Colony, Mowa, Raipur 492001, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: drdilipverma@yahoo.com

Amar Mulwani, 31 Arjun Residency, Dhamtari 493773, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: amarmulwani.w.p.l@gmail.com

Ravi Naidu, Ornithologist, Member C.R.O.W. Foundation, H No. 48, Anukul Dev Ward-31, Jagdalpur 494001 Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: ravinaidu0001@gmail.com

Gopi Krishan Sahu, 84-Brahmanpara, Ward No. 28, Dhamtari 493773, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: gopikrishansahu009@gmail.com [GKS]

Vidhi Jain, Vaibhav Niwas, Sundarganjward, Dhamtari 493773, Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail: vidhilunkadarts@gmail.com

The Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* in West Bengal

The Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* is a winter visitor to Pakistan, northern India, and Bangladesh, where it generally prefers large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs (Grimmett et al. 2011). It has been previously reported from Torsa River (Coochbehar District; Patra 2019), Panchanandapur (Malda District; Jha 2020), and from Fulbari Barrage (Saha 2013, cited in Khan et al. 2015) and Gajoldoba (Patra 2018) (Jalpaiguri District) in West Bengal.

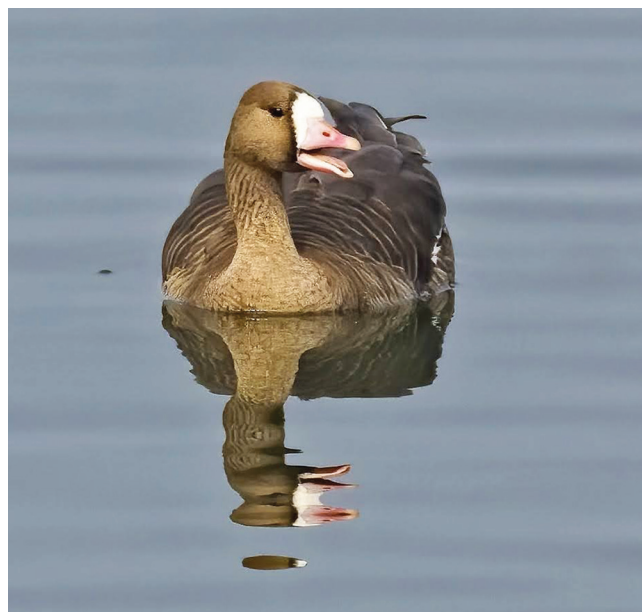
On 14 December 2020, while surveying for migratory waterbirds on Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum District (23.83°N, 87.42°E), a small brown-coloured goose was spotted in a flock of about 35 Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* (Gayen 2020). At first sight we thought it was a Greylag Goose *A. anser*, and photographed it [120]. Later it was identified as a first winter Greater White-fronted Goose based on its smaller size, less stocky build, absence of white front on the forehead, but presence of a thin line of dark feathers at the base of the bill, a dark tip to bill, orange legs and feet, and overall browner colouration. Incidentally, Krishnendu Sar and his co-birders had also photographed this individual on 13 December 2020 (Sar 2020). This first winter bird was observed from 13 December 2020 to 02 January 2021. On 05 January 2021, a Greater White-fronted Goose with a prominent white front was spotted at the same location by Modak (2021). We consider this to be a separate adult based on Reeber (2015: 209–210) who states that though a juvenile may transition to the plumage of a first formative bird, with adult plumage, it retains the black bill tip; however, the bird in **XX2** does not have such a tip on its beak. Subsequently, this bird was observed by various birders: 09 January (Banerjee 2021), 11 January (Halder 2021), and 12 January (Dawn 2021). On 13 January 2021 we also observed

this individual at the same location (Gayen 2021). It was last sighted on 15 January 2021 by Biswajit Mukherjee (121; Mukherjee 2021) and his team.



Debyan Gayen

120. First winter Greater White-fronted Goose with Bar-headed Geese at Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum District, 14 December 2020.



Biswajit Mukherjee

121. Adult Greater White-fronted Goose at Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum District, on 13 January 2021.

We collated past reports of the Greater White-fronted Goose from West Bengal in Table 1 (see also Fig. 1). This goose was earlier sighted from only four locations in West Bengal. Ours is the first report from the south-western and southern region of the state (Grimmett et al. 2011; eBird 2021). The Greater White-fronted Goose has also been recorded from the adjoining states of Assam and Odisha, while no reports exist from Bihar or Jharkhand. From Assam, it has been reported from Kaziranga National Park (2016–2021), Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (2019–2021), Pohu Garh and Gourisagar Tank of Sivsagar in 2021, Jia Bharali (Kameng River) in 2021, and the Brahmaputra River in 2013 (Narasimmarajan et al. 2013; eBird 2021). From Odisha, it has been reported from Chilika Lake in 1948 (Craven 1949), Dhamra River (Bhitarkanika National Park) in December 2012 (Karuthedathu et al. 2014), and from the Manglajodi wetlands (Modak 2016; Deb 2021). Hence, it appears that the bird is a sporadic winter visitor to eastern India.

Table 1. Sighting records of the Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* in West Bengal

1	Fulbari Barrage, Siliguri	3	27 January 2013	Saha 2013
2	Gajoldoba, Jalapaiguri	3	18 December 2016	Das 2016
3	Gajoldoba, Jalapaiguri	5	02 December 2018	Patra 2018
4	Torsa Riverbed, Coochbehar	6	15 December 2018	Patra 2019
5	Panchanandapur, Malda	3	22 November–01 December 2020	Jha 2020
6	Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum	1 (first winter)	13 December 2020–02 January 2021	Gayen 2020; Sar 2020
7	Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum	1 (adult)	05–15 January 2021	Banerjee 2021; Gayen 2021
8	Gajoldoba, Jalapaiguri	1	21 February 2021	Majumdar 2021

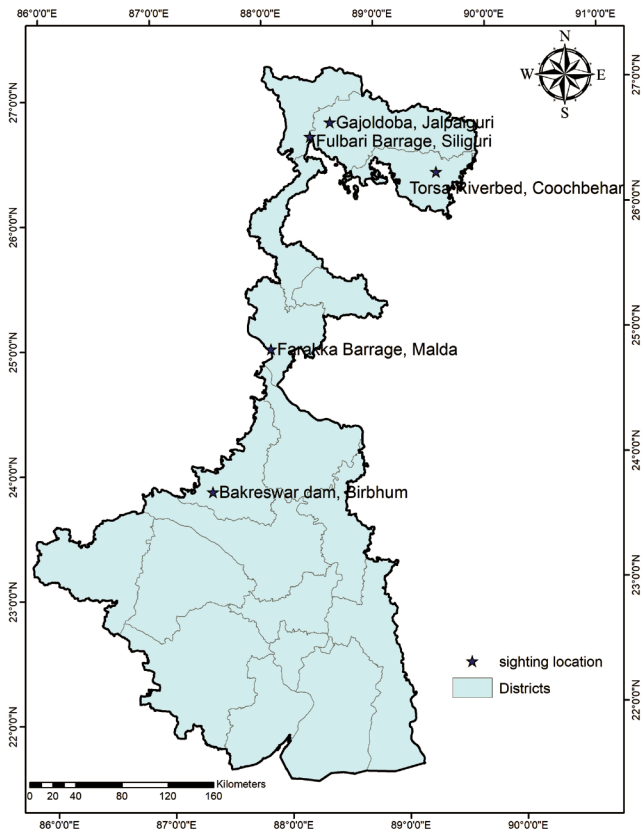


Fig. 1. Map showing the different localities of West Bengal from where Greater White-fronted goose was reported.

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– Debayan Gayen*, Sanchari Sarkar & Moitreyee Chakrabarty

All authors: PG Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College, Durgapur 713214, Bardhaman District, West Bengal, India.

*E-mail: debayangayeni23@gmail.com [Corresponding author]

The Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra* in Punjab, India

Mattewara Forest, Ludhiana District, Punjab, India (30°59'N, 75°58'E) is c. 930 Ha in area, and is situated about 20 km north-eastwards from Ludhiana on the banks of the Sutlej River. Because of its proximity to the river, this habitat is a unique blend of riverine and forest ecosystems.