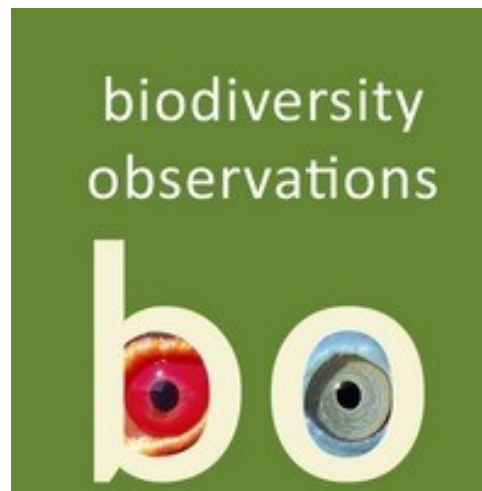


# Sighting of Orange-Headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* at Shekha Wetland: An Important Bird Area, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

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## Ornithology

### Sighting of Orange-Headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* at Shekha Wetland: An Important Bird Area, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

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#### Observation

The distribution range of Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* ranges from northern Pakistan through India (Himalayas from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh) to eastern and south-eastern China, south to Sri Lanka through Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and also in Sumatra, Borneo, Java and Bali (Ali and Ripley 1981; Sibley and Monroe 1990). It breeds in the Himalayas from foothills up to an elevation of 1600 m and migrates to peninsular India including Sri Lanka during winter (Clements et al. 2019).

During a bird survey on 8 February 2020 at Shekha Wetland (27° 51'21" N and 78° 13'05" E), Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh, we sighted

an Orange-headed Thrush on a cloudy afternoon (Figure 1). There are only a few records of Orange-headed Thrush from Uttar Pradesh. Javed & Rahmani (1998) recorded the species from Dudhwa National Park; it has been reported in Surajpur Wetland at Greater Noida (Ansari & Nawab 2015) and Suhaildev Wildlife Sanctuary (Bhargava et al. 2016). However, several avian surveys have been conducted within different parts of Uttar Pradesh in recent years but none has reported the Orange-headed Thrush (Ulman & Singh 2021, Singh & Khalid 2020, Kumar & Kushwaha 2019, Kushwaha et al. 2018, Mishra et al. 2017).

Since 2010, the species has been recorded from areas surrounding Uttar Pradesh. Chaudhury (2016) recorded it from Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar. Pandey et al. (2021) reported its presence at the Mardi



**Figure 1:** Orange-headed Thrush at Shekha Wetland, Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh.

Himal trek of Annapurna Conservation Area, Central Nepal. Vyas (2019) documented it from Delhi area. During fortnightly visits, Rai et al. (2017) reported the sighting of this species from Kalesar National Park, an Important Bird Area site in Haryana.

Several avifaunal surveys (Siddiqui et al. 2019, Mazumdar & Khan 2020) have been conducted in Aligarh district at Uttar Pradesh, but none has reported the presence of this species from district Aligarh. For example, Akram & Ilyas (2021) reported 91 bird species from the Shekha Wetland but not this species. Hence, this record of Orange-headed Thrush at Shekha Wetland is an addition to the bird list of Aligarh district. The nearest record of the species (Ansari & Nawab 2015) is from Surajpur Wetland in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, c. 100 km north-west of Aligarh.

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