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Sighting of Stork billed kingfisher, *Pelargopsis capensis* (Linnaeus, 1766) at forest of Begun, district of Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT: The present note deals with the sighting of Stork billed kingfisher, *Pelargopsis capensis* from forest of Begun district. It was the first confirmed photographic record from Begun district.

KEYWORDS: *Pelargopsis capensis*, Begun, photographic record.

I. INTRODUCTION

Stork billed kingfisher has a fragmented or patchy distribution pattern in south Asia ranging from India and Sri Lanka to Indonesia Beauty of Birds n.d. (2017). In order to fish, they usually live by the edge of water bodies. Being a moderately forest dependent species, they are usually vulnerable to development, deforestation and water pollution Young (2016). They are also known to inhabit artificial aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, for instance plantations and drain canals. In Rajasthan, they can typically be found at water bodies in or near forests, parks, and gardens. There are no published records of this species from begun district.

Study area: The area under investigation situated at Anoppura village in Begun Tehsil in Chittorgarh District of Rajasthan State, India lies in between $27^{\circ}14'12''$ N $75^{\circ}6'15.69''$ E. Anoppura is surrounded by Mandalgarh Tehsil towards North, Gangrar Tehsil towards west, Chittaurgarh Tehsil towards west, Kotri Tehsil towards North. Total area of Anoppura is 753.12 Hectares as per the data available for the year 2009. Total sown/agricultural area is 277.99 ha. About 89.33 ha is un-irrigated area. About 188.66 ha is irrigated area. About 188.66 ha irrigated by wells/tube wells. About 23.96 ha is in non-agricultural use.

During one such random field survey on 15 November 2022 at about 09:50 hrs Mr. Raju Meena bird's watcher spotted stork billed kingfisher 2022 near Brahmani river opposite Chambal river in Anoppura forest in Begun forest area of Chittorgarh district. It was identified and confirmed by using Grimmett *et al.* (1999): Kumar *et al.* (2005) Kazmierczak and Perlo (2006) and Manakandan *et al.* (2011).

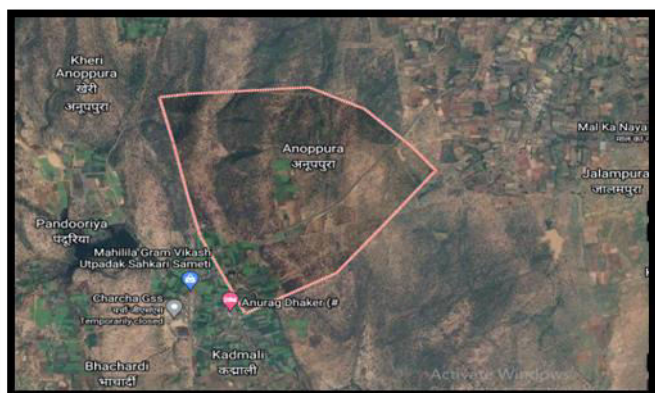


Figure:1 and 2 reported Individual and Satellite image of study area

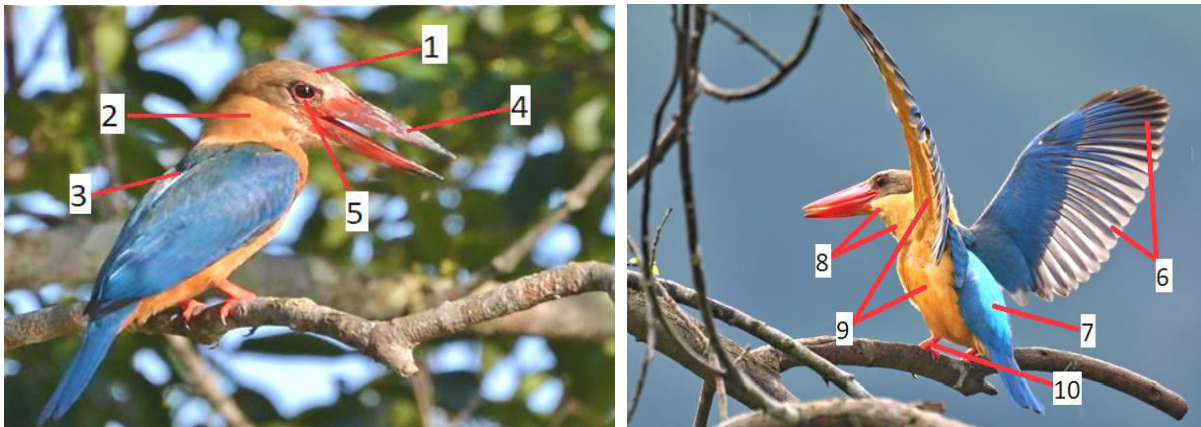


Figure: 3 and 4 Species description and habitat:

Diagnostics:

- (1) Forehead, crown, lores, cheeks and ear-coverts: dark olive-brown
- (2) Collar around hind neck and sides of neck: dark yellow-buff
- (3) Mantle: dull greenish-blue
- (4) Bill: scarlet, darker towards the tip
- (5) Eyes: red eye ring
- (6) Primaries and secondaries: dark-brown edged blue (Flight Photo)
- (7) Lower-back and rump: brilliant pale azure-blue (conspicuous during flight)
- (9) Rest of under-parts including under-wing-coverts: rich orange buff
- (10) Legs and feet: orange-red

Its diet is primary made up of freshwater organisms (eg. Frogs, fish, crabs and shrimps) although a kingfisher, this species is not a fish specialist Davison *et al.* (2013). When primary food resources become scarce it hunt small mammals (mainly rodents) and young birds sometimes marauded out of trees holes Guardian (2012) and Ali, and Ripley (1984).

Feeding Behaviour: This thus highlight its range of skills to hunt in different types of terrain. Being a sit-and-wait predator, it perches quietly while hunting and it often inconspicuous despite its size. When it spots its prey it plunges down from its perch and its heavy body weight enables it to swoop down fast o a fish swimming near the water surface like other kingfishers has the ability to hover above the water body while searching for its prey Beauty of Birds n.d. (2017). Once successful it would carry its prey back and immobilized it by striking it against the perch a few times before swallowing it whole. The tapping noise caused by the prey being beaten and bruised can be heard from some distance Bucknill, and Chasen, (1990).

Conservation status: Although it is evaluated as least concern mainly due to its extremely large range but global population is decreasing and some populations are threatened by ingoing habitat destruction.

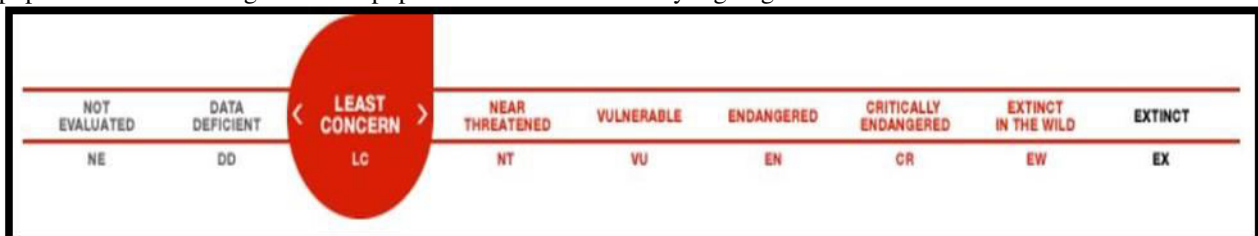


Photo credit: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Free use)

Between Kingfishers commonly found in study area:

Common Name	White Throated Kingfisher	Common Kingfisher	Pied Kingfisher
Species Name	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	<i>Alcedo attbis</i>	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Size	28 cm.	18 cm.	25 cm.
Voice	Noisy, loud, crackling, laugh, often audible over crowded	Call a shrill <i>chichee</i> ...	Call including piercing, twittering <i>chirruk</i> ...



	urban areas; song a longish, quivering whistle, sounding <i>kililililili</i> characteristic feature of hot season, in breeding, fascinating courtship display.		<i>chirruk</i> cries in flight, sounding as if the bird is complaining
Range	Subcontinent south of outer Himalayas	Subcontinent south of 2000 m in the Himalayas; various races different in shade of blue-green upperbody	Subcontinent up to about 2000 m in the Himalayas
Habitat	Forest, cultivations, lakes riverside; also coastal mangroves and estuaries	Streams, lakes, canals and also coastal areas	Streams, river ponds sometimes coastal areas
Diagnostics characters	Chestnut-brown head, neck and underbody below breast; turquoise-blue-above, often with greenish tings; flight feathers with white wing patch visible in flight; white chin, throat and breast distinctive; coral red beak and legs. Sexes alike. Solitary, or scattered pairs atop overhead wires, poles and tree tops; frequently found far from water; drops on to ground to pick up prey.	Bright blue above greenish on wings: top of head finely banded black and blue; ferruginous cheeks, ear coverts and wing patch on neck sides; white chin and throat and deep ferruginous underbody distinctive; coral-red legs and blackish beak. Sexes alike, Solitary or in scattered pairs, never found away from water; perches on poles or overhanging branch; flies low over water, brilliant blue streak, utters shrill notes: sometimes came and confiding; dives for fish from perch: occasionally hovers over water before diving.	Kingfisher with black and white plumage; long dagger like bill; untidy black crest on hide crown; irregular black eye band, continuing to back of head; black and white speckled under parts; white under wing; double black gorget across breast gorget. Solitary, in pairs or in small groups. Noisily and gregarious; hovers with flayed wings.

II. CONCLUSION

The main objective of present study is that we must pay attention to the environmental conservation and data collection of those areas in the field of biodiversity, where no research work has been done so far from the scientific point of view, so the animal species diversity that is being known should be put to practical use and for detail research work. It is necessary to study on behavioral and statistics and other dimensions for new report species.

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