



SCAN ME

Research Paper

FIRST RECORD OF GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) IN KOTA REGION, RAJASTHAN

Harshit Sharma¹, Anshu Sharma¹ and Subrat Sharma²

¹Research Scholars,

²Professor,

Department of Zoology,

Govt. College Kota, Near Antaghar Circle,

Nayapura Kota - 324001,

India.

Abstract

The Greater White-Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) belongs to the family Anatidae. It is an uncommon migratory bird in India. Greater white-fronted goose is distributed in North America, Europe, Asia. This species of goose is polytypic. It is long a distance winter migrant. Greater white-fronted goose is listed as least concern. The size was as small as Bar headed goose (*Anser indicus*) but they were different in colouration. This is the first record of Kota district, Rajasthan. The birds were first seen at the Kota on 28th February 2021. The Greater white-fronted goose is a sociable bird.

Key words: Greater white-fronted goose, Alania dam, Borabas pond, Migratory, Winter.

INTRODUCTION

Greater white-fronted goose is an aquatic bird which belongs to family Anatidae. Adults are mostly brown with white feathering around the base of pinkish-orange bill, a black tail, white rump, white band at the tip of the tail and orange legs. Greater white-fronted geese are 64-81cm. in length, have a 130-165cm. wingspan and weight 1.93-3.31kg (4.3-7.3 lb). Greater white-fronted geese are found in ponds, dams and agriculture fields.

They in groups in agricultural fields and ponds often with other species of geese. Seeds and waste grains are the staple of the diet. It grazes while walking on field and dabbles when in the water.

STUDY AREA

Borabas village ($25^{\circ}01'37.98''\text{N}$, $75^{\circ}41'42.21''\text{E}$) is situated 30km. and Alania dam ($24^{\circ}59'48.85''\text{N}$, $75^{\circ}51'52.23''\text{E}$) is situated 25km. away from Kota. There are many water birds like Greater flamingo, Painted stork, Sarus crane, Asian open-bill stork, Woolly-necked stork, Black stork, Red-naped ibis, Black-headed ibis, Glossy ibis, Great white pelican, Cormorants, Eurasian curlew, Black tailed godwit, Bar-headed goose, Ruddy shelduck, Knob-billed duck, Pied avocet, Kentish plover, Yellow-wattled lapwing, Indian courser, Oriental pratincole, Small pratincole, Little tern, Indian skimmer, Black kite, Peregrine falcon, Marsh harrier etc.



Fig. 1- Google map showing Borabas pond



Fig. 2- Google map showing Alania dam

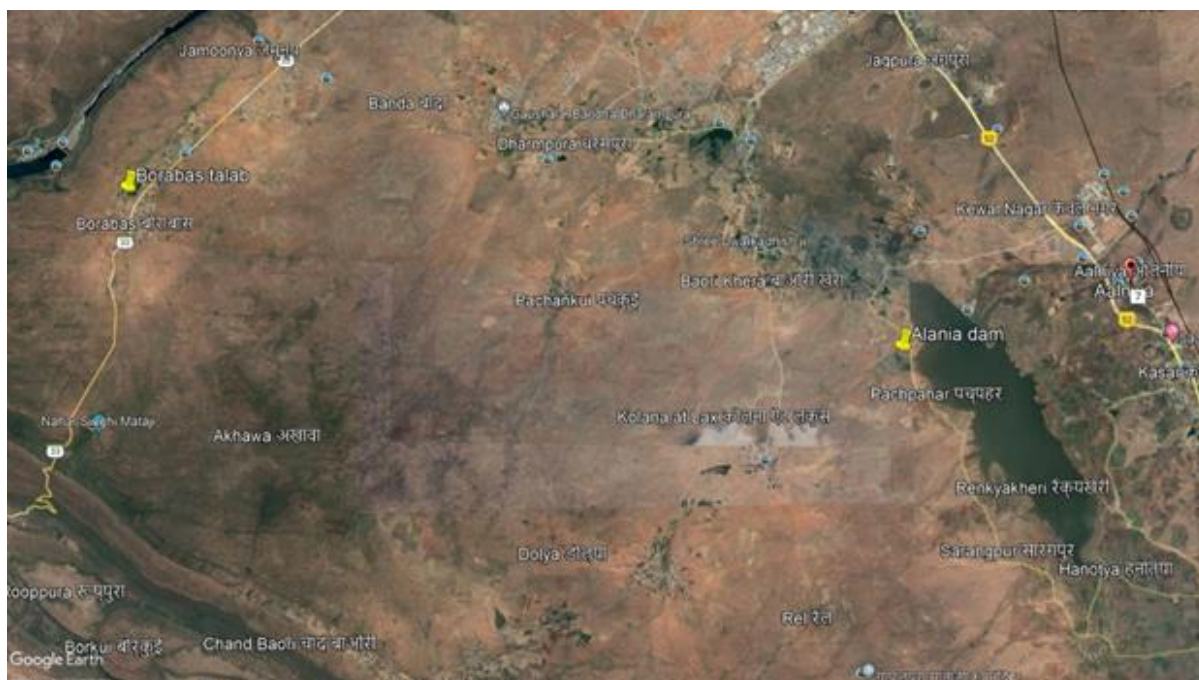


Fig. 3- Combined map of Borabas pond and Alania dam, Kota (Source- Google Earth)

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted during February 2021 to April 2021 at Borabas pond and Alania dam near Kota, Rajasthan. All the observations were made during early morning and evening. The photographical and video recordings were captured through Nikon camera with nikkor 200×500mm lens.

OBSERVATION

On close observation, this bird was found to be a greater white fronted goose and further when photographs were taken identification was confirmed. A medium sized bird was seen with the about 50 Bar-headed geese group in Borabas pond, Kota. There were no previous records of the Greater white- fronted goose from Kota, Rajasthan. On the next day at Borabas pond, it was reported Greater white-fronted goose was not seen there. But at Alania dam about one month ago at Borabas pond with a group of Bar-headed geese. This goose was the same one I saw a few days ago at Borabas Pond. Greater white-fronted goose stayed in Kota for about two months. Hence, it is ascertained that this is first record of Greater white- fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) in Kota, Rajasthan.

RECENT SIGHTING RECORDS OF GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE IN RAJASTHAN

Sr. No.	Name of birder	Location	Date	No. of birds
1.	Harshit Sharma & Anshu Sharma	Borabas Pond, Near Kota Alania Dam, Near Kota	February 2021 March 2021	1
2.	Kishan Meena	Barkhera Pond, Shivdaspura, Jaipur	March 2021	1
3.	Kishan Meena	Barkhera Pond, Shivdaspura, Jaipur	December 2021	2

RECORD PHOTOS OF GREATER WHITE-FRONTEED GOOSE IN KOTA DISTRICT



Plate-1



Plate-2

Greater white-fronted goose with the group of Bar-headed goose



Plate-3

Greater white-fronted goose feeding on grass seed at Alania dam, Kota

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr. Surabhi Shrivastava generously shared her knowledge and expertise, which the authors really appreciate.

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