

Sighting of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) in Solapur (MS), India.

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Hiraj is a small village situated about ten kilometers away towards the west of the city. It is covered with sparse scrubland, grasslands and sparse wetlands. Also, popular among the birders' community as a hotspot in winters. Agriculture practices are intensive near the human settlement in the vicinity. We frequently visit the grasslands at Hiraj (17.692324, 75.834291) near Solapur city for bird watching and on 26th January, 2022 we sighted a Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* opportunistically.

We sighted the subadult individual of the Black stork soaring and, on the way, to land when it was spotted for the first time. After a few minutes bird took off again and changed its direction of soaring and moved south. It did not land nearby in the visible area. Subsequently we also visited the nearby water bodies including Seena river basin. However, there was no further sighting of the Black stork, instead we recorded the other birds like the Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Wolly-necked Stork *Ciconia Episcopus*, Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*, Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* and Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

According to Ali (1979 and 1996) this bird is rare in the Deccan plateau, Solapur in central India. Narwade and Rahamani (2020) have the Black Stork observed occasionally in the south-western Deccan plateau. It is verified that, this species migrates toward southern India (Balachandran *et. al.*, 2018). Several scattered records are visible on ebird (2021) platform including the Solapur District. According to Birdlife International (2022) the Black Stork is spread across the old world, hence, does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable. The sporadic sighting of the least concern avian species can be attributed to its migratory path covering the Solapur subregion.

References:

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World Migratory Bird Day 2022

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated annually during the second Saturday in May to raise awareness on the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The impact of Light Pollution on migratory birds is the focus of this year's campaign. As part of the campaign, SACON EIACP Programme Centre released a special publication on Geographical representation of Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) observed in India during 2016-2021.

