

NOTEBOOK

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*: first record from Phewa Lake, Pokhara Valley; the third record for Nepal

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The Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* is a winter visitor to Pakistan, north India and Bangladesh, but only a vagrant to Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 2011, 2016, Kazmierczak 2012).

On 9 December 2017 during a regular survey by the Zoological Society of Pokhara of the Phewa wetlands (28.226°N 83.931°E), Pokhara Valley, Nepal, RB obtained images of four wildfowl that he did not recognise. On closer inspection, we observed that they were geese with long bright orange legs, a brownish-grey body, belly with irregular black barring, and black tail with a white band at the tip and they were identified as two pairs of Greater White-fronted Geese, a first record of this species at this location. The Pokhara Valley is the second-largest valley (178.5 km²) in the hilly region of Nepal, 203 km west of the Kathmandu Valley. The cities of Pokhara and Lekhnath lie there; the landscape of this area comprises waterbodies, agricultural land, forests, settlements and other built-up areas. Agricultural land dominates land use, followed by forests and waterbodies.

The geese were monitored every three days by the authors and remained at Phewa Lake for 48 days, until 25 January 2018. This was the third sighting of the species in Nepal: one adult was observed in March 2004 at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Som G. C. pers. comm.), and the second sighting, by several ornithologists in February 2016, was of two birds at Sauraha, Chitwan (H. Chaudhary pers. comm.).

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Plate 1. Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Phewa Lake, Pokhara Valley, Nepal, January 2018.

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