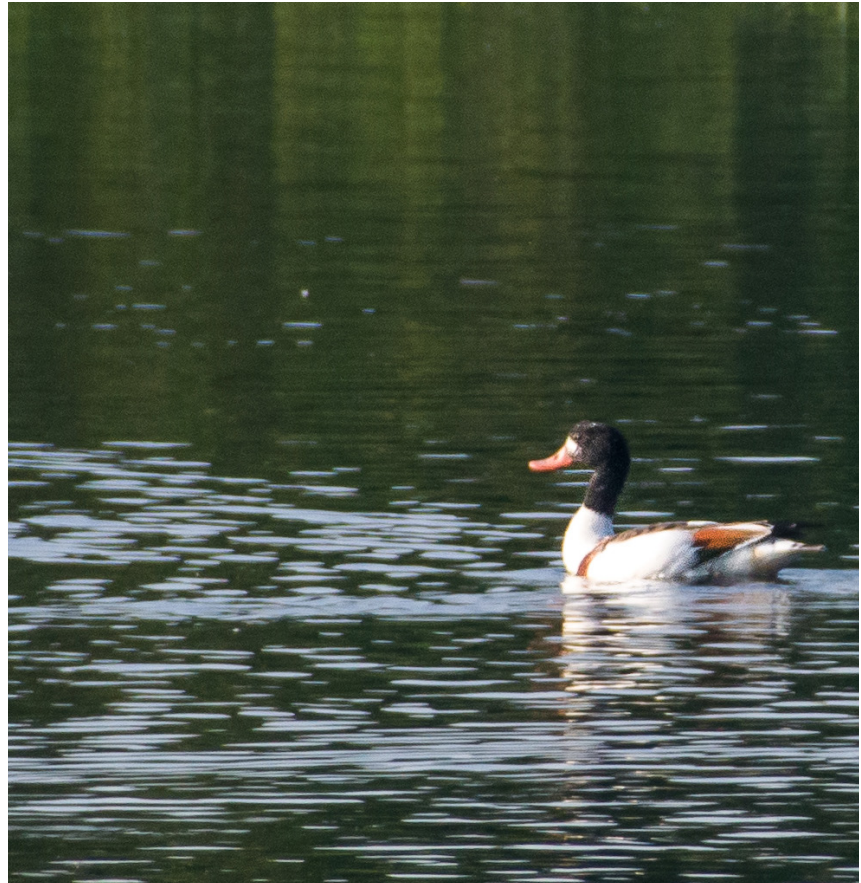


First report of Common Shelduck from Satajan Wetland, Assam, India

The Common Shelduck *Tadrona tadrona* is a winter visitor to northern and eastern Afghanistan, southern Sind, in provinces that were part of erstwhile eastern Punjab, currently in Pakistan, up to the Assam Valley (Wadatkar & Wagh 2014).

The Common Shelduck previously has been recorded from Assam from Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Biosphere Reserve (Choudhury 2006) and from Deepor Beel, the only Ramsar site (Lahkar et al. 2009).

Satajan Wetland (27.20806° N, 94.05167° E), is a freshwater natural wetland occupying a protected area of 39 acres and the maximum depth of water in winter is around 6.5 m (Gogoi et al. 2019). Satajan is located in Lakhimpur District, Assam and is 7 km from North Lakhimpur Town. About 87 species of seasonal, migratory



Common Shelduck *Tadrona tadrona* at Satajan Wetland.
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and residential birds were recorded from this wetland (Bhaduri et al. 2022). This wetland plays an important role in accommodating flora as well as fauna, which have a significant role in maintaining and functioning of ecosystem. The local community is also dependent on this wetland for resources. It acts as

a reservoir during flood in monsoon seasons, giving relief to the local community.

We visited the Satajan Wetland on 24 November 2020 for a casual birding trip. At around 0720 h, we saw one unusually coloured individual coming from south direction and landing in the wetland. We took



**Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in flight at Satajan Wetland.
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photographs of the bird in flight as well as in resting for record and carefully observed the bird through binoculars. The bird was coloured with greenish-black head and largely white body with chestnut breast-band and had a red bill, and pink legs and feet.

We identified the bird as an adult female Common Shelduck because it lacked the frontal knob (Grimmett et al. 2016), had a white stripe on its forehead and was considerably smaller and duller coloured, with the chestnut breast feathers edged with black vermiculation. (Ali & Ripley 1978).

The species has not been recorded previously from Satajan. This is the first record of citation of the species not only for Satajan Wetland but also for Lakhimpur District.

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