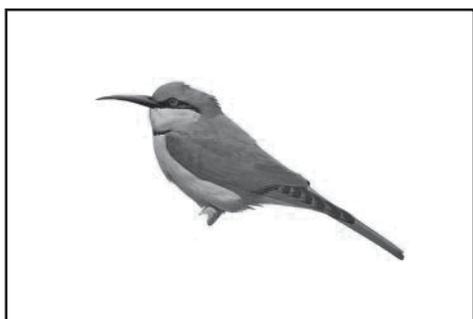


ABSTRACTS



Avian mortalities: Study of avian mortalities due to wind farms by Kumar et al. *Current Science* 16 (9): 1587-1592

The authors carried out a study on avian mortalities at two wind farms, one of which was in Samakhiyali, Kachchh, while the other was in Karnataka. The authors collected data from Kachchh over a three year period, with surveys for bird carcasses being made at 59 selected turbines. A total of 47 bird carcasses belonging to 11 species in a period of three years were reported from Kachchh. The annual bird mortality rate for Kachchh was estimated to be 0.478 birds / turbine. Species like Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*), Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), etc. were found. Carcasses of two threatened species, Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) and Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) were also noted. The authors suggest that sites for wind farms should be carefully selected based on avifaunal importance of these sites.



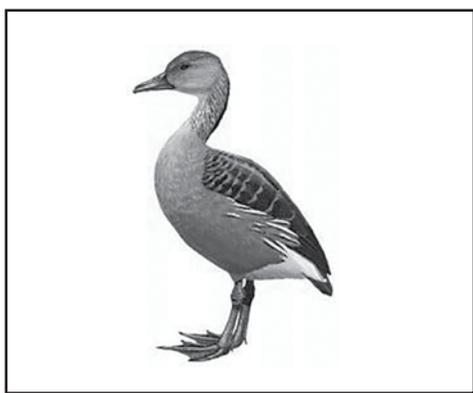
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater: Photographic record of Chestnut-headed Bee-eater from Gujarat by Rajni Trivedi. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 57 (3): 33

The author saw and photographed a group of Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters (*Merops leschenaulti*) from Meshwo Dam, in Dist: Sabarkantha. Two photographs are given which clearly show all the features of this species. The Chestnut-headed Bee-eater is a vagrant to Gujarat with a previous record from forests of southern Gujarat. This photographic record is important as there are no previous photographic records of the species from Gujarat. This sighting from northern Gujarat is interesting and suggests the species could be a vagrant to the state.



Bearded Vulture: Sighting of Bearded Vulture from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary by Dipak Vadher. *Indian BIRDS* 15 (1): 24-25

The author reports a sighting of Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), also known as Lammergeier, from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, near Junagadh in January 2019. A juvenile or immature Bearded Vulture was seen soaring near Girnar and photographed. All its diagnostic features were visible in the photographs taken by the author. It was seen soaring along with an Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) and so a size comparison could also be made. The author discusses that this is the first confirmed record of the Bearded Vulture for Gujarat and it is an addition to the Gujarat checklist as an earlier record from the Greater Rann of Kachchh was treated as unconfirmed due to lack of photographs or other corroborative evidence.



Fulvous Whistling Duck: Sighting of Fulvous Whistling Duck in Gujarat with notes on its historical status by Naria et al. *Indian BIRDS* 15 (2): 59-60

The authors photographed a pair of Fulvous Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) near Vadodara in April 2019. The birds were seen well and all the distinguishing features noted. The authors discuss the historical records of the species from the state and noted that it had not been properly documented earlier and the Fulvous Whistling Duck was added to the Gujarat checklist based on historical records from Kachchh. However, there are no recent records of this species from Gujarat, and the authors state that this is the first photographic record of the species for western India.

□

“ Some years back I had warned against old trees getting more and more crowded and dying under the sheer accumulations of guano. It is nothing to be elated to find overcrowded heronries and clusters of vulture nests. The need of the hour is to actively ensure protection to such large trees attracting vultures, storks and the like, even if in doing so the birds foul up the neighbourhood, as large trees are being planted and raised around water bodies in the countryside where the hard-pressed birds could shift in time. The species selected for raising must be thick-boughed and dense-foliaged, like, Tamarinds, Banyans, 'Rayan' and the like.

How critical the existence of the suitable trees are, can be learnt from a group of young men in Mysore, who are valiantly struggling to ensure protection to trees resorted to Spot-billed Pelicans to nest on. Equally critical are the gigantic Bombax trees of Assam for the continued survival of the two species of Adjutant Storks - an obvious fact which needed the efforts of the young Assamese student to highlight. All such trees take time to become robust enough to support colonies and till such time, it bears repetition, the existing trees patronized by birds must be identified and protected by popular sentiments. ”

- Lavkumar Khachar

