

the relatively smaller size are important features which helped in the identification of this bird. We sent the images to Dr. B. M. Parasharya, who confirmed that it was a juvenile Little Bittern.

This bird was found roosting on the flat open ground. It is important to note that this behaviour is unusual as the habitat of Little Bittern comprises of reed beds and dense vegetation around water. It is possible that this individual, probably on migration, was disoriented due to the cyclonic effects of the Maha Cyclone near the Gujarat coast during the week. The sighting of Little Bittern inside the Rann is quite odd as previous records from Gujarat are not from desert areas, and are instead around wetlands / in reed beds. This is probably the first sighting of the species from the Little Rann of Kachchh and hence it is noteworthy.

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Morphometrics of Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* in the Gulf of Kachchh

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During two wader surveys in the Gulf of Kachchh in October 1996 and April 1997, a total of four Crab Plovers (*Dromas ardeola*) were opportunistically trapped in mist nets. Three birds were trapped and processed on 14 October 1996 and one bird on 7 April 1997 at Vadinar, in Dwarka District.

Measurements were obtained using standard techniques. Wing-lengths were measured to the nearest whole mm, bill and tarsus to the nearest 0.1 mm and weight to the nearest gram. Bills were measured from feathers. The birds were aged and measured. Prater *et al.* (1977) was followed for ageing the birds. All the birds were found to be adults.

Results

Measurements (biometrics) of bill and tarsus (Table 1) were within the range of measurements given by other authors

(Ali & Ripley 1980, Hayman *et al.* 1986) while measurements of wings were at the upper end of the range given in these references.

Weight ranged between 305-325 gms and averaged 315.25 gms. This is higher than what was observed by Ali & Ripley (1980).

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Table 1: Morphometrics of Crab Plovers in Gulf of Kachchh

No	Date	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Weight
1	October 1996	230 mm	62 mm	97 mm	315 gms
2	October 1996	223 mm	54 mm	92 mm	325 gms
3	October 1996	-	50 mm	92 mm	305 gms
4	April 1997	225 mm	57 mm	95 mm	316 gms

Table 2: Morphometrics of Crab Plovers published in reference works

Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail	Reference
♂♂ 202-225 mm	51-61mm	60-70mm	88-100 mm	64-76 mm	Ali & Ripley 1980
♀♀ 201-216 mm	54-56mm	62-66mm			
200-226 mm	41-64mm		84-102 mm	62-70 mm	Hayman <i>et al.</i> 1986
Weight 6 ♂♀ (autumn/winter) 230-300 (average 265.1) gms – BNHS					