

Recent sightings of Great Knot in Gujarat

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The Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) is a regular winter visitor to the coastal areas of Kachchh and Jamnagar (Ganpule *et al.* 2011). The species is now considered as 'Endangered' (IUCN 2016). Here, I give recent sightings of Great Knot in the Gulf of Kachchh. I carried out surveys in different areas in Kachchh and Jamnagar and collected recent records by asking birdwatchers to provide information on the species in Gujarat from 2014 to 2016 to get an idea about its current status here.

Observations

My sighting of Great Knot, along with those of others during this period, is given in the table.

I went with Dilipsinh Chudasma, Yagnesh Bhatt & Bimal Patel to Modhva beach near Mandvi in Kachchh on 2 February 2016 and saw 20 Great Knots amongst flocks of other waders.

The Great Knot records given in the table show that the species is a regular winter visitor to coastal area of Kachchh and Jamnagar in varying numbers from October to April. A sighting of a flock of 125 birds has been recorded in the salt pans near INS Valsura, Jamnagar (Ganpule *et al.* 2011). Such large flocks show that good numbers have been recorded in Gujarat. There are no published records of Great Knot from coastal areas of southern Gujarat, Gulf of Khambhat and from around the Porbandar coast. It is possible that it may be overlooked due to its similarity to other waders. As there appears to be suitable habitat, there is no reason why it would not occur there; towards this, intensive surveys in

southern Gujarat, and other areas of Saurashtra, are highly recommended.

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Date	Place	No. of Birds	Observer
22 March 2014	Sachana Beach, Jamnagar	7	Jadeja, R.
26 October 2014	Narara Marine N. P., Jamnagar	4	Munshi, E.
27 December 2014	Salt pans at Valsura, Jamnagar	50	Jeganathan, P.
18 November 2015	Pirotan Island, Jamnagar	8	Solanki, C.
29 November 2015	Narara Marine N. P., Jamnagar	5	Solanki, C.
06 December 2015	Balachhadi Beach, Jamnagar	3	Solanki, C.
19 January 2016	Modhva Beach, Kachchh	9	Sodha, V.
27 January 2016	Modhva Beach, Kachchh	25	Tiwari, J. K.
02 February 2016	Modhva Beach, Kachchh	20	Author's Sighting
08 April 2016	Luni Beach, Kachchh	4	Pomal, N.

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References

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- IUCN. 2016. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-3. www.iucnredlist.org [Downloaded on 20 January 2017]. □



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