

## Namaqua Dove....



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about the expanding range of this species and the Jamnagar record was treated as a part of the range expansion (Ławicki 2020).

This sighting from Nalsarovar is a second record of the Namaqua Dove from Gujarat as well as India. This individual

also did not seem to be an escapee since the plumage was good and there was no damage to the feathers which is often seen in escapees. It has been explained that changes in the landscape, due to shifting agricultural patterns, has benefitted this species and helped it in expanding its range and colonizing new areas. While it is early to say whether the Namaqua Dove could become a regular visitor to Gujarat, it is urged that bird watchers keep a lookout for this species in other parts of the state.

### References

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## Sighting of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* in Kachchh

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On 13 December 2020, I was bird watching on Misaryado-Udau Road in Banni, Kachchh. The birding was good and I saw many birds in the area. At around 13:00 hrs, I saw an eagle (*Aquila* sp.) in flight. I took a few photographs and noted the following features: a large dark eagle, with blackish underparts, distinct white bases to the primaries and secondaries, white tail with dark tail band, powerful looking beak and large size. When the upperparts were seen in flight, there was a distinct

golden wash on crown and nape. Based on these features, I identified it as a juvenile Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). The white patch at the base of flight feathers and the white tail with dark band is distinct in the Golden Eagle.

This was a very surprising sighting for Kachchh. The Golden Eagle is a vagrant to Gujarat and there is only one previous published record from the state; a juvenile/immature Golden Eagle was seen near Palanpur, in northern Gujarat, in December 2018 (Prajapati *et al.* 2018) which was the first record for the state. The individual near Palanpur was seen in the same area for more than three months and many birders went to see it. This sighting, from Kachchh, further confirms the occurrence of the Golden Eagle in Gujarat. It will be interesting to see whether there are more sightings of the Golden Eagle from the state in the future. I will continue to visit the area where this bird was seen to see if it remains here for a few weeks.

### References

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