

and not as sharply black (Adrian Skerrett, email dated 23 October 2015). We have no information of the Maldives population of *nicolae*, which is believed to be close to the Chagos birds. It is also possible that this individual was of the subspecies *colstoni*, which is known to occur on Aldabra Island. However without detailed morphometric measurements, photographs of underwings and upperwings, and photos of bare parts, it is not possible to conclusively identify it to subspecies level.

Albeit a very small possibility exists that it could be a Persian Shearwater, this individual can be treated as Tropical Shearwater *Puffinus bailloni* (Audubon's Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri*), without going into subspecific identification or describing its origins.

Hence birdwatchers are requested to always try and photograph wind blown sea-birds from all sides, taking photos showing the upperwings and underwings, and try and take measurements of such specimens to help in conclusive identification. It is also requested that if the bird dies, then the specimen should be preserved and sent to collections in BNHS or ZSI, where further molecular work can be carried out.

We are very grateful to Praveen J. for all his help. We would also like to sincerely thank Dipu Karuthedathu, Peter Carr, William Bourne, Adrain Skerrett, Vincent Bretagnolle, Oscar Campbell and Tim Inskipp for their input – Eds]

References:

- Al Dhaheri, K. 2014. Persian Shearwater. <https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-CGjWL/i-QCqDF4n/A> [Accessed on 10 November 2015].
- Austin, J., Bretagnolle, V. & Pasquet, E. 2004. A global molecular phylogeny of the small *Puffinus* shearwaters and implications for systematics of the Little-Audubon's Shearwater complex. *Auk* 121(3): 847–864.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C. & Inskipp, T. 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. Christopher Helm & Oxford University Press. London.
- Le Corre, M. 2000. Taxonomic affinities of Audubon's Shearwater from Europa Island. *The Condor* 102: 187-190.
- Onley, D. & Scofield, P. 2007. *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World*. Helm Field Guides. A&C Black. London.
- Parasharya, B. M., C. K. Borad and D. N. Rank. 2004. *A Checklist of the birds of Gujarat*. Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat.
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley Guide*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. 2 vols.
- Shirihai, H. & Bretagnolle, V. 2015. The poorly known Mohéli Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus temptator*) at Comoro Islands, western Indian Ocean. *Bull Brit Ornith. Club* 135 (3): 216-223. □

Sighting of Red-necked Phalarope in South Gujarat

A. N. Bhatt : Navyug Science College, Rander road, Surat. anilnbhatt@gmail.com

P. C. Patel : Navyug Science College, Rander road, Surat. pravin93navyug@yahoo.com

On 27 August 2015, we visited Tena village (20.23 N, 72.66 E), approx. 20 km west of Surat. While we were observing waders in the village pond, we found a small bird which appeared to be little different. Having seen through binoculars and taking pictures, we confirmed that it was a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (Photo 1). We observed its activities for some time.

We visited the same place on 30 August 2015 and to our surprise, the Red-necked Phalarope was still there. On 13 September 2015, the pond had dried out and there were no birds.

There are a few published records of Red-necked Phalarope from Kachchh, Saurashtra and Central Gujarat (Raol 1991, Soni & Joshua 2012, Soni and Varu 2013). Raol (1991) observed it near Ahmedabad in 1987, which is unusual. Tejas Soni had seen it in Thol Bird Sanctuary near Ahmedabad on 6-5-2010. However we could not find any published records from South Gujarat and it seems that it is rare here.



References:

- Raol, L. 1991. *Panina Sangathi*. Centre for Environmental Education. Ahmedabad [In Gujarati].
- Soni, H & Joshua, J. 2012. Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage in freshwater ecosystem of Kachchh district, Gujarat. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 52(6): 93.
- Soni, T. 2010. *Vihang* (Grishma issue - In Gujarati).
- Varu, S. 2013. Further sighting records of Red-necked Phalarope at Kachchh. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 53(3): 41. □