

## Sighting of Ruddy-breasted Crake in Nalsarovar area

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Ruddy-breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) is resident in India, mainly occurring in the Western Ghats and in the base of Himalayas and the Gangetic plains, with scattered records from elsewhere in India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

Its status in Gujarat is unclear; Grimmett *et al.* (2011) give 'isolated record(s)-exact location uncertain', while Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) do not show its occurrence for Gujarat. It is included in the Checklist of Birds of Gujarat (Parasharya *et al.* 2004).



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On 10 July 2014, in the outskirts of Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary (Co-ordinates not available), I saw and photographed two Ruddy-breasted Crakes in the reeds. The sighting was surprising, as this is not known to occur here. Also the sighting in the monsoon season is interesting, as it is possible that it might be breeding in the surrounding areas.

It is also possible that the bird is a monsoon migrant to areas of suitable habitat in Gujarat. I request birdwatchers to be on the lookout for the Ruddy-breasted Crake in reeds/wetland areas.

### References:

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. Christopher Helm & Oxford University Press. London.

Parasharya, B. M. , Borad, C. K. and Rank, D.N., 2004. *A Checklist of the birds of Gujarat*. Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat. Pp 26

Rasmussen, P.C & Anderton, J.C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions, Washington D.C and Barcelona. □

## Greater Spotted Eagle preying on Montagu's Harrier in LRK, Gujarat

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Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) is a winter migrant to Gujarat. It is listed as 'vulnerable' based on its declining population (Birdlife International 2015). It is sometimes treated as *Clanga clanga*, however Naoroji (2006) treats it as *Aquila clanga* and the same is followed here. It is regularly seen in small numbers in Little Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat, where it is usually seen around water bodies from November till April.

It is a generalist feeder taking a variety of food: frogs, fishes, reptiles, small birds, young ones of herons & storks and other waterfowls. It has been recorded taking Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), Short-eared Owl (*A. flammeus*), and Black Kite (*Milvus*

*migrans*) as prey items (Naoroji 2006). It has also been recorded feeding on Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Lesser Flamingo (*P. minor*) at Little Rann (*pers. observation*).

While on a bird-watching trip to Little Rann of Kachchh, I observed a Greater Spotted Eagle in possession of a Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygarrus*). The eagle then flew away with the bird in its talons. I was able to take an image of this too.

Greater Spotted Eagle is not known to prey on harriers. Thus this is an addition to the already varied diet of this eagle.

### References:

BirdLife International 2015, Species factsheet: *Clanga clanga*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 31/05/2015.

Naoroji, R., 2006, *Birds of Prey of the Indian Subcontinent*, New Delhi, Om Books International. □



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