

observing the shrike, but it did not go to its prey. From time to time, the shrike raised its head, and occasionally swung its tail. We could observe that some feathers of the pipit were sticking to the Isabelline Shrike's hooked bill. After some time, we finally decided to move on, leaving the shrike to retrieve its prey.

[Isabelline Shrike has been recorded to regularly prey on birds during migration and on its wintering grounds, with wagtails (*Motacilla* sp.) and warblers (*Phylloscopus* sp.) being the most frequent victims (Lefranc & Worfolk 1997). Hence the pipit is an addition to its diet – Eds.]

References:

Lefranc, N. & Worfolk T. 1997. *Shrikes –A Guide to the Shrikes of the World*. 1st ed. Pica Press/Christopher Helm. London. □



Viral Patel

Sighting of Sociable Lapwing in Amreli District

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During our survey of birds in Dhari, Dist. Amreli, on 28 November 2012, we received news about the presence of Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*) in Khodiyar Dam in the outskirts of Dhari town and so we decided to visit it.

Having reached the site at around 14:00 hrs, from the shore of the lake we spotted some Bar-headed Geese grazing on an island. We sat there and saw some more birds - Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) etc. Suddenly on the edge of the water, a little away from us, landed what looked like a flock of lapwings. To our great surprise and excitement, when we looked through the binoculars, we identified it as a group of eight Sociable Lapwings (*Vanellus gregarius*), now sitting quietly near the water. We quickly took some pictures. They seemed to be unperturbed by our presence. After about 20 minutes they took off and landed closer to us! We could

take even better photographs. While some of them were sitting, others stood there - preening. We stayed there for some time, excited about this rare sighting and then quietly made our exit without disturbing them.

Sociable Lapwing is listed as 'Critically Endangered' (BirdLife International 2015). It is a rare winter migrant to Gujarat, so this sighting from Amreli District was significant and added to the list of earlier sightings in the district as well as those in other parts of Gujarat. This observation was also reported on the BirdLife International's Website.

[There are records of Sociable Lapwings from Rajula taluka of Amreli in the past (2008-10) by Pravin Gohil. So it seems that small numbers regularly visit Amreli District - Eds.]

References:

BirdLife International (2015) Species factsheet: *Vanellus gregarius* Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 07/06/2015 □



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