

Sightings of Eurasian Hobby in Porbandar from 2014 to 2016

Dhaval Vargiya: 36 Balaji Park Society, 'Sant Krupa', Vanthali Road, Madhuram, Junagadh 362015. dhaval.mwcc@gmail.com [DV]

Paresh Pitroda: Green Wildlife Conservation Soc., 'Trupti Paan', Near ACC gate, Jalaram Colony, Porbandar 360575. pitroda@hotmail.com [PP]



Dhaval Vargiya

The Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) is a small, migratory falcon breeding mostly in the Himalayas, from Kashmir to at least Nepal and probably Bhutan; it winters mainly in Africa and south-east Asia and is a widespread autumn passage migrant in Gujarat (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It has been described as an uncommon / rare passage migrant in Gujarat (Ganpule 2016).

In a study on the Eurasian Hobby in Gujarat, 36 (66%) out of the 55 sightings recently reported from the state were from August to December, which were considered to be from the autumn migration period (Bhatt *et al.* 2015). Our sightings from Porbandar also support this as all our sightings are from November (three) and December (four). Out of the seven observations, five were in 2014 & 2016 and two are of individuals rescued due to collision with electric wires in 2015. The Karly wetland is situated in the middle of Porbandar city, and electric wires pass through the wetland. On an average, 20 waterbirds are rescued each year from this wetland due to collision with electric wires. In November and December 2015, on both occasions, locals reported to the second author that

a single Eurasian Hobby was found in an injured condition. Both times, the bird was rescued immediately and shifted to the Porbandar Bird Sanctuary for treatment. Unfortunately, both birds did not survive. On 17 November 2016, the first author observed three individuals hunting and feeding on flocks of Globe Skimmer (*Pantala*



Nayan Thanki

flavescens) dragonflies near Vindhyavasini temple of Gosabara Wetland (Mokarsagar Wetland), Porbandar. Sightings of Eurasian Hobby from Porbandar are presented in Table 1. These sightings add to the already known distribution of the Eurasian Hobby in Gujarat and support its status as mainly an autumn passage migrant here. Also, we request the relevant department to take action regarding the power lines in Karly wetland.

References

- Bhatt, N., Ganpule, P. & Solanki, J. 2015. Status of Eurasian Hobby in Gujarat. *Flamingo* 13 (4): 3–6
- Ganpule, P. 2016. The Birds of Gujarat: Status and Distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3)-12(4): 2-40
- Rasmussen, P. C. & Anderton, J. C. 2012. *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Washington, D. C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. □

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No	Date	Location	Observer	No of Birds	Remarks
1	30 November 2014	Gosabara, Mokarsagar	First Author	1	<i>pers. obsv.</i>
2	28 December 2014	Gosabara, Mokarsagar	First Author	1	<i>pers. obsv.</i>
3	29 December 2014	Gosabara, Mokarsagar	First Author	1	<i>pers. obsv.</i>
4	16 November 2015	Karly Wetland	Second Author	1	Rescued, but died during treatment
5	5 December 2015	Karly Wetland	Second Author	1	Rescued, but died during treatment
6	17 November 2016	Gosabara, Mokarsagar	First Author	3	Observed feeding on flocks of Globe Skimmer dragonflies
7	25 December 2016	Gosabara, Mokarsagar	First Author	1	<i>pers. obsv.</i>