

Spangled Drongo....

the flowering of Silk Cotton and *Erythrina* sp. trees, as the Spangled Drongo is known to undertake widespread seasonal wanderings, governed largely by the flowering of these trees (Ali & Ripley 1987). The earlier sightings from Kachchh were also from December to February. Thus, the Spangled Drongo is a species that one should look for in the winter and early summer, coinciding with the flowering of *Bombax* and *Erythrina* sp. in other parts of Gujarat.

Ali & Ripley (1987) indicate that there appears to be a clinal variation in the populations of Spangled Drongo from south to north India based on size; the northern population being larger morphometrically (Vaurie 1955). Thus, it would be interesting to ascertain if the occurrence of the species in Gujarat is indeed due to the movement of birds from the Western Ghats population or whether it is a rare resident in the south Gujarat and is a local migrant to other parts of the state in the winter. Details of the sighting of this species with more photographs, along with other species seen during the visit, are available on 'eBird' at Subramanya (2018).

[The exact status of Spangled Drongo in Gujarat is not known; there are no recent photos of this species from Gujarat on popular birding websites. The records posted on 'eBird' from south Gujarat are not photographic records. It is possible that this is an overlooked species. This sighting from Saurashtra is important and indicates that it

could be a winter visitor to some well wooded parts of the state. Birders are urged to look for this species here – Eds]

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Sightings of tagged waders near Jamnagar

Bhargav Raval: 101, Air Castle Residency, Behind MP House, Saru Section Road, Jamnagar 361008. dr.bhargavraval@gmail.com

Dhairya Jhaveri: 'Shubham', Nr. Ajitnath Appt., Nirwan Marg, Jamnagar. dhairyajh@gmail.com

Neel Sureja: B-703, Spring Heights Appt., Patel Colony 24, Vikas Gruh Rd., Jamnagar. neelsureja5@gmail.com

On 25 April 2018, we were birding near coastal areas of Jamnagar in the morning hours. We noticed two Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) which were tagged and ringed. We took some images of the tagged birds. Further, we saw two more Bar-tailed Godwits, one Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), one Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) and two Crab Plovers (*Dromas ardeola*) which were also tagged and ringed. All the tagged birds looked healthy and were seen along with groups of their own species. Six out of eight tagged birds were in breeding plumage except the Kentish Plover and the Crab Plover. We were able to take photographs of mostly all of them along with tags which could be read in the photographs. But, we saw one other Crab Plover which was also tagged and ringed, for which we could not get good photos to read the tag details.

The photographs were sent to BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) for getting the ringing and tagging details. Following

details were received from the BNHS:

Ringed done by - BNHS team

Madhumita Panigrahi, Scientist-A, Wetland Programme, BNHS

Dr. P. Sathiyaselvam, Scientist-C, Wetland Programme, BNHS



Details of tagged waders near Jamnagar

No.	Ring No.	Colour Flag No.	Species Name	Ringing Date	Ringing Place	Age
1	45854	J11	Bar-tailed Godwit	7 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
2	46001	OB0	Bar-tailed Godwit	11 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
3	45899	J49	Bar-tailed Godwit	11 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
4		J41	Bar-tailed Godwit	11 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
5	45896	J46	Bar-tailed Godwit	11 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
6	48856	OB7	Crab Plover	17 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Juvenile
7	178532	U01	Curlew Sandpiper	14 February 2018	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Adult
8	178484	V10	Kentish Plover	31 December 2017	Salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Juvenile



Finding place – Sachana, near Jamnagar

Finding date – 25 April 2018

Finding coordinates - within a radius of 100 mts from 22° 35' 00.5" N, 70° 11' 31.1" E.

As per the details we obtained, all the birds were tagged in salt pans near Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Jamnagar. Seven individuals were tagged in February (two months before the sighting date) while the Kentish Plover was tagged five months before. All adult birds had developed into beautiful breeding plumages. Two of the tagged birds (Kentish Plover and Crab Plover) were juveniles when tagged and they were in non-breeding plumage. It was interesting to note that these tagged birds were in the same general area till early spring and the adults had moulted into breeding plumage. It indicates that they remain in the same area in the winter months and also till they migrate back to their breeding grounds. It will be interesting to see if these individuals come back again to this area in the next winter. Birders are urged to look for these tagged birds here in Jamnagar in the coming winter.

There have been recent sightings of tagged waders in Gujarat; a ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) was seen in Jamnagar recently (Mori 2018). Earlier, tagged Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) and Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) have been noted in Kachchh (Parekh 2017, Parekh & Parekh 2017). Thus, with increasing birders, we are obtaining more records of tagged birds from Gujarat.

Acknowledgments

We thank Madhumita Panigrahi, Dr. P. Sathiyaselvam and all other team members who work with wetlands programme, BNHS, for their help and support. We also appreciate the efforts of BNHS scientists who have done this work of tagging and ringing these birds to study migration routes, longevity and other biological aspects.

References

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