

Tagged Greater Sand Plover from Kachchh

Prashant Tewari : USV Limited, Arvind Vithal Das Chowk, Station Road, Govandi (E), Mumbai-400088. pkt1958@gmail.com

On 10 April 2015, at Modhva coast near Mandvi in Kachchh, a Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) was seen and photographed with an aluminum ring on the right tarsus and an orange plastic tag marked "TA" on the right tibia.

Information about the ringing and tagging was obtained from Colin Jackson and is follows:

Ring no. A70821 (Nairobi, Kenya Ring) - right tarsus.
Ringed: 8 November 2004

Location: Mida Creek, Kenya. Coordinates: 03°19'S 39°58'E.

Age Class: 4 (adult). Wing: not measured. Mass: 71.9 gm.
Time: 23:00 hrs.

Ringer: Francis Argyle.

The bird was then re-trapped and colour-flagged on a later date. The details of which are as follows:

Colour flag: Orange with black script 'TA' on right tibia.

Date re-trapped: 16 September 2013. Location: as above.
Age Class: 4 (adult).

Wing: 144. Mass: 78.3 gm. Time of capture: 04:15 hrs.

Ringer: Colin Jackson.

With the bird seen on 10 April 2015, it makes this Greater Sand Plover to be 10 years 5 months and 3 days old since it was ringed (as an adult). Distance of this sighting from the ringing site is 4,308 km. This individual was probably on its return migration to its breeding grounds in Central Asia/Mongolia.



As per details provided by Colin Jackson, this is the first sighting of a tagged Greater Sand Plover from Eastern Africa to anywhere. There was one individual ringed in Sudan in 1981 that was recovered in Syria in 1982, but that is the only other recovery of this species. Hence this sighting was very exciting. He further informed that their team is colour-flagging Terek Sandpipers (*Xenus cinereus*) with white flags and Lesser Sand Plovers (*Charadrius mongolus*) also with white flags. Hence all birdwatchers are requested to look out for colour flagged waders in Gujarat and report sightings of such birds.



Prashant Tewari



Jaysukh Parekh

[The tagged Greater Sand Plover was seen again at Modhva, Kachchh on 29 March 2016, by Jaysukh Parekh and the photos were put on the Oriental Bird Images website. It was the same bird and it is remarkable that this individual was seen at the same location after one year, and shows that Greater Sand Plovers are faithful to stopover sites on migration – Eds]

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