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## White-throated Kingfisher preying on chicks of Pheasant-tailed Jacana

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On 17 August 2015, I visited Ranjitsagar Dam (22° 23' N, 70° 06' E), near Jamnagar, with my father Jaypalsinh Jadeja. In this area, we saw a Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) strolling on the white water-lilies (*Nymphaea lotus*)



have caught a fish, a frog or an insect, but we were shocked to see a chick of the jacana in its beak. I quickly turned on my camera and started photographing those moments. The kingfisher held the chick in its beak, twisted it and to our surprise, swallowed it whole. After a few minutes, the kingfisher again hovered on the lilies, suddenly dived in and caught the second chick. It then perched on a wire, held the chick in its beak, twisted it and finally swallowed it. The parent bird managed to hide its last chick in the lilies and could avert predation. The kingfisher failed to locate the chick and flew away after some time.

White-throated Kingfisher has been recorded hunting large crustaceans, insects, earthworms, rodents, snakes, fish and frogs. Predation of small birds such as an adult Oriental White Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*), chick of Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*), fledgling sparrows and munias has been reported earlier (Ali & Ripley 2001). But it has not been reported hunting the chicks of Pheasant-tailed Jacana to my knowledge. I think it is a rare event that we saw and photographed.

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with three chicks. A White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) was flying above the lilies and after some time, it dived in and caught something in its beak. We thought it must