

herbivorous and feeds on shoots and tubers of reeds and other grasses / rushes but it is known to be opportunistic and has been observed consuming a wide range of taxa including birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, eggs, insects, arthropods, and molluscs (Callaghan *et al.* 2020). The Purple Swamphen has been observed attempting to prey on Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) eggs and preying on a cygnet in an urban lake in Melbourne, Australia (Balasubramaniam & Guay 2008). But, the Purple Swamphen is predominantly herbivorous and various studies have shown that animal matter in gizzards is minimal (<1%) (Callaghan *et al.* 2020). In Gujarat, the Purple Swamphen has been recorded killing and feeding on a chick of Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) (Patel 2016).

It can be seen that though animal matter is not the preferred food for the Purple Swamphen, it is an opportunistic feeder

and will catch and kill chicks of other birds. Further studies on the diet of this bird can throw more light on the feeding habits of the Purple Swamphen in Gujarat.

References

- Balasubramaniam, S., & Guay, P. J., 2008. Purple Swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) attempting to prey upon Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) eggs and preying upon a cygnet on an urban lake in Melbourne, Australia. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120: 633–635
- Callaghan, C. T., Pranty, B., Pyle, P., & Patten, M. A., 2020. Gray-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.purpswa3.01>
- Patel, A., 2016. Unusual prey by waterbirds. *Flamingo* 14 (3): 15–16 □

Rescue of Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus* from Porbandar, Gujarat

Chirag Tank: 210/12, Jalaram Colony, Opp HMP Colony, Porbandar 360575. chiragtank78@gmail.com

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



confirmed the identification. The bird was stressed and lethargic and could not survive even for one day under veterinary care. This individual was not oiled or did not appear to have any external injuries but it was not eating at all, unlike rescued Masked Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*), which are fed and mostly survive to be released back in the wild.

This is the second record of a rescued shearwater from Porbandar; a probable Tropical Shearwater (*Puffinus bailloni*) was rescued from Porbandar on 3 July 2015 which also died (Jhala 2016). This is the first confirmed record of a Persian Shearwater on land; all previous records were in the sea, off the Gujarat coast.

We appreciate the identification help received from Prasad Ganpule, Kunan Naik, and Dipu Karuthedathu.

References

- Ganpule, P., 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3)-12(4): 2-40
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. 2014. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent (Digital Edition)*. Christopher Helm. London.
- Jhala, L., 2016. Shearwater in Porbandar. *Flamingo* 14 (4): 16-17
- Munshi, E., & Naik, K., 2016. *eBird*: eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S40292558>. Retrieved June 09, 2021.
- Munshi, E., & Naik, K., 2017. *eBird*: eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S40782341>. Retrieved June 09, 2021. □

The status of the Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) in Gujarat is not known and it is believed to be a vagrant. It is possible that it occurs off the Gujarat coast, as it was seen on pelagic trips off the Gujarat coast in September 2016 and November 2017 (Munshi & Naik 2016, 2017). However, the species can be found off Pakistan's Makran Coast, which is close to the Kachchh coastline (Ganpule 2016). The Persian Shearwater has light to dark brown upperparts with less contrast between the face and the throat, dark brown axillaries, but pale primary and secondary coverts and white underparts (Grimmett *et al.* 2014).

On 4 April 2021, a shearwater was rescued from Porbandar Jetty by the first author and Paresch Pitroda of Green Wildlife Conservation Society, Porbandar. The bird was identified as a Persian Shearwater based on above mentioned identification features by experienced birders and the dark brown axillaries