

## Indian Courser....

Anderton (2012), I have found only one previous record of this species from South Gujarat in the last two decades. This record is by Tony Palliser at Tundi Wetland of Surat District (see eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S24206475>). I have searched published records, social media reports, websites and inquired amongst birders of South Gujarat, but did not find any other records in recent years. Ganpule (2016) has stated that this species is a common to uncommon resident in Gujarat, and there are scattered sightings in South Gujarat too. But, this is only place in South Gujarat where Indian Courser has been seen regularly every year. Further, this species is not resident here as shown in the reference books, but rather, it is a summer breeding migrant to this place, which is interesting. Probably, the Indian Courser is an uncommon summer breeding visitor in South Gujarat region.

## References

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## Sighting of Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* in Surat District

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The Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) is listed as 'Vulnerable' since its population is suspected to be rapidly declining as a result of a variety of threats (Birdlife International 2021). It is a large stork, belonging to the family Ciconiidae. The Lesser Adjutant was formerly common and widespread across its range in S & SE Asia, but their numbers declined dramatically and it has disappeared from many areas in recent years due to persistent and unregulated harvesting of eggs and chicks at colonies, loss of nesting trees and loss and degradation of wetland habitats; the current global population is believed to be around 5500–10,000 individuals (Birdlife International 2021). For India, it is a resident species mainly in the Northeast; it is a winter migrant to east-central part of the country and there are isolated records from southern India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

During routine birding on 24 October 2020 near Barbodhan Village, Surat, I saw a large stork in a grassland. I stopped my car and observed it. I could make out that it was different from other stork species found around Surat. I took some record photographs and video, and observed it for almost half an hour. It was searching for food in the grass. I left that place without disturbing it. At home, I confirmed the identification as a Lesser Adjutant by referring to Grimmett *et al.* (2011). There are eight stork species listed for Gujarat by Ganpule (2016), with the Lesser Adjutant given as a vagrant. There are only two previous sightings of this species from our state; at Mandvi, Kachchh (Ali 1954) and a recent photographic record near Valsad in South Gujarat (Jat 2010). Thus, this is only the third record of the Lesser Adjutant from Gujarat and it is an important sighting for our state.

## References

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