

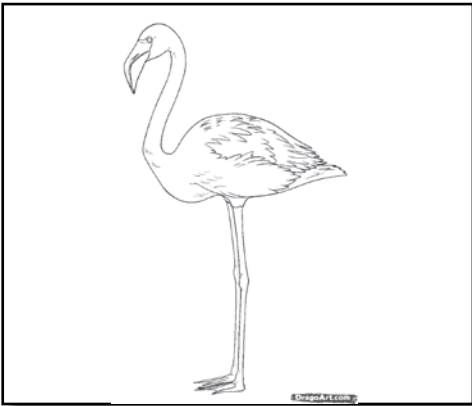
ABSTRACTS

This feature reports articles and papers published in various national and international journals regarding birds in Gujarat.



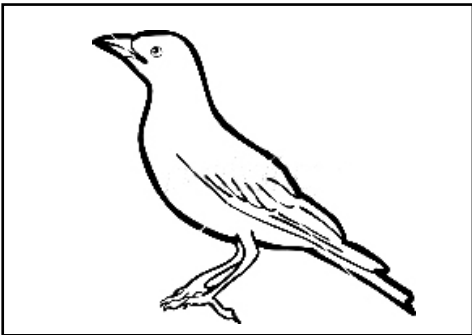
Sand Lark: 'Field identification of Sand Lark and Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark – An unacknowledged pitfall' by Prasad Ganpule. *Indian BIRDS* 15 (4): 97-111

The author presents a detailed paper on field identification of Sand Lark (*Alaudala rayta*) and Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark (*A. rufescens/cheleensis*) based on study of Sand Larks in Gujarat. The author has stated that identification and separation of Sand Lark from the Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark is difficult and requires studying a host of features, with overlap of features in these species. A photo of 'putative' Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark from Gujarat is also discussed in detail and remarks are given on photos of Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark taken in India. Variation in Sand Larks in Gujarat is discussed, and it is stated that both subspecies (*adamsi* and *krishnukumarsinhji*) of Sand Lark are widely distributed in Gujarat. The author suggests taking photos, from all angles, of suspected Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark for identification, and also further study of Sand Larks in Gujarat.



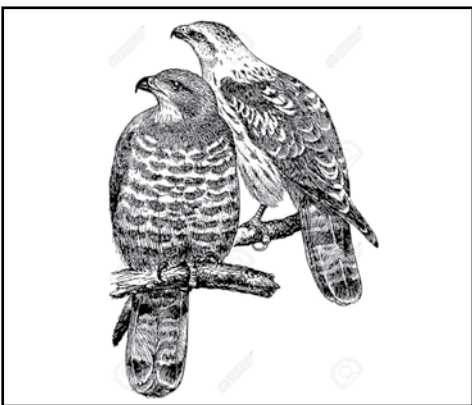
Greater Flamingo: 'First report of successful breeding of Greater Flamingo in the Gulf of Khambhat' by B. M. Parasharya & I. R. Gadhvi: *Indian BIRDS* 15 (5): 136-139

The authors report on the breeding of Greater Flamingo in the Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat. A colony of Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) was seen in a salt pan around the Gulf of Khambhat and observations were made over a period of more than three months. Breeding was successful and more than 300+ chicks were seen there. This was the first ever successful breeding of Greater Flamingo at a new site in the Gulf of Khambhat. The authors propose to inform the salt pan owners to provide a larger island and manage the water depth in the pan to deter terrestrial predators and keep out visitors from the area so that Greater Flamingos breed here regularly.



Rufous-tailed Lark: 'Colour aberration in Rufous-tailed Lark from Gujarat' by Yuyutshu N. Bhattacharya & others: *Indian BIRDS* 16 (2): 54

A colour-aberrant Rufous-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes phoenicurus*) was seen and photographed near Timbi Irrigation Reservoir, near Vadodara, by the authors. A 'white plumaged' Rufous-tailed Lark was seen with a normal plumaged individual. The colour aberration in this individual was identified as 'progressive greying', which is due to the result of progressive loss of melanin pigments with each successive moult. In this individual, whitening of more than 75% of the feathers was seen. The authors state that this was the first record of progressive greying for this species from India.



European Honey Buzzard: 'First record of European Honey Buzzard for India' by Dhaval Vargiya & others. *Birding ASIA* 33: 128-131

The authors report of a rescue of a juvenile honey buzzard from Porbandar, which was later identified as a European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*). The individual was rescued off the Porbandar coast, was injured, and recovered after treatment. Measurements were taken for this bird and the plumage (lack of gorget) and underwing pattern (dark carpal patches and the pattern of barring on the secondaries) were similar to European Honey Buzzard and did not match to Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*). The wing formula further confirmed it as a European Honey Buzzard. Expert opinions were taken and they confirmed that it was a juvenile European Honey Buzzard. This was a first record of European Honey Buzzard for Gujarat as well as India.

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