



Greylag Goose *Anser anser* in Kachchh

On 14 January 2019, we were bird watching at a lake near Chadva Rakhhal area, Ta: Bhuj. There, we saw and photographed a Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*). The Greylag Goose is a regular winter visitor to Gujarat, including in the Little Rann of Kachchh, but it is rare in mainland Kachchh (Ganpule 2016). In the past, the regular hunting of this goose was a common practice by the royal family of Kachchh and the last big shoot was arranged in 1912-13 (Vijayrajji 1912). On 25 November 1990, Asad Akhtar and Jugal Tiwari recorded a Greylag Goose at Chhari Dhandh (Akhtar 1991) and this was a record of this species after a long span of 77 years from mainland Kachchh. Hence, this present sighting of this species comes after almost 29 years and is a significant record for Kachchh.

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Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* in Gandhinagar

I was in Gandhinagar with Viren Desai, Pragnesh Patel and Sandeep Patel on 28 November 2018. On the next morning, our friend Chintu Panchal joined us at 06:30 hrs and we went to Indroda Park, and entered the Botanical Garden area. We saw two Spangled Drongos (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) perched on a tree just above and next to us. We saw the birds only for a few moments and did not get good photographs due to the foggy morning and low light. But, we could easily identify the birds by their typical tail and long, down-curved bill. We saw the birds again in the deer park area. The Spangled Drongo is believed to be a rare resident in South Gujarat, with isolated records from elsewhere in the state; it has been noted in Indroda Park in 1992 (Subramanya 2018) but it is rare here.

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Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* near Rajkot

A male Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) was seen and photographed near Sindhavadar, in Ta: Wankaner, about 40 kms from Rajkot, on 26 January 2019 in the morning. We could get a few photographs of the hypocolius before it flew away. The total observation time was only about 10 seconds, and we were unable to find it again. The Grey Hypocolius has been noted at Lalpari Lake, Rajkot, in December 2015 (Bhalodia & Mashru 2016). This location is almost 40 kms from the place where it was seen earlier near Rajkot and it is a new location for this species from Rajkot area.

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Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* in Kachchh

On 8 December 2018, I saw and photographed a Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) on Kotdi-Poladia Road, Ta: Mandavi, Kachchh. On this road, there is a river which always has some water in the winter. Due to good vegetation around this area, many birds are usually seen here. The Woolly-necked Stork is resident in Gujarat but is vagrant in Kachchh. Salim Ali did not come across this species during his surveys and mentioned that 'Lester observed it only during the cold season and rains' (Ali 1945). Thereafter, there is only one published record of this species in Kachchh till now; J. K. Tiwari had seen it at Tuga Dam in Pach chham area of Kachchh in 1992 (Tiwari 1993). On very next day, 9 December 2018, I revisited this place to watch the Woolly-necked Stork again. This stork was present at the same spot but to my surprise, this time, I also saw a Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) there. The Black Stork is an uncommon to rare winter migrant to Kachchh. So, I was very much delighted to find these two rare storks in Kachchh.

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