



Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* near Dwarka

On 19 December 2019, while going from Dwarka to Mithapur, we saw a small falcon perched on a wire. We turned the vehicle and went back to the spot. It was an Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*). We realised that probably the same bird was perched here a day before but, as we were in a hurry, it was ignored. Fortunately, we were carrying a small point and shoot camera, along with binoculars, so the first author was able to click few photos, which further confirmed the identification. The bird was lethargic and had primaries, especially of the right wing, in poor shape. It was also continuously mobbed by House Crows (*Corvus splendens*) and so it had to change its position every few minutes. The Amur Falcon is an uncommon / rare passage migrant (both spring and autumn passage migrant), in Gujarat (Ganpule 2016). There are 13 observations of Amur Falcon from Gujarat on 'eBird' website, and it is reported from November to January and April-May (eBird 2020). This sighting is an addition to the sightings of this species in Gujarat.

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Flock of Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* in Jakhau, Kachchh

On 18 November 2018, my son Nirav and I went to the Jakhau Salt Pans for photography. Due to drought-like situation in the winter of 2018-2019, the birds, especially winter visitors, were absent everywhere except on the sea coast and in salt pans. We saw a few grebes from some distance, which I initially identified as Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) but Nirav corrected me and on a closer look, were indeed Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). A group of 5 individuals was seen in one section. These birds were seen regularly over 5-6 visits but on 8 December 2018, we saw 35 individuals in this area. We took photographs and the birds approached to about 10-12 mts from us. This species is common in Charakhla Salt Pans near Dwarka, where large flocks have been noted and there are sporadic sightings from other parts of Saurashtra and Kachchh. The Black-necked Grebe has been noted in Kachchh earlier, including Jakhau, but it is generally uncommon here (Akhtar & Tiwari 1992, Varu 2007, 2009).

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Tawny Eagle *Aquila Rapax* in Ahmedabad

On 9 July 2020, I was birding in a field near my home in Chandkheda, Ahmedabad, in the morning. I noticed a huge flock of Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) circling at a distance. When the flock moved closer to my location, I noticed an unusual looking, whitish-coloured raptor, which was bigger in size than the kites it was flying with. I took a few photographs but could not identify the bird in the field. On posting the image on 'Raptor Identification' Facebook page, it was confirmed by many experts as a Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*). With the Tawny Eagle being an uncommon resident and local winter migrant, and that too recorded mostly from desert areas and arid scrub, this is certainly an unusual record, and could possibly be the first record for Ahmedabad in the past few years. It would be worthwhile to be on the lookout for this raptor in and around the city.

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Sighting of Jungle Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* at Khirasara vidi, Rajkot

On 26 July 2020, a Sunday, I was with Dr. Sandeep Nandani, Dr. Chetan Hansalia and Pilubhai Sitapara in the morning and we were on our weekly bird watching trip in Khirasara vidi area, during which we saw slight movement on an *Acacia* sp. tree. On close observation and looking through the camera, we identified some bird camouflaged on the branch of the tree and so we silently approached towards it. A nightjar (*Caprimulgus* sp.), totally camouflaged, was present on the branch. We took some photographs and identified it as a Jungle Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*). We confirmed the identification with Ashokbhai Mashru. The Jungle Nightjar is known to occur in Hingolgadh Sanctuary but this is probably the first confirmed record of this species in Khirasara vidi and hence a significant sighting for Rajkot.

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