



Mating of Mallard in the winter in Jamnagar

Reading the note on courtship behaviour and mating of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) near Rajkot by Kunal Trivedi and Akshay Trivedi (Trivedi & Trivedi 2018) reminded me of my earlier and similar observations at Lakhota Lake, Jamnagar, in 2012. I was at the lake at around 13:00 hrs on 18 January 2012 for photography of a Mallard pair. At around 13:45 hrs, the pair did courtship display and I was able to take some photos. Again, in the afternoon on 25 January 2012, I saw courtship display and mating. Subsequently, I visited Lakhota Lake everyday but saw the courtship and mating a third time only on 9 February 2012. It was quite surprising that each time, I observed this behaviour in the afternoon at around 13:45 hrs. The post-mating behaviour was like other duck species. So, the courtship display and mating of Mallards in the winter was noted in Jamnagar too earlier.

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Bronze-winged Jacana in Rajkot

On 20 January 2018, I went to Randarada Lake, Rajkot, with Prakash Jani and Devang Kotecha, for birding. Due to adequate rain last year, the lake was full of water, with birds scattered around the lake. At one edge of the lake, when we were watching a group of 7 Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*), we were surprised to find 2 Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) alongside this group. We took photos and confirmed the identification. On enquiring with Rajkot birdwatchers, Ashok Mashru said that he had sighted the species once at Randarda in 2002. Rajdeep Zala had observed this species at a river near Christ College in 2003. Recently, Rajubhai Karia has photographed a Bronze-winged Jacana, first on 5 May 2015 at Randarda, and it stayed there for about 10 days. So this species is not a frequent or regular visitor to Rajkot area.

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Red-tailed Shrike of karelini morph in Kachchh

On 24 August 2018, I was bird watching in the Khari River, near Bhuj, along with my son Nirav. The area is rocky, with small plants and some trees. At around 11:30 hrs, I saw a Red-tailed Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*), of the *karelini* morph, perched on a dry shrub. It was identified as a *karelini* morph individual by its grey upperparts, white supercilium, prominent black eye mask, white underparts and red tail. The white wing patch was seen when it flew. Thus, the identification could be confirmed beyond any doubt. The bird perched on a heap of dry stems and was very active and hunting for prey. It was seen in the same area till about 17:00 hrs. I visited the same spot on the next day but could not find this bird. I also observed two other individuals of Red-tailed Shrikes in the next one week and the plumage of all the three birds was quite different. However, the other birds were of normal morph and this was the only bird of *karelini* morph seen here. The *karelini* morph Red-tailed Shrike has been noted only once before from Saurashtra (Ganpule 2017), and this is the first sighting of this morph from Kachchh.

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