



### Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* in Bhavnagar

On 9 December 2018, I went for birding at Akwada Lake near Bhavnagar, with my uncle, at about 07:00 hrs in the morning. There, we observed a Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*). I took a few photographs and confirmed the identification. The Red-crested Pochard is now an uncommon or rare winter migrant to Saurashtra, with sightings mainly from large lakes in our region (Ganpule 2016). A recent record from Gir-Somnath District is known (Patel 2019) but I am not aware of sightings reported from Bhavnagar area recently. Senior birders confirmed that the species is now rare in Bhavnagar.

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### Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* in Rajkot

While visiting Chibhada Village near Khirasara *vidi*, we saw five Indian Coursers (*Cursorius coromandelicus*) on the evening of 13 October 2018. The first author had seen the species earlier in 2002 at Khirasara *vidi*. On enquiring about previous sightings from other birdwatchers, Ashok Mashru informed that he had seen 10 birds on the evening of 28 September 1986 at Lalpari Lake and Rajdeepsinh Zala had recorded it near Christ College and at Khirasara *vidi* in August 2003. Recently, this year, Raju Karia had photographed a pair on 21 April 2019 at Chibhada pond. After that sighting, he had photographed an adult with a chick. It seems that the Indian Courser is mostly a monsoon migrant to Rajkot but the recent record by Raju Karia in the month of April, with a chick, confirms its breeding in Rajkot area.

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### Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* in Chhari-Dhand, Kachchh

I was visiting Chhari-Dhand Lake, in Kachchh, with my friends Vikramsinh, Nirav and Ashish. A Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) was seen and photographed by us on 25 November 2018, in the dried lake. The lake had dried entirely since there was very less rainfall in the monsoon. When we saw this bird, it was seen perched beside a Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*). We took some good photographs of this vulture. The Cinereous Vulture is a rare winter visitor to Kachchh, with only sporadic sightings in the last few years. It is now increasingly rare in our region and there have been very few sightings reported from this area.

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