

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* in breeding plumage at Jamnagar

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Photo: Vimal Dubal

On 8 April 2022 in the night, Pratik Bhatt and I started our journey from Ahmedabad to Jamnagar to photograph waders in breeding plumage. On 9 April, early in the morning, we, along with Siddharthsinh Sisodiya, visited Sachana, near Balachadi, for photography of different migratory waders in their breeding plumages. We reached there at around 07:00 hrs and started moving towards different groups of waders.

We were trying to photograph Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) in breeding plumage and so we approached a group of godwits while Siddharthsinh went to a separate side to try for other species. We came across one different looking individual, which was also in breeding plumage and looked like a Bar-tailed Godwit from a distance with naked eyes, and so we approached it. It was smaller compared to a Bar-tailed Godwit so Pratik and I took a few pictures of it; I captured a video, and then came to know that there were two of these birds in that group.

The other species we photographed were Bar-tailed Godwits, Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Little Stint (*C. minuta*), Lesser Sand Plovers (*Charadrius mongolus*) and Greater Sand Plovers (*C. leschenaultii*), Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*), and my most favourite, the Crab Plovers (*Dromas ardeola*). We concluded our session at around 09:30 hrs and came back to the hotel and then checked all the pictures of the unidentified birds and came to know that these were two Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*) in breeding plumage. They were foraging continuously and looked like they were feeding restlessly

because they were about to fly for their return migration. I sent the photographs to Nushad Theba and Manish Trivedi, who further confirmed the identification. Ashish Pankhania and Yashodhan Bhatia were also at the same location, but very far from us. These Red Knots were then seen for more than one week and many bird watchers visited Jamnagar to see these birds.

The Red Knot is given as a winter vagrant to Gujarat, with sightings from coastal Saurashtra and Kachchh (Ganpule 2016). The sighting of these birds in almost full breeding plumage was unusual as there are hardly any records of it in breeding plumage from our state. This is an important sighting for Jamnagar as well as Gujarat.

References

Ganpule, P., 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3) – 12 (4): 2-40 □

Nesting of Collard Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* in Kachchh

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Photo: Jaysukh Parekh Suman

On 19 April 2022, late in the morning, I visited Charri-Dhand in Banni, Kachchh, with my son Nirav, and with Nirav Pomal and Mukim Mutva. We were photographing birds in the area. We saw and photographed Collard Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*) in Chari-Dhandh. There were small group of 6-8 birds which were scattered in the area. The area had small to medium dry grass, with depressions covered with dense grass. We observed that sometimes, the birds were flying and landing on the ground. After landing, some birds were walking fast with necks