



### **Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* in Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary**

On 26 August 2021, at around 15:15 hrs, we visited Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. We were searching for birds near Dhrabla-bet, when we saw many birds there. We were surprised to see and photograph a single Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris falcinellus*) in almost full breeding plumage. After that, we visited the site in the morning on 27 August 2021 and saw it again. In Gujarat, the Broad-billed Sandpiper is an uncommon winter visitor, mainly found in coastal areas of Kachchh and Saurashtra, and it is commonly seen around Jamnagar (Ganpule 2016). However, there are very few inland records of this species from Gujarat and this is probably the first photographic record of the Broad-billed Sandpiper from Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary.

**Kamarudin & Ramajhan Kasam Sama:** At Post – Vekaria, Nalsarovar.



### **Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* near Nalsarovar**

On 12 December 2021, while birding around Vitthalgadhi area, near Nalsarovar, we saw a large raptor perched on a Neem tree a bit further away from the road. It was being harassed by few crows (*Corvus* sp.) and flew into an adjoining tree. The distinctive underwing pattern clearly identified the bird as a Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*).

We tried to get closer and approached it near the farm edge to get a few decent photographs before it flew away. A few days later, we again saw the bird on the same perch, indicating that the bird remained in the vicinity for some time before leaving the site. This time, we were able to get good photographs, which further confirmed the identification. There are only a few scattered records of the Crested Serpent Eagle outside of Gir NP / Girnar area in Saurashtra. This was our first sighting of the Crested Serpent Eagle in this area.

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### **Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* near Bhavnagar**

On 22 September 2021, I was birding in the Malnath Hill Range, near Bhavnagar. At around 10:30 hrs, I saw and photographed a Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). I saw one small and dark coloured warbler (*Phylloscopus* sp.) at this place. I immediately took photographs and observed it closely. It had distinctive dark greenish upperparts and dirty looking underparts. The dark eye-stripe was broad and it had a long supercilium. The bill was large and dark. I identified it as a Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*).

In October 2020, I had recorded this species with my friends in the Malnath Hills. This sighting, in September 2021, makes it the second record for this area. It is possible that this species could be a rare passage migrant through Gujarat. More sightings will help in understanding its status here.

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### **Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* preying on a hare**

On 9 January 2022, I was bird watching in Surat outskirts area. I observed that a female Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) was just around 15 feet away from me, and flying towards me. On a closer look, I saw that it had something in its feet. Since it was very near, I was not able to focus my camera but as soon as it went away, I took some photographs. I was surprised to see that it was carrying a hare in its feet. It was probably the Indian Hare, also known as Black-naped Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) but I could not identify the prey with certainty. It was astonishing to see the marsh harrier carrying this prey. Though this species is known to hunt a variety of birds, mammals and insects, and is a great opportunist, this was the first time I had seen it hunting a hare. The Eurasian Marsh Harrier is stated to hunt rabbits in Spain (Orta *et al.* 2020) but I could not find any record of this species preying on a rabbit/hare in India.

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