

River Tern....

In *Larid* species, colonies are often defended by group defense, and potential predators in the colony are met with aggressive dive-bombing, including alarm-calling and defecating upon and striking the intruder (Winkler *et al.* 2020). Here, I was able to document nesting River Terns and Little Terns using group defense while chasing intruders aggressively and protecting fledglings from predators.

References

Winkler, D. W., Billerman, S. M., & Lovette, I. J., 2020. Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (*Laridae*), version 1.0. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.larida1.01> □

Further evidence of breeding of Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* in Kachchh

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Photo: Shantilal Varu

On 17 April 2022, I visited Chhari-Dhandh Conservation Reserve, Kachchh, with Jaysinh Parmar, Ibrahim Darvadia, Mahesh Parmar, Mahendra Tank and Manoj Tank. The wetland was entirely dry. While roaming there, we saw six Collared Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*) flying and settling in a dried grass patch. Owing to ongoing breeding period, we thought that it could be nesting here. We waited for a while and after sometime, one bird landed on the ground with an insect in its beak; we thought there must be chicks around. After scanning the nearby area, we found two chicks resting in the shade of a broken concrete platform made by the forest department. We took some photographs and confirmed the identification.

The Collared Pratincole was first recorded in Kachchh on 18 October 1992 at a water body between Loriya-Bhirandiyara (it is now known as Vekariya Dhandh in Banni area) by M. K. Himmatsinhji, the members of Pelican Nature Club, Bhuj and I (Himmatsinhji 1999). At that time, along with adult birds, juveniles were also seen. Dr. Bharat Jethva visited Chhari-Dhandh in the summer of 2008 and saw a pair with two chicks. The whole wetland was dry at that time too (*personal communication*). It was the first breeding record of this species

here. Thereafter, on 11 May 2014, A. O. Langa, forest guard, and I saw a pair with one chick. The wetland was dry at that time. Thus, it seems that this species occasionally breeds here in Chhari-Dhandh when the wetland gets totally dried and conditions turn favourable for nesting. More Collared Pratincoles were seen nesting in another part of Chhari-Dhandh this year and nests were observed in the periphery of the area [*see elsewhere in this issue –Eds*].

References

Himmatsinhji, M. K., 1999. The occurrence of Collared Pratincole or Swallow Plover *Glareola pratincola* in Kutch. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 96 (2): 316-317 □