

preserving unique habitats and reinforces the positive outcomes achievable through dedicated conservation efforts and scientific research. The presence of the Yellow-legged Buttonquail serves as an inspiration for all those committed to safeguarding our natural heritage and underscores the need to protect endangered and threatened species.

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## Sightings of Pelagic birds in Gujarat around Cyclone Biparjoy, June 2023

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On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 very severe strong cyclone called Biparjoy, landed at Naliya, Kachchh, Gujarat. Due to very high wind speed, it's affected so many birds. Pelagic birds from the Arabian Sea blown by this cyclone diverted from their regular flying path had to travel to the Gujarat coast and landed there. There were 19 sightings of 7 pelagic bird species on the coastline and some at inland lakes. They were in the form of observation by birdwatchers or rescue by local people. These 7 species were previously sighted in Gujarat as vagrant visitors due to pre-monsoon winds, cyclones, and offshore trips by birdwatchers in the Gujarat Sea limit (See: Ganpule et al. 2022). I have collected details of sightings by different birdwatchers. The data was collected from various sources like newspapers, ebird websites, Pers. communication, and social media. Sighting details of all these pelagic birds recorded during the cyclone are mentioned in table (Fig. 1).

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (Photo 1), Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* (Photo 2), Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* (Photo 3), Parasitic Jaeger *Sercorarius parasiticus*, Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus* and Masked Booby *Anous stolidus* (Photo 4) had stayed on shore some days. They have foraged in respective water bodies where observed. Subsequently, they might return to the native sea after the appropriate favorite climate. Many birdwatchers from Gujarat and India have visited places and took a chance to see these rarities as they stayed near land longer. I was one of them to observe Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* at Porbandar, Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) at Jamnagar & Nalsarovar, and Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) at Nalsarovar. The recent sighting of Bridled Tern on 23 August 2023 by Mr. Ashvin Trivedi at Lakhota Lake at mid of the city of Jamnagar is very surprising. This compilation of data will be helpful in the study of future cyclone-diverted pelagic birds.

## Sightings of Pelagic birds around cyclone Biparjoy (June 2023), in Gujarat.

Pelagic bird specie	Sr no.	Place of Sighting	Date of Sighting	Comment	Observer	Source
Unidentified Tropicbird	1	Mandavi Coast	15/06/23 to 21/06/23	Found dead	Milan Mehta Niki Shah Yashesh Shah	News Paper Divya Bhaskar dated 22/06/23
Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2	Khadir Area	before cyclone land	Rescued	V J Rana, CCF, Kachchh	News Paper Divya Bhaskar dated 22/06/23
	3	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	20/06/23	Stayed there for few days	Akabar Kasam Kamrudin A Latif Alvani Abdul Multani	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
	4	Gomati Ghat, Dwarka	14/06/23	Rescued	Dr Ravi Varotariya	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
	5	Sani Dam, Kalyanpur, Jamnagar	16/06/23	1 bird, Rescued & dehydrated, died	Kishan Vadhiya Vijay Gojiya Ramde Bhatia	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
Bridled Tern <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	6	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	19/06/23	Stayed there for a Week	Akabar Kasam Kamrudin A Abdul Multani	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
	7	Amreli, Dist. Anand	25/06/23	1 bird, Single Sighting	Vishal Mistry	Mistry 2023
	8	Sultanpur, Dist. Navsari	18/06/23	1 bird, Single Sighting	Rajendra Desai	Pers. Communication, Social Media (Photographed)
	9	Lakhota Lake, Jamnagar	10/08/23	1 bird foraging Possible long staying	Ashvin Trivedi	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
Brown Noddy <i>Anous stolidus</i>	10	Navlakhi coast	18/06/23	1 bird, Single Sighting	Prasad Ganpule	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
	11	Sachana beach, Jamnagar	18/06/23	3 birds on this day then 2 birds Stayed there for a Week	Maulik Varu Ashvin Trivedi	Varu 2023; Pers. Communication (Photographed),
	12	Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary	24/06/23	1 bird, Stayed there for a few days	Latif Alvani Sabbir Belim	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
	13	Mokersagar, Porbandar	18/06/23	2 birds, Single Sighting	Vikrantsinh Zala	Social Media with photograph
Parasiatic Jaeger <i>Sercorarius parasiticus</i>	14	Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary	19/06/23	1 bird, Single Sighting	Sabbir Belim	Belim 2023
	15	Hathab beach, Bhavnagar	18/06/23	1 bird in flight	Kandarp Andharia Vivek Upadhyay Raj Vala	Pers. Communication (Photographed)
Persian Shearwater <i>Puffinus persicus</i>	16	Koliak, Bhavnagar	17/06/23	1 bird, Single Sighting	Kandarp Andharia Raj Vala	Andharia & Vaja 2023
Masked Booby <i>Sula dactylatra</i>	17	Gosabara Tukada Bridge, Porbandar	21/05/23	2 birds, Stayed there since 21/05/23 to 11/06/23 last sighting	Gaurang Bagada Vishwajitsinh Solanki	Bagada et. al. 2023
	18	Kanewal lake, Kheda	18/06/23	1 bird, Single sighting	Monal Trivedi	Trivedi 2023
	19	Gorinjia, Dwarka	17/06/23	1 bird, single sighting	Chirag Solanki	Pers. Communication



Photo: Ashok Mashru

Photo 2



Photo: Ashok Mashru

Photo 4



Photo: Ashok Mashru

Photo 3

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## Predation pressure of Oriental Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosa* causing nesting adaptation in Streak-throated Swallows *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

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The streak-throated swallow or the Indian cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) is a small brown-black passerine bird with a short tail and blackish-brown streaks on white underparts, including chin, throat and upper breast (Ali & Ripley 1987). It is the Least Concerned resident bird of South Asia, found in India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Afghanistan (BirdLife International 2023). It is gregarious and builds nests in colonies under natural cliffs or on the roof of man-made structures such as buildings, bridges etc. The nests are gourd-shaped with a narrow tunnel-like opening and are generally built near water sources (Ali & Ripley 1987). Their nests are made up of mud

with an appropriate proportion of silt and sand (Kilgore & Knudsen 1977). The entire process of nest building lasts between 20-25 days and the eggs are laid before the completion of the gourd shape of the nest, within a week of the construction of the nest, first egg is laid (Chaya & Channaveerappa 2012). The birds possess site fidelity for nesting and are reported to rebuild their nest on the same site after disturbances (Ranga *et al.* 2011).

A huge flock of Streak-throated Swallows was observed on November 9, 2021, flying in air while passing by a small bridge