

Jungle Nightjar....

photos with Mr. Prasad Ganpule, I learned that it was a Jungle Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*.

Salim Ali did not come across this species during his Kachchh survey (Ali 1945). I have checked the distribution maps in a few field guides (Kazmierczak 2000; Grimmet 2011). They have not shown any record of this species in the Kachchh district. As per the recently published field guide of birds of Gujarat (Ganpule et. al. 2022), this species is considered an uncommon resident in some well-wooded parts of Gujarat, and the distribution map has not shown any record for Kachchh district. There is no mention of a record of this species from Kachchh in eBird platform, too. Hence this sighting should be considered as the first record of this species from Kachchh district and is worth publishing.

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Struggles at Sea: Unravelling the fate of the Persian Shearwater amidst the Biparjoy Cyclone

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Photo: P. S. Patel

The Persian Shearwater (*Puffinus persicus*) is a species with an uncertain status in Gujarat. While its presence off the Gujarat coast is not well-documented, previous observations during pelagic cruises and rescue incidents in Porbandar suggest its occurrence in the region (Munshi & Naik 2016, 2017; Tank & Vargiya 2021). Sightings have also been reported along the

Kutch shoreline and off Pakistan's Makran Coast (Ganpule 2021). Describing the Persian Shearwater is characterized by dark brown axillaries, light to dark brown upperparts with less contrast between the face and throat, pale primary and secondary coverts, and white underparts (Grimmett et al. 2014). This article introduces the first confirmed record of a

Persian Shearwater being rescued from Surat. Furthermore, it aims to investigate the potential impact of monsoon winds and cyclonic activities cyclone on marine avifauna.

On June 19, 2023, a Persian Shearwater was rescued from Dhanmora Char Rasta, Katargam, Surat (21°13'25.6" N, 72°49'39.4"), coinciding with the occurrence of the Biparjoy cyclone. Even though there were no visible injuries or oil contamination, the bird's dull calls and drooping eyelids indicated it was in distress. It was incapable of surviving, even with veterinary aid.

Over the ten years, from 2013 to 2023, it seems from table, that the majority of the pelagic bird rescues (n = 5) took place along the Gulf region of Gujarat's coastline. This may be due to the large number of islands and inlets in the Gulf of Khambhat (Shaikh *et al.* 1989) that are covered in mangroves, which serve as the ideal breeding ground for pelagic birds (Wynn & Knefelkamp 2004). In Porbandar, the entire landscape is covered in scattered wetland islands (Gujarat Maritime Board 2018), which may work as a suitable habitat for these birds. Furthermore, Cyclonic activities, including strong monsoon winds, storm surges, and turbulent seas, can disorient and exhaust birds during their migratory journeys or disrupt their foraging patterns. Furthermore, changes in water temperature, salinity, and nutrient availability resulting from cyclonic events can affect prey distribution and abundance, ultimately influencing the foraging success of marine birds (Weimerskirch & Prudor 2019).

Conclusion

Understanding the complex interactions between monsoon cyclones and marine avifauna is essential for assessing the resilience of these bird populations to climate change-related events. The occurrence of a stranded Persian Shearwater in Surat serves as a significant reminder of the vulnerability of marine birds to extreme weather events. This highlights the

importance of conducting further research and implementing effective conservation strategies to safeguard these species.

Acknowledgments

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Details of Pelagic birds rescued in a decade, from 2013 to 2023

Sr. No.	Species	Date of Rescue	Place of Rescue	Sources
1	Persian Shearwater	June, 2022	Porbandar	Kateshiya 2022
2	Christmas Island Frigatebird	May, 2021	Mahuva	Bhil & Bhil 2021
3	Lesser Frigatebird	May, 2021	Mahuva	Bhil & Bhil 2021
4	Persian Shearwater	April, 2021	Porbandar	Tank & Vargiya 2021
5	Persian Shearwater	June, 2023	Surat	--
6	Red-billed Tropicbird	June, 2015	Surat	Patel 2015
7	Short-tailed Shearwater	May, 2017	Mahuva	Shah et al. 2017
8	Jouanin's Petrel	Oct., 2014	Porbandar	Vargiya et al. 2017

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Rescue of Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* at Porbandar: Adding to Gujarat Avifauna

Modhwadiya Nagajan Chana: Marutinagar, Navapara. Chhaya, Porbandar.



Photo: Modhwadiya Nagajan Chana

My work in the Porbandar area is the rescue of snakes, birds, and other wildlife, too. I have been doing this work for many years, so I received a call on 16th April 2023 from an unknown person for rescue from Javar village, near Porbandar city, that some injured bird is near the coast. I visited the place immediately around 10.30 am. I had rescued the unknown whitish bird from there. After necessary primary treatment, the bird was improving. I took some photographs from my mobile. After 4 days, on date 20/04/23, the bird looked perfectly cured, so I released the bird at the same place on the coast.

I posted an image of the bird in a social media group for identification. There was discussion about identifying birds, either Red-billed tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* or Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* (Billerman et al. 2022). Some birdwatchers in the group identified as Red-tailed Tropicbird because of their dark beak. Mr. Ashok Mashru, a birdwatcher, contacted me for details and sent the photo to Prasad Ganpule (Editor, Flamingo Gujarat) for further identification. He also agreed to identification as a Red-tailed tropicbird based on a completely dark blackish beak. Mr. Prasad Ganpule sent a

photograph to Mr. Dipu K, a seabird expert in South India, to confirm identification. Mr. Dipu K opined and replied that the White-tailed Tropicbird Juvenile may show some dark on the beak, but here beak is entirely dark, so this is a juvenile of the Red-tailed Tropicbird.

Red-tailed Tropicbird (Family: Phaethontidae) is the rarest of all three Tropicbirds in North America, nesting in the Hawaiian islands and dispersing widely across the central and south Pacific Ocean during the non-breeding season (Schreiber & Schreiber 2020). It looks like it may be diverted here as a vagrant due to bad sea weather. There are few records of the Red-billed Tropicbird from Gujarat, but finding this rare vagrant Red-tailed Tropicbird is the first time in Gujarat. It is a very important record through rescue and a new add-on to the Gujarat bird list

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