

Sighting of Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* at Pavagadh, third photographic record

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On the 11th of February 2024 afternoon, I went for birdwatching & photography of waterbirds at Vada Talav near Pavagadh, Ta. Halol, Dist. Panchmahal. I have seen many birds there like Great Egrets, Open-billed Stork, Spoonbills, Sandpipers etc, During that time I saw a Godwit-like bird and took few photographs and on checking the screen, we found, it was a Lapwing but a different one the Red-wattled Lapwing and Yellow-wattled Lapwing, which usually are sighted here. I tried to get near it, but it flew away. This lapwing was more shy than our resident lapwings. Later, I tried to identify this bird through Google Lens, using the on screen image. It was a rare Grey-headed Lapwing. Considering the plumage of the bird, it was an immature individual.

On searching earlier records I found that my sighting was essential to establish further that it's a winter visiting bird in Gujarat as a vagrant. My record is the third photographic record in the State. "This species has been recently photographed twice in Gujarat; once in Timbi Irrigation Reservoir near Vadodara (Chandrarao et al. 2021) and once at Nava Talav near the Little Rann of Kachchh (see eBird checklist: (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S97459214>) the Grey-headed Lapwing may be a winter vagrant, visiting suitable habitats in the state." (Ganpule 2021)

References

Chandrarao, A., Bhatt, R., & Tere, A., 2021. The first sighting of Grey-headed Lapwing was at Timbi Reservoir of Vadodara in Central Gujarat. *Jalaplavit* 11 (2): 16-21

Ganpule, P., 2021. The third update to the Gujarat checklist: December 2021 *Flamingo Gujarat* Vol. IV-3 & 4 P. 3-7. □



Photos: Jayesh Dumadiya

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