

Sightings of Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis fulva* from Anand and Kheda Districts of Gujarat

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Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) is uncommon winter visitor of Gujarat Sightings are mainly from coastal areas of Jamnagar and scattered in other parts of Saurashtra and Kachchh also. The species is rare in other parts of Gujarat (Ganpule, 2016). This species is a least concerned and has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (BirdLife International, 2024). But, the long term trend of the species is in decline around 70% (SolB, 2023). Its 1% biogeographic population size is 750 for South and Southwest Asia (Li et al., 2009). VM has been observing the species in Charotar since last several years. Here, we present some of the notable counts of the species made during the winter months from 2018 to 2024 based on purely head count method from Kheda and Anand districts of Gujarat.

Counts of Pacific Golden Plover from Kheda and Anand districts

Wetland	District	Total sightings	Max of Count	Min of Count
Akhol	Anand	2	42	5
Bherai	Kheda	1	6	6
Heranj	Kheda	1	92	92
Limbasi-Vastana Rd	Kheda	1	1	1
Matar	Kheda	1	90	90
Narda Wetland	Kheda	7	30	1
Pariej Lake	Kheda	18	227	1
Punaj	Kheda	1	75	75
Rohni	Anand	2	3	1
Salla, Traj village	Kheda	2	30	3
Shekhupur	Kheda	1	40	40
Vadala	Kheda	1	7	7
Grand Total		38		

As per the Table no 1, it is clear that the maximum number of the species is from Pariej Wetland of Kheda during December 2021 (reference video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/73gj1QCxh2o>). Pariej is also the site where the species has the maximum reports from. East coast of India particularly some wetlands of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa and Tamil

Nadu holds good numbers of the species. In 2002, 12013 birds were reported from Chilika Lake, Orissa (Li et al., 2009). A count of 227 birds is second highest of the species from Gujarat after maximum count of 300 on eBird (eBird, 2025). None of the sites meet the 1% population threshold of the species but, counts of the species from a landscape where it is considered rare is worth sharing.



Photo: Vishal Mistry

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