

Probably Breeding Record of Western/Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* at Nal Sarovar (Kayla Village Dam) Birds Sanctuary Gujarat with Notes on Identification of Juvenile

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Abstract

There are five races from *Circus* Genus accures in Gujarat. Two race Hen Harrier *C. cyanous* and pied harrier *C. melanoleucos* are vagrant race, another three race pallid harrier *C. macrourus*, Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus* and Eurasian/ Western Marsh Harrier *C. aeruginosus* are winter visitor race. During winter the race Western marsh Harrier *C. aeruginosus* accures Gujarat, North-west, North-east, Central, South-east and South-west India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Rasmussen [1], C. David [2] belong to accipitridae family. Order-Falconiformes, kingdom-animalia, class-phylum. It is also very familiar raptor around cultivation field and wetland, named Panpattai.

Keywords: *C. cyanous*; *C. melanoleucos*; *C. macrourus*; *C. aeruginosus*

Habit

Birds are flying very closely about reed bed, cultivation field, marsh, canebrakes and wetlands, open country side, Grassy areas near water body with steady wing beats for prey.

Breed

Birds are move for long migration root in October and return in April. Breed Europe, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco for breed-Gensbol [3]. It is also recorded at Zangi Nawar, Malezai (Baluchistan), Pakistan, Kashmir and other area of North India-Rishad [4].

Study area

Kayla village dam/wetland (28.7500°N, 76.2609°E) is located 1 km North-east from Nal Sarovar Bird sanctuary T. Viramgam D. Ahmedabad, along Bagodara-Viramgam road. It is human made fresh water body with muddy lagoon. Shallow wetland with maximum water depth roughly 1 - 2 meters and serves the purpose of irrigation. It is also created suitable habitat for nesting like purple swamphen *P. poliocephalus*, Watercock *G. cineria*, White-breasted Waterhen *A. phoenicurus*, Black Bittern *B. striata*, Chestnut Bittern *I. cinnamomeus*, Yellow Bittern *I. sinensis* and Black-breasted weaver *P. bengalensis* and large billed reed warbler *A. arisnus*, clamorous (Indian) *A. stentoreus*. *Ipomea aquatic*, *Typha angustata*, *L. carnea*, *Cyperus* sp. comprised the main emigrant vegetation. It is interspreaded with *P. juliflora* made it difficult to enter in the water body to check the nest-parasharaya [5].

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Observation

I was birding at Kayla village dam near cultivation field on 5th august 2007. I came across bird like raptor perched on ground. I shoot some images but bird has took-off, fly for some meter and arrive on ground. I again try to go near for more images but was not ready for more images. I noted that bird was unable to fly for long distance. I identified photographed bird was juvenile of Marsh harrier *C. aeruginosus*. Has buff (woolly), white head, nape, neck, rufous-brown, wings coverts, white on secondary, lower breast rufous brown, upper breast white with dark brown streaked, black bill with grey base, pale brown ear-coverts, dark color ring. It is a transaction to make it to third phase of development.



Discussion

During winter the marsh harrier is consider as winter migratory bird in Gujarat from October-November. Return in end of the March or April for long migration root, Not a single record is available about arrive in august. Photographed bird was sited on 5th August 2007, photographs show that bird is juvenile of marsh harrier in third phase of development plumage; it is also shown that bird was not arrived in August in North India or Europe. Show that it is very difficult to cross the long distance for juvenile birds during migration. Probably bird has nesting in muddy lagoon during a monsoon but interspreaded *P. juliflora* thorn made it difficult to enter in this water body check the nest.

Conclusion

Juvenile birds of Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* plumage show that it is third phase of development plumage. Not a single record is available during monsoon migration. Plumage show that bird was unable to cross long migration route to North-India or Europe, may have bird has breed in this lagoon but adult both birds were not showed surrounding this wetland and Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. Also *P. juliflora* made it difficult to enter in the water body to check the nest.

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