

Records of Australian Endemic Raptor Square-Tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* in Gujarat, India

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Received: August 20, 2022; **Published:** August 29, 2022

The bird Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura* (Gould, 1838) is an uncommon Australian endemic raptor [1]. Belongs to *Lophoictinia* Genus, Family - Accipitridae, Order - Falconiformes. The Square-tailed Kite accures along the coastal and subcostal area from south-western to northern Australia, Queensland, NSW and Victoria. Found in a variety of timbered habitats including dry woodlands and open forests. Shows a particular preference for timbered watercourses is an expert hunter of passerines, especially honeyeaters, and most particularly nestlings, and insects in the tree canopy, picking most prey items from the outer foliage. Breed is from July to February, with nest sites, generally located along or near watercourses, in a fork or on large horizontal limbs [2]. It is endemic to Australian and occurrence also records from outside of its range in Germany and Japan recently [3]. There are very rare possibilities about its vagrancy outside of its normal occurrence range. I hypothesis that bird might be blown in storm and reached in India. The meteorological event noted storm during September 2009 in Australia, and it is a strong support to our hypothesis. Australian dust storm, also known as the Eastern Australian dust storm, was a dust storm that swept across the Australian states of New South Wales and Queensland from 22 to 24 September 2009. The capital, Canberra, experienced the dust storm on 22 September and on 23rd September the storm reached Sydney and Brisbane. Some of the thousands of tons of dirt and soil lifted in the dust storm were dumped in Sydney Harbor and the Tasman Sea [4]. The Square-tailed Kite recorded here, might be reached under effect of storm.

On 23rd of September 2009, I was birding between Nal Sarovar and Gantar village (Taluka - Viramgam, district-Ahmedabad) by walking. At 0810 hrs, I came across bird like Kite perched in cultivation field on grassy patch near Aniyari village (23.0324° N, 70.9142° E). Site is located 42 kms west from Sanand city and 16 kms east from Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. Bird was differing in size (Figure 1 and 2), plumage than Indian Black Kite *Milvus migrans* and winter visitor Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*. Then I referred authentic literature on Raptors birds of World [5].



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Rufous Plumaged medium sized long winged bird has crown and nape are pale rufous with broad black shaft streaks. The black and upper-wing coverts are dark sepia, with a rufous leading edge to the wing at its base, and pale sepia or rufous edgings, forming a pale patch at the bend of the wing. The upper-tail coverts are barred with sepia, rufous and white. The tail is dark brown, slightly forked, with four narrow black bars and a broad sub terminal black bar. The tip of the quills is whitish. Wing quills are very long, sepia basally with some white on inner webs, barred and broadly tipped black. The chin and throat are buff with narrow black shaft streaks. The rest of the underside of the body is chestnut, streaked with black, the streaks being most broad and dens on the breast, sometimes forming a dark band. The tail quills below are silvery grey with a terminal dark grey bar. The greater primary coverts are black forming a black spot at the carpal joint; the lesser wing coverts are chestnut, streaked with black [6]. Primary and secondary flight feathers are white or pale grey basally, making a conspicuous white patch at the carpal joint contrasting with the black spot and chestnut wing coverts. The primaries are strongly barred with grey and black towards the tips, the secondaries being nearly plain and darker tips. The eyes, feet and cere are yellow. At rest the chestnut head and under parts contrasting strongly with blackish upper parts and very long primary projection extend beyond the tail-tip, it should assist in identification.

Comparison between (Figure 1 and 2) Australian square tailed kite *Lophoictinia isura* and (Figure 3) Black-Eared Kite *Milvus lineatus* [5].

1. Rufous-brown plumage	1. Dark-brown plumage OR Blackish brown plumage
2. Cere, cutting edge of bill and legs yellow, forehead white	2. Cere and legs white
3. White spot on tertials	3. White spot on wing covert and tertial
4. Long primary projection extend beyond tail, tail is notched and probably square ended (Figure 2)	4. Primary projection short and extend beyond tertial
	5. Short and pointed tail

Note: Kite was might be disturbed by cyclone or any other changes of weather and different climates during gliding, so it has lost or change its own way.

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Volume 7 Issue 9 September 2022
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