

## Important Siting of Red Kite (juvenile) *Milvus milvus* from Thol Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, Western India

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Red kite *Milvus milvus* is medium sized graceful red colored raptor; distinguished than all other raptor by long, deeply forked tail, very expert in soaring and gliding flight. Common in western Europe-Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, few pairs in Briton, rare pairs in west Asia-turkey, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco [1,2] some northern breeding pair of Red kite may be strongly migratory birds during winter small flock of the Red kite are migrate north Africa [1], some vagrants kites were recorded from Mauritania during September to December in Gambia and also in south-west Niger-west Africa, during June [3] some vagrant records are available from India. Ali [4] has sited small flock of fifty birds at little ran Kachchh-Gujarat in March 1954. Second record from Kachchh at Chhari Dhand near Fulaii vil-lage (Great ran of Kachchh-Gujarat) by Himmat Sinhji, Third record from Jasdan, Saurashtra-Gujarat by Shivraj kumar in 1964. Jaykar and Spurway in 1965 January chilka lake near Puri (Odisha), Prakash has sited in 1988 Keoladeo national park Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Fily and Paren has observed at Ladakh (Kashmir) during July, one important record from Kumaan (Uttarakhand-Himalaya) by Naoroji and D'sliva in June 1988 [5], B.M. Parasharya [6] and Kry's gave its status winter vagrants and Rasmussen [7] has given its status on winter vagrant in Nepal and semi desert area of India, Grimmert R [8] does not include in his work or not clear about its status [9].



On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011, I was birding at Bird sanctuary, located (23.1375'N, 72.4066'E) 31 km North-west from Ahmedabad city, 57 km from Mehsana, 20 km south of Kadi, along Ahmedabad-Thol and Sanand-Kadi road are human made water body, muddy lagoon and Shallow wetland maximum water depth roughly 1-3 meters and serves the purpose of irrigation. It was declared as sanctuary in November 1988, due to high conservation value. Has a large wide spreaded *M. azadirachta*, *E. globules*, *Labill*, *Salvadora*, *Persia*, *H. integrifolia*, *Planch*, *H. integrifolia*, *C. decidua*, *C. sepiaria*, *A. arabica*, *P. spicigera*, *P. juliflora*, thorny scrub mixed sparsely, dry deciduous forest surrounding this lake.

At 0538 hrs I came across bird perched on *A. arabica* tree branch in up-down stancy, very similar in size but differ in some plumage than Indian black kite *Milvus migrans*. Long, blackish brown square ended tail, long neck, considerably longer than the wing breadth, give this raptor slender and elegance appearance, I shoot some images and consult with reference book on Raptor.

As per reference book bird was second or third phase of development, has long blackish brown head, white face, black bill, pale brown streaked neck, pale-brown fringed wing fathers, very long primary projection extend beyond half way of tail, square ended white tail tip.

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