

Sighting of Goliath heron *Ardea goliath* from Tarakpur Wetland, Taluka Khambhat, District Anand, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi*

20/c Mangaldeep Apartment, Jodhpur Village Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad, India

***Corresponding Author:** Rajni Trivedi, 20/c Mangaldeep Apartment, Jodhpur Village Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad, India.

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Classification of Goliath heron

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Ciconiformes

Family: Ardeidae

Genus: *Ardea*.

The Bird Goliath heron *A. goliath* is belong to threatened species is categorized as least concern species in JUCN Red list [1]. It is very large giant sized, serpent necked and dagger billed heron, is resembles of purple heron *A. purpurea*. It's size and plumage usually sufficient to prevent confusion with *A. purpurea*, Bird is very widely distributed race from East, West Africa (Scarce to uncommon resident in suitable habit [2]) and South Africa except Sahara and Sahara west, Saudi Arabia, South West Yamane, Iraq, south of Iran [3], Pakistan? Assam, West Bengal (Sundarban) near Kolkata, central and South East- Bangladesh, some records from Sri Lanka [4], Resident or winter visitor central, east and south-east India [5], Resident or winter visitor mainly north-east and central India [6]. The bird Goliath heron *A. goliath* was sighted in Sundarban 1926 by Prater and coastal area of Odisha. It was very rare and frequent in West Bengal and Odisha [7], previous record by Jackson [8] in 1976 in Sundarban and Banerji. The Herons of the world by Hancock., *et al.* 1978 [9] had recorded in 1994, he noted that record of the bird is rare - Saikia and Bhattacharjee had sited in 1990 [10], Madge had observed on 13th April, 1994, in Kaziranga National park, Mihimukh, Assam [11]. One more record from Maharashtra, Sangli, Morana district by Abdar., *et al.* in 2004 [12], another one record is available from Odisha, Gopi and Pandav has sighted in 2007 at Bhitarkanika [13], heron was also recorded again in 2005, confirmed by Forest department. Last record by CL Prabu., *et al.* has recorded during on 24th May 2010 in Sundarban (West Bengal) [1].

On 15th of October, 2021, I was on my birding trip of Khabat Taluka, Tarakpur human made riverain wetland (22.318083, 72.618988), spreaded over 40 sq. km, Taluka Khambhat, District Anand. It is sited 86km south-east from Ahmedabad city, south-west 26km from Khambhat, 71 km south from Anand city. I came across bird perched near madiflate, I shoot some images and compared with reference book on The Herons of the world by Hancocket. el. 1978(15) and other consulting literature – Birds of South Asia-Rasmussen.



Figure 1: Head screw size vs frequency of usage.

The photographed bird has a crown and upper mendible black, lower mendible pale, dark on base, dark green orbital ring and strip, upper heineck Rofous, throat white, foreneck greyer with black stripped, wing coverts, mentle rump and tail dark grey, long legs, tibia pale grey, turser pale yellow with black fringed.



Figure 2

On 6th November 2022, I was birding at Tarakpur Riverain wetland, district Anand(22.318083, 72.618988). On 1126 hrs I observed bird perched in up and down posture. Photographed bird was juvenile of the Goliath heron, It has Rofous-brown or vinous chestnut head, black strip on forehead with small black crown, dagger like large bill, upper mendable black, lower pale, dark orbital ring and eye stripe, long rofous neck, throat and central strip, belly white, legs and tails black.

The bird Goliath heron *A. Goliath* does not include in Book of Birds of North-West India- Grimmet et. el., B.M Parasharya has not included in A Checklist of the Birds of Gujarat-2004 and also not in Second and third addition on the checklist Birds of Gujarat Published by- Birds conservation Society of Gujarat. It is new and most important records.

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