

Short Article

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Important wintering records of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* from Gujarat, India

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Abstract: There are nine species from Clango, Aquila, Hieraaetus, Nisaetus & Circaetus Genus are accure in Gujarat. The Crested Hawk, Tanny, Bonillie's Eagle are local and common. The Booted eagle is winter visitor. Steppe eagle is endangered race, another four races – Indian spotted, Greater spotted, Tawny & Eastern Imperial Eagle are winter visitor but vulnerable species. Golden Eagle is recently recorded in Gujarat. Three records are available from Gujarat, 1. in Dessa, North Gujarat (Flamingo Vol. 4, 18). Another two birds are recorded in Kachchh district (Flaming Vol. 4, 20, Vol. 2, 23). More six records by Author are introduced in this article. Extensive observation was carried out to reveal diversity and abundancy of Golden Eagle after first bird was observed in Kachchh on 10th January, 2010 to 9th November, 2024. More five birds were recorded. Maximum birds were observed in January.

Keywords: Clanga, Aquila, Hieraaetus, Nisaetus, Circaetus, Golden Eagle, Crested Hawk, Booted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle

Species Authority: Severtsov, 1988

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Falconiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Genus: Aquila

Scientific name: *Aquila chrysaetos*

Common name: Golden Eagle

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INTRODUCTION

The race Golden Eagle *A. chrysaetos* is large sized, bulky raptor, has a powerful wingbat, stronger legs, hooked stronger bill, curved clew, clean eye sight make it strong powerful persecuted Eagle. It is detached into six different races by size, plumage and variation – **del hoyo**. The race *A. C. canadensis* & *A. C. Homeyeri severtsov* occurs in Canada, South-West America, Mexico, Arabian Peninsula, North Africa, Mediterranean Island, Middle-East Arabia through Caucasus Iran and Uzbekistan. Race *A. C. Chrysaetos* and race *A. C. Kamtsoschatica severtsov* occurs North-West and Central Europe, West and Central Siberia, Altai to Kamchatear Russian forest. Two race occurs in Asia, the race *A. C. Japonica severtsov* occurs in Japan and Korea and race *A. C. Daphanea severtsov* in Central Asia, Afghanistan, North Pakistan, West Himalaya through Bhutan – **del hoyo**, **Rasmussen**. Recent three vagrant records are available from Gujarat. **SP** has sighted at Deesa, North Gujarat. Two records from Kachchh. **Khojani** has sighted one bird in Banny Grassland in 2020, **PG**, **AM el al.** at Shakpoor Lake wetland, Kachchh.

Observation Area

Extensive observation was carried out from January, 2011 to 11th January, 2022 in Kachchh, Little

ran of Kachchh, Black Buck National Park (Dist. Bhavnagar), Nal Sarovar and Thol Birds Sanctuary and Central Gujarat. All the areas were spreaded more than 15000 sq. kms. 60 species of mammals, raptors and thousands and thousands of birds as well as another opportunity create great attraction for every wintering raptor. All the sites were being regarded as globally significant cultural treasures. These areas are internationally recognized for their outstanding geological features and exceptionally rich natural diversity.

Observation



Figure: 1

Glossy brown wing coverts, brownish buff breast, heavily feathered yellowish legs, white tursor, long primary projection extend upto black square ended tail tip, white on vent and black-bended square ended tail.

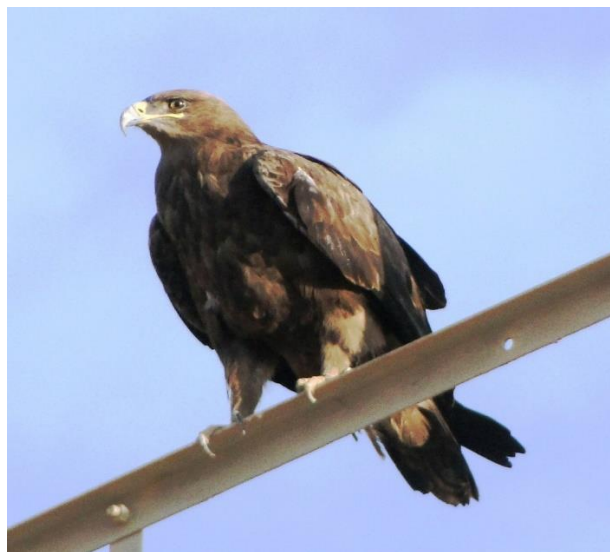


Figure: 2

Hooked greyish bill, cere and cutting edge yellowish, rounded greyer head, iris yellow, greyer wing coverts, lesser, median, greater and secondary black, rounded primary extend up to tail tip, undertail black bended white undertail tail and vent, brownish buff breast, yellow legs.



Figure: 3

Greyish hooked bill, tip black, cere and cutting-edge yellow, rounded yellow nostrils, greyish brown crown, skippy glossy brown nape feather, glossy dark brown mentle, pale fringed glossy brown lesser, median, greater covert, secondary black, rounded primary extends up to black bended square ended tail tip, brown spotted pale feather tibia and tursor, yellow legs.



Figure: 4

Greyish hooked bill, cere, cutting edge and rounded nostrils yellow, glossy brown nape feather, glossy dark brown mentle, pale fringed glossy brown lesser, median, greater covert, secondary black, rounded primary extend up to black bended square ended tail tip, creamy yellow legs.



Figure: 5

Hooked bill, cere cutting edge and rounded nostrils, iris yellow, pupil black, creamy crown, creamy buff brown streaked throat and upper breast, flying feather on nape, glossy pale brown wing covert, secondary primary black extend up to black tail tip, creamy feathers on tibia and tursor.



Figure: 6

Bird is might be redevelopment plumage.
Greyish hooked bill, cere and cutting-edge yellow,

rounded nostril, rounded pale brown crown, glossy
brown nape feathers, black wing covert mentle.

Table 1: Wintering Records of Golden Eagle

Fig.	Date	Observer	Observation site	District	Latitude, Longitude	Sex	Source
1	10-01-10	Author	Thol Birds Sanctuary	Gandhinagar	23.08° N, 72.24° E	Probably juvenile	Author
2	20-01-11	Author	Banni grassland	Kachchh	23.41° N, 69.24° E	Adult	Author
	7-12-18	S. Prajapati, K. Jani, N. Prajapati, M. Judal	Panjrapole, Deesa	Banaskantha	41.14° N, 72.35° E	Adult	Flamingo Vol. XVI 4, Oct-Dec 2018
	13-12-20	R. Khojani	Banni grassland	Kachchh	23.41° N, 69.24° E	Juvenile	Flamingo Vol. XVIII 4 Oct-Dec 2020
	30-01-21	P. Ganpule, A. Mashru, M. Finava, K. Zala	Vaghakot, taluka - Khavada	Kachchh	24.15° N, 69.04° E	Juvenile	Flamingo Vol. XVI 2, April-June 2023
3	25-10-22	Author	Little rann of Kachchh	Surendranagar	23.46° N, 71.28° E	Adult	Author
4	30-11-22	Author	Little rann of Kachchh	Surendranagar	23.46° N, 71.28° E	Adult	Author
5	22-12-22	Author	Little rann of Kachchh	Surendranagar	23.46° N, 71.28° E	Juvenile	Author
6	9-11-24	Author	Vadla wetland	Western range of NSBS, Surendranagar	22.46° N, 72.02° E	Adult	Author

DISCUSSION

Golden Eagle is resident and breed in Himalaya, **Grimmett** 2011, **Kry's** 2012, **Rasmussen** 2012 but winter occurency range does not exchange Indian peninsula. Probably in Kachchh, **Ali** 2012. Recent nine records are showed in table 1. **SP** has sighted one bird at Panjrapole cattle enclosure, Deesa, North Gujarat. **Khojani** at Banny Grassland in 2020 – Kachchh, second bird by **PG, AM el al.** at Shakpoor Lake wetland, Kachchh. Six valuable records by Author. One record from Banny grassland – Kachchh, three from Little rann of Kachchh, one from Nal Sarovar and second from Thol Birds Sanctuary. Records are showed that might be Golden Eagle is winter visitor, but overlooked. Probably it is very close by some plumage with Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*.

(Note: - The race Short-toed and Crested Serpert Eagle are local and common. Another black lesser fish, grey headed fish, pallas's fish, white tailed and white bellied sea Eagle also recorded but not mentioned in this article.)

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