



## Short Article

Volume-05|Issue-01|2025

# Winter occurency of Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi

20/C, Mangaldeep apt., Jodhpur Gam Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad – 380015, Gujarat, India.

### Article History

Received: 06.01.2025

Accepted: 02.02.2025

Published: 09.02.2025

### Citation

Trivedi, R. (2025). Winter occurency of Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. *Indiana Journal of Agriculture and Life Sciences*, 5(1), 14-17.

**Abstract:** In this article, going to introduce wintering status of Swinhoe's Snipe in Nal Sarovar Sanctuary and surrounding wetlands. Consecutive 10 years from 2015 to 2024. Highest abundancy recorded during November and December. Predominantly observed during mid-winter.

**Keywords:** Winter occurrence, Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala*, Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, migratory birds, bird conservation

**Scientific Name:** *Gallinago megala*

**Genus:** Gallinago

**Family:** Scolopacidae

**Order:** Chadariformes

**Class:** Aves

**Phylum:** Chordata

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Species Authority:** Swinhoe 1861

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

## INTRODUCTION

The Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala* is very confusable and typical species. Resemble of Pintail and Common snipe, but larger than Pintail, belongs to *Gallinago* **Genus; Family** - Scolopacidae. (summer) **Breed** – Siberia-East, North-China. It is winter migration found in South-China, Philippines, Indonesia through New Genia, Australia, North-West China, also found in Malaysian peninsula, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, South India (Bombay, Maharashtra), Also in Nagaland, East Assam, Nepal, Meghalaya, North-East Bengal, West Bengal, **del hoyo, Taylor, Robsson and Rassmussen**. One species was collected by **S. Baker** in 1903 in North-East India - Assam at Dibrugarh. Also found in Tamil Nadu, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Central India, but **Baker** has remark that some birds are probably accures in Assam, East-India and South-India (Tamil Nadu). One authentic record from West Bengal, bird was shot by Jahan's sub-division Barasat, near Sanlargachi village, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1939, in early morning at 0700 hrs, he also added that one similar plumage bird was sighted in 1938 on the same site. This specimen was preserved at museum of Zoological survey of India, Kolkata, West Bengal reg. no. 26481 - **Roonwal**. Other birds were shorted in Tamil Nadu, South India – one species was sorted by **R. F. Stonoy** on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1912, at Tindi Vanam – South Airport district. Six species were shot down on between 1911 – 12, dist. – Chingaleput by **G. Rose, R. F. Stonoy and I. S. Franser**. One species was sorted on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 at Chingleput district by **R. F. Stonoy**. Two species were sorted on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1914 and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916 at district Madura by **R. F. Stonoy**. Fifteen species were shorted in

10 different seasons by **E. G. Pythin Adams** on 21<sup>th</sup> September, November, December, January 22 to February, 1925 – 26 to 1934 – 35 at Cannoneer, Malabar district. Species were sorted by **E. G. Pythin Adams**, during 1938 – 39, bird was sorted by **B. H. S. Schradar** on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1934 at North Sri Lanka – Madavachchiya to Manmar. Other birds were shoot in South India, one species was sorted by **R. F. Stonoy** on 3<sup>rd</sup> march, 1912, at Tindivanam – South Arcot District, six species were shot down between 1911 – 12, dist. – Chinjeleput by **G. Rose, R. F. Stonoy and I. S. Franser**. One species was shot on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 at Chinjeleput district by **R. F. Stonoy**. Two species were shot on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1914, and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916, at Madura district by **R. F. Stonoy**. 15 species were shot in different season by **E. G. Pythin Adams** on 21<sup>th</sup> September, November, December, January, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1925 – 26 to 1934 – 35 at Cannanai Malabar district. Three species was sorted by **E. G. Pythin Adams** during 1938 – 39, one bird was sorted by **B. H. S. Schradar** on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1934 at North Sri Lanka – Mbavachchiya to Mannar.

### Observation site

Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary is located 65 km west from Ahmedabad City (23.0225° N, 72.5714° E) and 60 Km east from Surendranagar city (22.7251° N, 71.6370° E), spreaded over more than 200 sq. km with adjusted wetland. It is natural lake with shallow water body and muddy lagoon. Water level is very low, create great attraction for every feathered water fowl.

### Method

Extensive observation was carried out from 2015 to 2024 in Nal Sarovar Sanctuary and Meni,

Vekaria, Kayla, Kumarkhan, Bhaskarpura, Sharad, Malika, Vadla wetland and spot out roosting, feeding and time 8:30 to 10:30 AM and 3:30 to 5:30 PM.

### Observation



**Figure: 1**

Horned black tipped bill, black lores, blackish-brown crown strip, crown set further back, white supercilium, white on face with brownish buff strips, blackish-brown streaked nape, pale fringed parallel scapular and mentle strips, black bared flanck, pale fringed lesser and median coverts, yellow legs, primary extend beyond tertial, tail extend beyond wing tip.



**Figure: 2**

Long horned black bill, black crown strip, crown set further back, pale supercilium, broad black lores, blackish brown streaked neck and upper breast, pale fringed scapular and mentle strips, lesser and median covert, white tipped black and rufous bended black tail, long primary extend beyond tertial, tail extend beyond wing tip, blackish brown buffy bared neck and breast, broad black lores, broken eye-ring, square head with crown-peak further back.



**Figure: 3**

Blackish brown streaked neck, pale fringed scapular, mentle, lesser and median coverts, primary extend beyond tertial, tail extend beyond tip, black bar on flanck, yellowish leg.



**Figure: 4**

Blackish brown crown-strip, central strip pale and supercilium, long yellowish bill, black lores, broad at base of bill, narrow before eye, pale fringed scapular and mentle strips, white fringed median and secondary coverts, long primary extend beyond black bended tertials, black bended tail white tipped square ended rufous, black bared flanck, brownish buff bared breast and nape, yellowish legs.



**Figure: 5**



Very similar to Figure: 2. Black bars on flank, long primary projection extends beyond tertial, black and rufous banded white tipped tail extend beyond wing tip.



**Figure: 6**

Very similar to Figure: 3,4,5. White fringed parallel scapular, median and greater strips, primary extend beyond black-banded tertial, tail extend beyond wing tip, black barred flank, white belly, yellowish legs.



**Figure: 7**

Very similar to Figure: 4,5,6. Black banded square head central strip white, crown-peak further back, white supercilium, white on face, black bared neck.



**Figure: 8**

Very similar to Figure: 1 to 7. Brownish black fringed neck, white fringed lesser, median coverts, white belly and breast.



**Figure: 9**

Horned black bill, broad black lores, narrow near eye ring, white supercilium, blackish brown crown strip, crown-peak further back, blackish brown buff breast and nape, white fringed parallel Rufous-brown scapular and mentle strips, black barred flank, primary extend upto black banded tertial, tail extend beyond wing tip, yellow legs.



**Figure: 10**

Bird has horned black bill, white supercilium, narrow lores strips before eye and broad before bill base, narrow black streaked crown strips, brownish nape, crown peak behind eye, pale fringed blackish-brown mentle and scapular strips, white fringed greater and median coverts, primary narrow end extend to tertial, square ended and white tipped tail, black banded brown tertial, black bar on vent and upper breast, yellowish legs.



**Figure: 11**

White fringed lesser and greater coverts, primary extend beyond tertail, rufous brown black bended white tipped tail extend beyond wing tip.

All wintering records are showed in Table 1 with site and date.

FIGURE	DATE	SITE	LATITUDE-LONGITUDE	SEX
1	11-12-15	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Adult
2	03-01-15	Kumar khan village dist. Ahmedabad	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E	Adult
3	2-11-16	Kumar khan village dist. Ahmedabad	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E	Adult
4	17-12-17	Malika dist. Surendranagar	22.9093° N, 71.9401° E	Adult
5	12-12-18	Dharji dist. Ahmedabad	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E	Adult
6	24-01-18	Malika dist. Surendranagar	22.9093° N, 71.9401° E	Adult
7	11-12-19	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Adult
8	29-11-20	Vadla dist. Surendranagar	22.9314° N, 71.9816° E	Adult
9	01-12-21	Sharad dist. Surendranagar	22.2608° N, 73.2402° E	Adult
10	30-12-23	Dharji dist. Ahmedabad	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E	Adult
11	13-11-24	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Adult

## DISCUSSION

Swinhoe's snipe is resembles of Common and pin-tailed, but it has white fringed lesser and median coverts, primary extend beyond tertial and tail is extended beyond wing tip, distinguish from Common and Pin-tailed. Common has white fringed secondary coverts (lack on lesser and median coverts), primary extend up to tertial and tail extend close to wing tip. Pin-tailed has fringeless wing covert, primary extend up to tertial and tail extend to wing tip. **Ali** has does not mention in *Birds of Eastern Himalayas*, 1997, *Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan Vol. 1 - 2012*, *The Book of Indian Birds - 2002*, **Grimmett** 2011, **Krys** 2012, *Vagrant South India*, Maharashtra, East Bengal and West Bengal – **Rasmussen**. Winter visitor South India extend up to Maharashtra, North-East, East India, West Bengal, but bird was not recorded in Central, West, North-West, North India. All the records show that bird is winter visitor but overlooked.

## REFERENCES

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D. (1978). *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Divers to hawks. Vol 1*. (2nd Hardback ed., pp. i-viii, 1–382). Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.)
- Ali, S. (1962). *The birds of Sikkim*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Ali, S. (2002). *The book of Indian Birds*. (13th ed.).
- Ali, S. (1977 & 1997). *Field guide to the Birds of the Eastern Himalayas*.
- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D. (2007). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan Vol. 2. Megapodes to Crab Plover*.
- Del Hoyo, J., & Collar, N. J. *Illustrated checklist of the Birds of World-V01*.
- Grimmett, R., & Inskipp, T. (2011). *Birds of Southern India*.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (2011). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (2nd ed.). Christopher Helm & Oxford University Press, London.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (1998). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1st ed., pp. 1–888). London: Christopher Helm, A & C Black.
- Kry's, K. (2012). *Birds of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives*. OM Field Guides.
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C. (2012). *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley guide*.
- Robson, C. (n.d.). *Birds of South-East Asia*. (2nd ed.). Helm Field Guides.
- Roonwal, M. L. (n.d.). *Zoological survey of India, Kolkata. On the occurrence of Swinhoe's Snipe, Capella Megala, in Bengal*.
- Stuart Baker, E. C. (1911). First record from the Indian region. One specimen. *Journ. BNHS.*, XX, 596.
- Johans, G. H. (n.d.). First record from Bengal. Shot in the young paddy in company with 29 Pintail snipes. One specimen shot. (Roonwal).
- Stoney, R. F. (n.d.). First record from the Madras presidency. One specimen. *Journ. BNHS.*, XXI, 1083.
- Stoney, R. F., Fraser, I. S., & Ross, G. (1912). Six specimens. *Journ. BNHS.*, XXI, 1083.
- Stoney, R. F. (1936). One specimen. Whistler, H., & Kinnear, N. B. *Journ. BNHS.*, XXXIX, 262.
- Stoney, R. F. (n.d.). Two specimens. *Ditto*.
- Phythian Adams, E. G. (1928). 15 specimens shot in ten shooting seasons. *Journ. BNHS.*, XXXII, 606.
- Phythian Adams, E. G. (1939). First record from the Mysore state. Three specimens. *Journ. BNHS.*, XLI, 178.
- Schrader, B. H. S. (1936). First record from Ceylon. Latest date of occurrence in the Indian region. Wait, W. E. *Spol. Zylencia.*, XIX, 337.