

## Research Article

Volume-05|Issue-03|2025

# Important Vagrant Record of Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus Spilonotus* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary.

Rajni Trivedi

20/C Mangaldeep Apartment, Jodhpur Gam Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad-380015

### Article History

Received: 15.05.2025

Accepted: 26.05.2025

Published: 30.05.2025

### Citation

Trivedi, R. (2025). Important Vagrant Record of Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus Spilonotus* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary. *Indiana Journal of Agriculture and Life Sciences*, 5(3), 12-14.

First photographic record for Western India.

**Species authority:** - Kaup, 1847

**Domain:** Eukaryote

**Genus:** - Circus

**Family:** - Acciptridae

**Order:** - Accipitriformes

**Class:** - Aves

**Phylum:** - Chordata

**Kingdom:** - Animalia

**Scientific name:** - *Circus spilonotus*

**Common name:** - Eastern Marsh Harrier

**Gujarati name:** - Purva ni paan patai

**Japanese name:** - Chu-hi

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The Eastern Marsh Harrier *C. Spilonotus* belongs to circus – Genus, Family – Acciptridae, resembles of Pied harrier *C. spilonotus*, also larger in size than Pied harrier. It was previously recorded as a member of the same species as the Western Marsh Harrier listed in **IUCN Red list of threatened species** and now population trained for this bird is stable – **Bird Life International**. Resident and Breed – built nest in vegetation, tall grass on ground near coastal wetland, largest lake, marshes of the Baikal lake through Ussurri land, Mongolia, South-West Asia. During winter migration it is found in East-Asia – **Del hoyo, H. Tosiaki**, Myanmar – **Robson (2015)**. **Naoroji** (has female bird was sighted at Kaziranga National Park in 1996), 2006, **Ali** (did not mention in *Birds of Eastern Himalayas*, 1993), 2012, **Rasmusen (2012)**, **Grimmett (2011)** gave its status winter visitor in North-East India, vagrant rest of India. **Kesavabharathi G. & Sundaram C.** sighted male bird at Irungattukottai lake, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. **Kallettumkura R.** at Irinjettumkara wetland, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, South India.

On 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2019, I was birding between (22.72° N, 71.63° E) Sharad to Vadla wetland road. On 0930 hrs, I observed black and white plumaged harrier like bird was perched in reed patch, elongated with cultivation field of Sharad village. Shot only one image (fig. 1) it took off and flew away, after 30 mins, bird was observed again (fig. 2), between Vadla to Malika road, perched on ground and basking. Derched after defected assault on prey. But image is not clear for identification. Sighted again (fig. 3) on 1020 hrs, close to Malika cultivation field (22.85° N, 71.79° E). Has streaked forehead, crown, nape, throat, ear coverts and upper breast distinguish from Western and Pied Harrier and

recognize as a different and separate species, checking by consulting literature on Raptors and consider as a sub adult of Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*.



**Figure: 1**

Bird has streaked forehead, crown, ear-covert, nape and throat, hooked black bill and orbital ring. Yellowish cere and iris, black pupil.



**Figure: 2**

After assault on prey. streaked forehead, crown, ear-covert, nape and throat.



**Figure: 3**

Streaked head, breast, nape, throat.



**Figure: 4**

Blackish-brown mentle and wing coverts with silver grey buff patch, silver grey lesser, median and secondary coverts and tail, black primary extend up to two-third of the tail, yellow legs.

This was probably first photographic record for Gujarat and Western India. Ali does not mention in *The Bird of Gujarat. Part I. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 1954*, *The birds of Gujarat. The birds of Gujarat. Part II. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 1955.*, Also does not mention in *The Book of Indian birds, 13<sup>th</sup> ed., 2002. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* Even Dharamkumarsinhji 1955, not came across the species in Saurashtra. Naoroji (2006) had not showed its record in Gujarat. Grimmett (2011), Rasmussen (2012), did not showed Gujarat in distribution map.

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