

## Short Article

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# Distribution Range of Javan Pond Heron *Arbeala Spciosa* Extend to Ahmedabad and Surendranagar District, Gujarat, India

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**Abstract:** In present article, introducing extensive distribution range of Javan Pond heron *Ardeala spciosa* extend up to Gujarat. Observation was carried out after two birds were observed, first bird was from Olakh village on 9th July, 2017, Dist. – Surendranagar, Western range of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, and second bird was sighted on 15th August, 2018, near cultivation field of Aniyari village, 10 km East from Sanctuary, Dist. – Ahmedabad. More diversity and abundancy were recorded surrounding Sanctuary and adjacent wetland with Eastern range of Sanctuary (Lakhtar (Dist. - Surendranagar), Viramgam, Sanand and Bavda Taluka (Dist. – Ahmedabad)). Most of birds were sighted and photographed in breeding plumage, few birds were in winter plumage. Predominantly birds were observed in summer and in breeding plumage and only two birds were in winter.

### Classification: -

**Species authority:** A. S. continentalis solomonsen, 1933, A. S. speciosa Horsfield, 1821

**Domain:** Eukaryote

**Genus:** *Arbeala spciosa*

**Family:** Ardeidae

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Class:** Aves

**Phylum:** Chordata

**Order:** Ciconiiformes

**Binomial name:** A. S. Continentalis & A. S. speciosa

**Keywords:** Distribution Range, Javan Pond, Heron, *Arbeala Spciosa*, Surendranagar

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## INTRODUCTION

The Javan Pond Heron *Ardeala spciosa* belongs to group of the Squacco Chinese and Indian Pond Heron in breeding plumage resembling of Chinese and Indian pond heron. Detached in two different races, 1. *Ardeola speciosa continentalis*, it is distributed in Malaysian peninsula, Taiwan and central Thailand. In winter migration, found in Malaysian peninsula, 2. *Ardeola speciosa speciosa*, distributed in Central-West Indonesia, and South Philippines. Two vagrant authentic record are available from Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Two birds were sighted at photographed near Shippur Airport, on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 by G. Gokulakrishankn et. El. (BirdingAsia Vol. 13 Dec.), Another two record by Shaktivel G. observed and photographed single bird at Garocharm, South Andaman Island from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 (IB Vol.15).

### Observation Area:

Extensive observation was carried out from 09-07-2017 to 12-03-2025, after two birds were observed and photographed. Then after spot out feeding, roosting and observing time, from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM, and from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM, and also muddy shallow water body in Lakhtar, Limdi taluka (Dist. Surendranagar),

Bavla, Sanand and Viramgam taluka (Dist. Ahmedabad). Roughly spreaded over 700 sq. km.

### Observation:



Figure. 1

Broad based bill, black ring at tip, bluish wash on upper and lower mandible, yellow orbital ring, pupil black, iris yellow, crest plum white, creamy buff neck and throat, greyish buff, upper breast plums, rufous brown medible,

creamy wing coverts with round primary, yellowish legs, white waste and thigh.



**Figure. 2**

Very similar to Figure. 1. Greyish speaky neck and upper breast feathers, pink legs.



**Figure. 3**

Probably Javan pond heron. Very similar to Figure. 1 & 2. Yellowish legs.



**Figure. 4**

Yellow legs, throat and central breast white, crown plumes white, buff neck. Very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.



**Figure. 5**

Very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.



**Figure. 6**

Very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.



**Figure. 7**

Flated head, speaky crown and breast feathers yellowish orbital ring, black bill. Very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.





**Figure. 8**

Black pupil, yellow iris, brown orbital ring, long bill, upper mandible blue, yellowish at base, lower mandible yellow, black ring at bill tip.



**Figure. 9**

Pink legs, rest plumage is very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.



**Figure. 10**

Yellowish orbital ring, pupil black, iris yellow, broad based shorter bill, white throat and upper breast, speaky feathers on upper breast, pink legs, rest of very similar to Figure. 1 & 2.



**Figure. 11**

Blackish brown streaked crown and neck, mentle, rest of recovered whitish, yellow legs.



**Figure. 12**

Brownish mentle, yellow legs, dark brown streaked nape and crown, yellow orbital ring, blackish on upper mandible and lower mandible blackish-yellow.

All the records are showed with site in table

Fig	Date	Site	District	Lat/Long.	Race	Sex
1	9-7-17	Olakh village	Surendranagar	22.9268° N, 71.8927° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
2	15-7-18	Aniyari village	Ahmedabad	23.0324° N, 70.9142° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
3	21-7-19	Matoda village, taluka – Bavla	Ahmedabad	22.8921° N, 72.3955° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
4	16-8-20	Kadi vegi, taluka – bavla	Ahmedabad	23.2978° N, 72.331° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
5	25-8-20	Vasna, taluka - bavla	Ahmedabad	22.6188° N, 70.9521° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
6	9-8-21	Adroda, taluka – Bavla	Ahmedabad	22.7919° N, 72.3933° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
7	11-8-22	Kayla, Taluka - Viramgam	Ahmedabad	22.8441° N, 72.0604° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
8	8-8-23	Vekaria, Taluka – Viramgam	Ahmedabad	22.9727° N, 72.3441° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
9	25-9-23	Kumarkhan, taluka - viramgam	Ahmedabad	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
10	29-9-23	Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Near vekaria	Ahmedabad	22.8209° N, 72.0572° E	A. S. continentalis	Adult, Breeding plumage
11	11-11-24	Kayla, Taluka - Viramgam	Ahmedabad	22.8441° N, 72.0604° E	A. S. speciose	Adult, Winter plumage
12	12-3-25	Sanand, near Muniashram	Ahmedabad	22.9920° N, 72.3773° E	A. S. speciosa	Adult, Winter plumage

## DISCUSSION

The bird Javan Pond Heron during winter, found that eats non - breeding plumage, almost appears resembling or Indistinguishable species from Indian and Chinese Pond heron. So, eats making filed identification extremely very difficult – **Robsson**. Only one minor difference is that Javan birds shows smaller or lack of grey-brown on tip of the underside of the longer primary feathers. However, this along subtle difference is seen in plumage of the brownish upper parts and brown streaked head and neck, is barely noticeable unless specimens are directly compared. In breeding plumage though, the differences are more obvious despite in consistencies in plubshied description, speciosa is usually recognisable. The head, crest feathers and neck plumage turn a pale golden image, brighter than the dull yellow, brown of the Indian Pond heron and clearly different from rufous or cinnamon plumage of Chinese Pond heron. Has pale plumage at base of neck, pale breast plum feathers set in Javan pond heron apart. Unlike Chinese pond heron, lack the chestnut plumage and black feather tip shown in Javan, but mentle and scapular feathers are in Chinese pond heron, tend to appear brownish – black to purplish, bronze. That plumage distinguishes it from both species of the Javan, there are also part of the differences. Birds usually observed in breeding heronry, have pale yellow legs and brighter yellow bill, often showed a black ring, near tip of the bill with sometimes a faint bluish tint near the base. The lores remain a dull greenish – yellow and legs are turned into greenish-yellow – **J. Hamcock & H. Elliott**.

Two recent records are available from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, no records from rest of India. Ali & Ripley, 2012, Grimmett, 2011, Kry's, 2011, Rasmussen, 2012, didn't mentioned in their work. Records are very important for its distribution range. First record for Western India and rest of Indian peninsula.

## CONCLUSION

The present records extend the distribution of the Javan Pond Heron (*Ardeola speciosa*) to western India, specifically Ahmedabad and Surendranagar districts of Gujarat. Observations in both breeding and winter plumages indicate that the species may occur as an overlooked seasonal visitor, underscoring the need for continued monitoring to clarify its status and range in the region.

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