

Short Article

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Important Wintering and Breeding Records of Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus Macraurus* in Pariej Wetland, Dist. – Kheda, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi

20/C Mangaldeep apartment, jodhpur gam road, satellite, Ahmedabad-380015

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Abstract: In present observation, going to introduce breeding record of Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macraurus*, breed in April, North-East Pakistan through Himachal to Uttarakhand. In this article, bird was observed with 2 juveniles in march. Site was adjusted with open cultivation field and dry deciduous forest, suggested by Rasmussen.

Classification: -

Species authority: Horsfield, 1821

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Aves

Phylum: Chordata

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae

Genus: *Caprimulgus*

Binomial name: *Caprimulgus macraurus*

Gujarati name: Deerghpunch dasharthiyu

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INTRODUCTION

The Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macraurus* is very widely distributed race from South Asia, South-East Asia, Malaysian peninsula, New Guinea, North-East Australia (del hoyo (2014), Cleere & Kirwan (2016)), detached 6 different races by size, plumage and variation. The race *C. M. Schlegelii* – Moluccas sundas in New Guinea, North-East Australia, race *C. M. Salvadorii* in Borneo, race *C. M. Macraurus* in Java and Bali, race *C.*

M. bimaculatus in North-East India, China through South-East Asia to Sumatra, race *C. M. albonotatus* in Himalayan foothills – Pakistan, Bhutan, East India & Bangladesh – del hoyo (2014), Cleere & Kirwan (2016). Breed in summer, March to June in drier leaves of open area – Rasmussen (2012). One vagrant isolated record is available from Gujarat. Two vagrant birds were recorded at Kota Mahadev, Kachchh on 25th December, 2008 by Vibhav Mishra and Ratan Singh – IB 5/5 (2010).



On 10th March, 2025, I retriped from Tarakpur wetland, Taluka – Khambhat, through Pariej lake (Wetland) (22.31° N to 22.33° N and 72.36° E to 72.38° E), Dist. – Kheda. It is spreaded over 4.45 sq. km., and linked with

Mahi Right Bank Canal. It is shallow water wetland, declared as a 'wetland' of national importance by MOEF in 2006. Sight is one of the largest breeding site of the Black, Chestnut, Yellow bittern and others.

At 8:30 PM, I spotted a bird like Nightjar, illuminated by car's headlight, perched along road-side. Halted the car, stepped out and attempt to shoot some photographs, as I did not, the bird took off and disappeared in night darkness. Later in night darkness, I show bird was appeared again perched very near, shot some images. Upload on camera screen, image is depicted. Bird has longer tail, bold yellow(golden) spot on wing coverts, yellow fringed black scapular strips, where disconnect it from another large sized Nightjar.



Bird has pinkish bill, grey head, dark grey cheek and ear-coverts, broad white fringed scapular strips, grey orbital ring, black iris, white supercilium, white sub-moustachial strips, dark-grey malar stripes, greyish wing covert, bold white spotted lesser, median, greater and secondary coverts, primary extend upto base of the tail. Both juveniles were in buffy white plumage.

In this present article, location is alongated Tarapur-Matar road, Dist. – Kheda, around 70-72 kms South-West from Ahmedabad. Also, adjusted with plane open cultivation field and dry deciduous forest of the wetland. Habit of current sighting was exactly matching with description of Rasmussen. Only single wintering record is available from Kachchh, sighted by Mishra & Singh. Ali did not mention the species in Birds of Gujarat 1945, 1954, 1955. Also, Dharamkumarsinhji in 1955 did not record in Birds of Kachchh and Saurashtra region – Gujarat. Also, does not mention in checklist of birds of Gujarat, 2004. Hence, wintering and breeding range extend upto Gujarat, and, wintering and breeding records are very important for occurency range. It is covered from West to East Himalayas, South-East India & Bangladesh but does not cover rest of Indian peninsular.

However, all the images were quite puzzling regarding to its March appearance. This was appeared to be in breeding plumage. So, made more 4 attempts from 11th March to 21st March, to shoot more images, but all the efforts were failure. Last and final attempt on 23rd March was successful, bird was there, when first time sited, it was present roughly 4 meters to the East from road-side, perched on drier leaves with two fresh juveniles in open cultivation fields. Shot some images.

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