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RESEARCH ARTICLE

IMPORTANT WINTERING STATUS OF GREAT SNIPE *GALLINAGO MEDIA* FROM NAL SAROVAR BIRDS SANCTUARY, GUJARAT, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In this article going to introduce wintering status of large sized greater snipe *Gallinago media* listed in threatened birds of the world. Extensive observation was carried out (after observed (fig.1 and fig.2) and photographed three birds at Dharji (Durgi) wetland) to explore the diversity and abundancy of Great snipe. Consecutive 8 years from 2013 to 2021. Observation area was served by spot out roosting and feeding site of snipe. Highest abundancy and diversity were recorded predominately during January.

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INTRODUCTION

The Great snipe *G. media* is belonging to large sized group of the wood and solitary snipe. Bird has bulkier body, broad based shorter bill, Shorter tail, Numerous of white spot on greater, lesser, median and secondary coverts, heavily barred belly, distinguish to wood solitary, common and pintel snipe. These diagnostic differences disconnect it and treated different and separate species and recognized as Great snipe *G. media*. The species was considered important in article because it is currently classified as a Globally near threatened (IUCN) Bird Life International - 2004. It is also mentioned in "Updates IUCN Red List of threatened Birds of India" – R. Kasambe. Is found in Russian Yenisey to West – Russia, Poland, Baltick states through cost of Scandinavia, vagrant in British Island, costal area in France, North Spain, Central and North Europe to costal area of Black sea, Ukraine. In winter, migration found in sub-Saharan Africa, sometimes in Middle East – Svensson, del hoyo, Kirwan G., King, Dickinson, Woodcock. During October to April rare in Eurasia, including Europe, northern Africa, and Asia north of the Oriental region – R. Demey & N, Borrow, Don Taylor, Robson. Winter visitor in South India – Rasmussen, Grimmer & Kyr's.

Observation: I extend my observation (after sited Fig. 1 and 2) on Great snipe and spot out roosting and feeding site of Meni, Vekaria, Kayla, Kamijala, Kumar Khan, Bhaskarpura, Sharad wetland surrounding Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

All are spectacular natural lake with shallow water and muddy lagoons, alongated in Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, located 65 km West from Ahmedabad city and 50 km East from Surendranagar city. I extend my observation (after sited Fig. 1 and 2) on Great snipe and spot out roosting and feeding site of Meni, Vekaria, Kayla, Kamijala, Kumar Khan, Bhaskarpura, Sharad wetland surrounding Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary.

All are spectacular natural lake with shallow water and muddy lagoons, alongated in Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, located 65 km West from Ahmedabad city and 50 km East from Surendranagar city.



Fig. 3.

Probably juvenile (First winter). Black crown strip, central strip white, black lores, black strips on white face, shorter bill with upper mendible black and lower yellow on base, black on rest. Narrow white fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, rufous brown wing coverts with primary, secondary, median and greater coverts, white fringed primary, secondary, median and greater coverts, black bended rufous tarterials, rufous and black bended shorter tail, pale black bar on flancks, yellow legs. Rather bulky than Fig. 4.



Fig. 4.

Probably juvenile (First winter). Very similar with Fig. 3. Black crown strip, central strip white, blackish brown streaks on breast, pale bars on central flanck.



Fig. 5.

Probably Female. Black crown strip, narrow lores, horned black shorter bill, rufous-brown streaked on upper breast, black bars on lower breast and belly, parallel white fringed mentle and scapular strips, yellow legs.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Fig. 6, 7, 8 - Black crown strip with central strip white, white fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, white fringes on lesser median, greater and secondary coverts, shorter tail, lower belly white, blackish brown buff strips on breast, black bars on flannck, white on central flannck, yellow legs. Differences only on breast, central flannck and belly.



Fig. 9

Both birds are similar. Black crown strips, parallel white fringed mentle and scapular strips, black lores, white spotted greater, lesser, median and secondary coverts, white on vent and lower belly, pale black bars on flanncks.



Fig. 10

Black crown strip with central strip white, shorter bill, white fringed mentle and scapular strips, white spotted greater, lesser, median and secondary coverts, black bend on tertials, primary covert extend up to tail, greenish-yellow legs.



Fig. 11.

Very similar to fig. 1 and 2. Rufous black-bended, white tipped shorter tail, primary black extend beyond tertial, black berry on flannck, blackish buff on upper breast. All the wintering records are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Fig.	Date	Site	Lat. Long.	District
1	29-10-17	Dharji	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E	Ahmedabad
2	29-10-17	Dharji	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E	Ahmedabad
3	06-03-18	Sharad	22.2608° N, 73.2402° E	Surendranagar
4	06-03-18	Sharad	22.2608° N, 73.2402° E	Surendranagar
5	10-02-19	Kayla village	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Ahmedabad
6	14-01-19	Kumar khan village	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E	Ahmedabad
7	10-01-20	Kayla village	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Ahmedabad
8	10-01-20	Kayla village	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E	Ahmedabad
9	22-01-20	Dharji	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E	Ahmedabad
10	25-03-20	Kumar khan village	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E	Ahmedabad
11	4-12-21	Sharad	22.2608° N, 73.2402° E	Surendranagar

CONCLUSION

Great snipe is regular winter visitor in South India and Sri Lanka, but occurrence does not cover Central, West (Gujarat), North-West, North-East India. It is also not mentioned in checklist of Birds of Gujarat published by BCSG, 2004, 2016. 11 birds were recorded during winter observation and all wintering records showed that bird is winter visitor in Gujarat but overlooked. It is new wintering species for Gujarat.

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