



Wintering sighting of Lesser spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* from Gujarat, India

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Abstract



Brown rounded head, yellow cere and cutting edge of the bill is short, hooked black bill, white spotted brown wing coverts, contrast with white spotted blackish brown secondary coverts, primary coverts black extend to black banded tail.



On 24th of January, 2006, I was on my way back from birding trip to wild Ass Sanctuary, Bajana range district Surendranagar. At 1500 hrs, I visited Malika wetland. I sighted Eagle like bird perched on dump, shoot some images, it was differing in plumage and size, than Indian spotted eagle *A. hastata* and greater spotted eagle *A. clanga* has a rufous-brown head, hooked greyer bill with black tip, yellow (gap), cutting of bill extend upto eye, white spot on brown wing coverts, contrast with white spotted secondary coverts black primary coverts, extend to black banded short tail. Observed at Vekaria village. Overall black, rounded head, hooked black bill with yellow cere and cutting edge of the bill, white spot on wing coverts and shoulder, contrast with dark black secondary coverts, long primary coverts extend to tail tip, white on vent and lower belly. These diagnostic differences are obvious and disconnect it as a different and separate species and recognized as a Lesser spotted Eagle by consulting literature on Raptor.

Classification of lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: Aves
 Order: Accipitriformes
 Family: Accipitridae
 Genus: *Aquila*

Keywords: Wintering sighting; Lesser spotted; Eagle; *Aquila pomarina*

Introduction

The bird Lesser spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* is medium sized eagle, smaller than Indian spotted eagle *A. hastata* and Greater spotted eagle *A. clanga*, but larger than Indian tawny and steppe eagle. The race *A. pomarina* and *A. hastata*, both race are different and separate species and elevated to full species level and recommended to be that as a separate species, according to *A. clanga*; Perry S. J., Clerk, W. S. and Prakash V. [1],’s research paper on “Taxonomic status of Indian spotted eagle *A. hastata* IBIS 144 [4], page 665 to 675”. Naoroji [2] has only mentioned Indian spotted eagle *A. hastata* (“Birds of prey of Indian subcontinent”) in his book, but does not include lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina*, del hoyo [3] and Lees. J.F., C. David [4] has does not showed India in distribution map of lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina*. some possibility in north-west India during winter migration- Rasmussen [5]. The bird Lesser spotted eagle *A. pomarina* accures in Czechoslovakia, Hungry, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey- Gensbol [6]. bird start automan migration movement during August and extend to through middle of September. During winter Bird is accures east-Africa sevanna from Sudan to Transvaal. some reported from further west (chad and camerron) and some may remain in Balkans, Asia minor or Egypt –Gensbol. B, del hoyo, Borrow n. and Demey R [7].

Over all black plumage, flated head, hooked white bill, tip black, cere and cutting edge of the bill yellow, hooked black bill, white spot on wing coverts, contras with white spotted secondary coverts, primary coverts extend to central of square ended tail.

Dark brown head, yellow cere and long cutting edge of the bill, stripless breast, white spotted brown wing coverts, yellow legs.

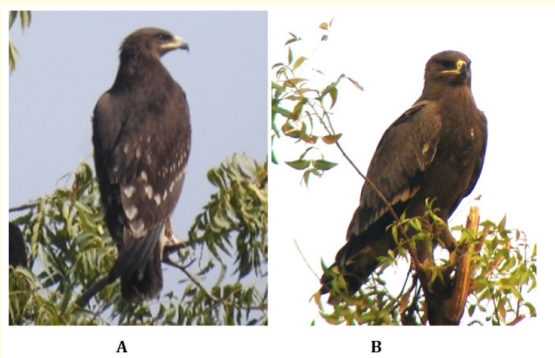


Figure 1: Indian spotted eagle (*A. hastata*).

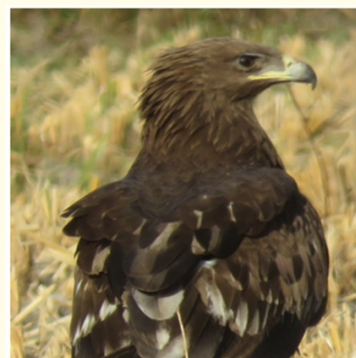


Figure 2: Greater spotted eagle (*A. clanga*).

Flated brown head, long nap fethers, yellow cutting edge of the bill and cere.

Method and Material

Observation

Observation area is spreaded over more than 4000 sq. km. with Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Vadla wetland, Black Buck National

Park (Bhavnagar), Thol bird Sanctuary (Dist. - Mehesana), Wild Ass Sanctuary (Dist. - Surendranagar). All the sites are known for Feathered waterfowl, raptor and thousands and thousands of passerine birds. Last ten years, many vagrant birds were recorded in this site.

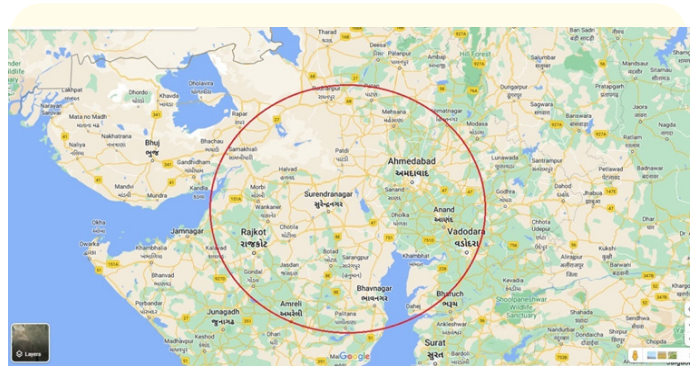


Figure 3



Figure 4

Pale brown head, hooked black bill and tip, cere and cutting edge of the bill yellow, neck dark brown, white spotted wing coverts, contras with white spotted secondary coverts, tail and primary coverts black, white spot on thighs, yellow legs.



Figure 5

Rounded brown head, cere and cutting edge of the bill yellow, white spotted pale brown wing coverts, contras with head and secondary coverts, pale brown strips on breast yellow legs.



Figure 6

Rounded brown head, cere and cutting edge of the bill yellow, black bill, white spotted brown wing coverts, contras with dark brown secondary coverts, primary coverts black extend to black square ended tail, pale brown and white spotted thighs, yellow legs.



Figure 7

Pale brown head, yellow cutting edge of the bill and cere, hooked white bill with black tip, dark brown nape and mentale, contras with white spotted secondary coverts, black tail.



Figure 8

White on vent and base of undertail coverts, white strips on breast.



Figure 9

Overall black with rounded head, black bill with yellow cere and cutting edge of the bill, white fringed secondary coverts, black tail, white stripes on legs.



Figure 10

Dark brown rounded head, short yellow cutting edge of the bill and cere, hooked white bill with black tip, white spotted wing coverts, contrast with white spotted secondary coverts, black primary coverts and tail.

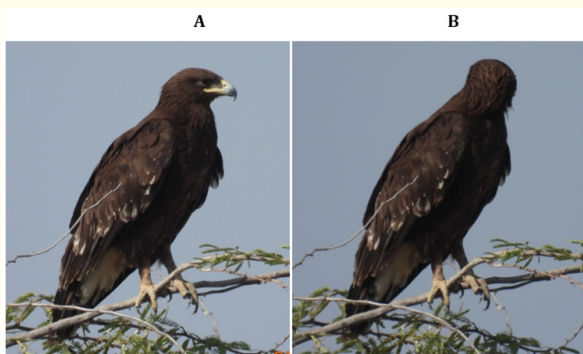


Figure 11

Dark black head, cere and cutting edge of the bill yellow, blackish brown white spotted wing coverts, contrast with nape and head, spotless secondary coverts and tail, white on belly and vent, white legs, pale spot on nape in 11th B.



Figure 12

Cere and cutting edge of the bill pale yellow, black bill, white spot on wing coverts, square ended tail, white on undertail base and vent, white spot on thighs.



Figure 13

Pale brown head, nape, throats and wing coverts pale brown, some white spot on breast, secondary coverts black, tertile black, long primary projection extend to white fringed tail tip, white on legs with brown streaks.

Conclusion

All the Photographs with site and plumage show that the bird lesser spotted Eagle *Aquila Pormarina* is winter visitor but overlooked.

Date	Site	Sex	Latlong	District
24-01-2006	Malika, Lakhtar	Adult	22.9093' N, 71.9401'E	Surendranagar
06-03-2007	Vekriya village, Nalsarovar	Adult	21.3151' N, 70.9131'E	Ahmedabad
16-02-2014	Kamijala	Adult	22.9356'N, 72.0172'E	Ahmedabad
24-02-2015	Sarad, Lakhtar	Adult	22.8728074 N, 71.77642 E	Surendranagar
27-01-2019	Chhavli near canal, Lakhtar	Adult	22.8728074 N, 71.77642 E	Surengranagar
11-10-2021	Chhavli, Lakhtar	Adult	22.8728074 N, 71.77642 E	Surendranagar
27-10-2021	Little ran of kachchh	Adult	23.4618'N, 71.2874' E	Surendranagar
15-12-2021	Thol lake	Juvenile	23.1373' N, 72.4066'E	Gandhinagar
21-12-2021	Little ran of Kachchh	Juvenile	23.4618'N, 71.2874' E	Surendranagar
27-11-2022	Bhaskarpura, Lakhtar	Adult	22.9861'N, 71.9579'E	Surendranagar
18-12-2022	Vekriya village, Nalsarovar	Adult	21.3151' N, 70.9131'E	Ahmedabad
22-12-2022	Kamijala village	Adult	22.9356'N, 72.0172'E	Nalsarovar

Table a: Wintering records of Lesser spotted Eagle with site.

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