



Important Wintering Status of Wood Snipe *Gallinago Nemoricola* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi*

Satellite, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

*Corresponding Author: Rajni Trivedi, Satellite, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

DOI: 10.31080/ASVS.2024.06.0943

Received: June 07, 2024

Published: October 30, 2024

© All rights are reserved by **Rajni Trivedi**.

Abstract

I am representing an article on large sized vulnerable Wood snipe *G. nemoricola*. I conducted extensive observations on (Figure 1 and 2) sited two birds during winter. 14 birds were sighted and photographed during diversity and abundance of snipe. Most of birds were adults, maybe only two or three birds were juvenile and most of them were blackish-brown, black, rufous brown plumage.

Introduction: (Figure 1,2) In this article, I am going to represent Wood snipe. The bird wood snipe *G. nemoricola* is endangered species, belong to vulnerable category. Listed in IUCN Red List [1,2]. of threatened birds of world, also mentioned in "Updates in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Birds of India". It is one of the large size snipes, then common, pintail and swinhoe's snipes. Very similar or resembles of solitary snipe-3. Head, mentle pattern and spotless or fringeless wing covert, diagnostics differences disconnect it in separate, distinguish typical species than other snipes, during winter migration. Birds are found in Maharashtra and South India [5-7]. One observation record from Mahendragiri RF, Kanyakumari dist. Tamil Nadu by K. Chudankata. In summer found in North-East India - from Himachal, Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim- 4, 8, 13. One observation record from Bhutan by James A. Eaton and Andrew G. Duff (Birding Asia). Another 8 birds were counted in Langtang National park by Bird Conservation of Nepal, 2004, during summer.

Keywords: Wintering; Wood Snipe; *Gallinago Nemoricola*; Nal Sarovar; Birds Sanctuary



Figure 1



Figure 2

Classification

Scientific Name: *Gallinago nemoricola*
 Genus: *Gallinago*
 Family: Scolopacidae
 Order: Chadariformes
 Class: Aves
 Phylum: Chordata
 Kingdom: Animalia
 Species Authority: Hodgson 1838

Introduction

Figure 1 - On 29th Jan 2010, I was birding at Kayla village dam close to Nal Sarovar Sanctuary, spreaded over 2 sq. km. It is a human made fresh water body for irrigation purpose provides excellent habitat to the water fowl. I observed snipe like bird, perched in mud. It was large in size, differ in plumage by Black crown strip, blackish brown broad white-fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, white supercilium, narrow lores before eye-ring, white belly, brown buff on breast, black bars on flanck, greenish-yellow legs, black bended tertials, rufous and black bended long tail. (Figure 2) Second bird was observed and photographed on 6th Feb 2010 at Kumar Khan (22.9926° N, 72.0283°E) village pond, 5 km North-East from Sanctuary, when I was retriped Sanctuary again. Bird was very similar with fig. 1 but it's crown, mentle and scapular strips are darker. Long broad based bill, broad black lores, broad white fringed scapular and mentle strips, white spotless or white fringless wing coverts, long tail. Its diagnostic differences disconnect it as different and separate species then common and pintail snipes [1,2,4-9].

Method and Material

Observation

Nal Sarovar Sanctuary is located 65 km. West from Ahmedabad city and 50 km East from Surendranagar city. Declared sanctuary in 1969 and Ramsar site in 2012. Spreaded over more than 300 sq. km. with Vadla, Malika, Bhaskarpura, Kamijala, Kumar Khan, Meni, Vekaria, Kayla and Dharji wetland. It is natural lake and muddy lagoon with shallow water body. It provides excellent habitation to thousands and thousands of wintering waterfowl [10-13].



Figure 3

Bird has broad based yellow bill, narrow lores, black crown strip, central strip white, white fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, rather rounded wing coverts, brownish black breast, black bars on flancks, black bended terterials, rufous black bended tail, greenish-yellow legs.



Figure 4

Probably bird is juvenile, black crown strip, central strip white, narrow lores, broad based shorter yellow bill, brownish black breast, parallel mentle and scapular strips, black bars on flancks, black bended tarterial, rufous black bended long tail.



Figure 5



Figure 6

Broad based yellow bill, broad black lower strips, black crown strip, white fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, black bend on tarterials, rounded wing coverts, black and rufous bend on tail, blackish buff breast, central strip white, facial strip pale brown, black bars on flancks, greenish-yellow legs.

Probably group of the wood snipe. Very similar to all the above figures 1-5.



Figure 7

Rounded head with black strips, broad horned black bill, broad on base, narrow lores strips, short and narrow facial strips, blackish-brown buff breast, neck, parallel mentle and scapular strips, rounded blackish wing coverts, black bars on flancks.

Horned black short bill with broad base, black parallel crown strip, central strip white, supercilium pale, broad black lores strips, pale orbital ring, broken brownish black facial strips, brownish



Figure 8

buff on nape, pale broad fringed parallel scapular and mentle strips, square ended long tail with rofous and black band, primary black, extend beyond tertail, black bars on flanck, greenish yellow legs, brownish black buff breast.



Figure 9

Blackish brown crown strips, broken white eye-ring, black bars on flancks, brownish buff nap and breast, central strip white, narrow lores, broad based shorter yellow bill, white supercilium, white fringed black parallel mentle and scapular strips, black bended rufous tail with white tip.

Black bars on flancks, brownish buff nap and breast, central strip white, white fringed black parallel mentle and scapular strips,



Figure 10

broad based shorter yellow bill, white supercilium, narrow lores, black banded rufous tail with white tip, blackish brown crown strips, broken white eye-ring.



Figure 11

Black and rufous bend on tail, white fringed parallel mentle and scapular strips, rounded wing coverts, black bend on tarterials, facial strip pale brown, black bars on flanks, greenish-yellow legs, blackish buff breast, central strip white.



Figure 12

blackish-brown buff breast, neck, parallel mentle and scapular strips, rounded blackish wing coverts, black bars on flanks, rounded head with black strips, broad horned black bill, broad on base, narrow lores strips, short and narrow facial strips [14,15].



Figure 13



Figure 14

Horned black broad-based bill, blackish brown crown strip, broad black lores before eyes, black barring on flanck, white belly, broad white fringed parallel scapular and mentle strips, long tail.

Results and Discussion

All the observations showed in table 1 with site, date and sex.

Conclusion

Bird is winter visitor in South India, Maharashtra and East India but accuracy does not cover Central, West, North-West, North and

Date	Observation site	Sex	Lat/Long
29-01-2010	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E
06-02-2010	Kumar khan village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E
15-12-2010	Kumar khan village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	22.9067° N, 72.0224° E
24-01-2011	Malika dist. Surendranagar	Probably juvenile	22.9093° N, 71.9401° E
13-03-2011	Malika dist. Surendranagar	Adult	22.9093° N, 71.9401° E
09-01-2013	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E
06-03-2015	Malika dist. Surendranagar	Adult	22.9093° N, 71.9401° E
02-01-2016	Dharji dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E
25-01-2017	Dharji dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	22.2994° N, 70.8061° E
19-02-2018	Vadla dist. Surendranagar	Adult	22.9314° N, 71.9816° E
17-12-2018	Vadla dist. Surendranagar	Adult	22.9314° N, 71.9816° E
16-02-2020	Sharad dist. Surendranagar	Adult	22.2608° N, 73.2402° E
20-12-2021	Kayla village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	28.7560° N, 76.2609° E
04-01-2023	Vekaria village dist. Ahmedabad	Adult	22.9727° N, 72.3441° E

Table 1

South-East India. So, bird is new wintering species for Gujarat, Western India. Bird does not mention in checklist of Birds of Gujarat, published by BCSG, 2004, 2016. 14 photographic records during winter show that without gap bird is winter visitor but overlooked.

Bibliography

- Birdlife international. Threatened birds of Asia: the birdlife. International red data book. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (2001).
- Birdlife International. Species factsheet: Gallinago Nemoricola (2013).
- C Robson. "Birds of South-East Asia" 2005 (2015).
- Del hoyo J and Collar NJ. "Illustrated checklist of the Birds of World-V01".
- Dhubra Prasad Ghimre., *et al.* "Conservation status of the wood snipe (*Gallinago Nemoricola*) in Langtang National park, Nepa (2010).
- Grimmett R and Inskipp Tim. "Birds of Southern India (2011).
- Grimmett R., *et al.* "Birds of the Indian subcontinent. 2nd edition. London: Oxford University Press and Christopher Helm (2011): 1-528.
- Grimmett R., *et al.* "Birds of Nepal".
- James A Eaton and Andrew G Duff. "Wood snipe *Gallinago Nemoricola* in Bhutan's Phobjikha valley". From Birding ASIA (2018).
- Kattu Chundankata. "Wood Snipe Hodgson from E-bird".
- Ludlow F Kinnear NB. "The Birds of Bhutan and adjacent territories of Sikkim and Tibet (1937).
- Kasambe R. "Updtaes in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Birds of India". *Mistnet* 15.1 (1937): 10-16.
- Rasmussen PC and Anderton JC. "Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide" (2012).
- Stephen Message Don Taylor "Waders of Europe, Asia and North America".
- Spierenburg P. "Birds in Bhutan- status and distribution. Bedford Uk: Oriental Bird Club" (2005).