

Short Article

Volume-05|Issue-02|2025

Three important sighting of European Honey Buzzard *Pernis opivorus* from Ahmedabad District, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi

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

Article History

Received: 05.03.2025

Accepted: 25.03.2025

Published: 10.04.2025

Citation

Trivedi, R. (2025). Three important sighting of European Honey Buzzard *Pernis opivorus* from Gujarat, India. *Indiana Journal of Agriculture and Life Sciences*, 5(2), 27-29.

Classification

Species Authority: Falco Linnaeus, 1758**Domain:** Eukaryote**Kingdom:** Animalia**Phylum:** Chordata**Class:** Aves**Order:** Falconiformes**Family:** Accipitridae**Genus:** Pernis**Scientific name:** Pernis opiva**Common name:** European Honey Buzzard**Gujarati name:** Europe no Madhyo baj**Keywords:** Sighting, European Honey, Pernis opivorus, Pernis opivorus from Gujarat

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

The European Honey Buzzard *Pernis opivorus* is one of the large sized raptors, rather chubby appearance, round head, large eye-ring, shorter tail, bird is distinguished from Flat-headed, long-tailed, small eye-ringed Oriental Honey Buzzard. Occurs - Spain, Italy, through Ukraine, Russia, Western Asia - **del hoyo, Benyy**. Also North-East Afghanistan - **Rasmussen**. Breed - March to May in well wooded deciduous area when it easily finds out plenty food - **Benyy**. **Winter migration** - Found in Gini, Ghana, Nigeria, Central Africa, Ethiopia, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Monazite - **N. Borrow, R. Denney & Lees J. F., C. David**. Recent two records are available in Gujarat. One from Porbandar, Saurashtra and injured juvenile bird was sighted by **Pitroda** (BirdingAsia 33 (2020)) on 26th November, 2019, 6 km West from coastal area of Gujarat. Second (Hybrid), bird by Shah (Flamingo) at Motvan wetland, Bharuch, South Gujarat. Three records by Author are introduced in this article.

On 21st Dec 2024, I was birding at Zamp village (22.8° N, 72.15° E), Taluka - Sanand and district Ahmedabad, adjusted with Western range of Ahmedabad city. Has a M. azadirach, Maringa Oleiferen, Eucalypths, Salvadora persica, Calotropis giguntea, S. Nirum, Pgera muricatu, Holoptelia imtegrifolia, F. bongalenis, F. tsielaroxob, F. religiosa with thorny Capparis, decidua, Capparis scepirin, Acacia, P. juliflora thorny scrube mixed, dry deciduous forest. At 0930 hrs, I sighted and photographed birds like Honey Buzzard

perched in Neem trees, has a rounded head, large white orbital ring, rufous throat, hooked greyish bill, Greyish-brown wing covert, shorter primary, black-bended shorter greyish tail. Another two birds were sighted and photographed in Bavla taluka at Matoda and Dehegamda village.



Figure 1: European Honey Buzzard

Greyish bill, rounded hhead, rufous throat, large eye-ring, yellow iris, black pupil, greyish-brown wing covert, primary black, shorter tail, yellowish legs.



Figure: 2



Figure: 3

Figure: 2,3 – Greyish bill, crown and black-banded tail, yellowish large eye-ring, rufous throat.

Hooked greyish bill and crown, yellow large iris, black pupil, short spiky nape feathers, dark blackish grey wing coverts, black-banded grey tail.

European honey buzzard



Figure: 4

Bird has bulky appearance. Hooked greyish bill and crown, yellow large iris, black pupil, short spiky nape feathers, dark blackish grey wing coverts, black-banded grey tail. Distinguish from **Figure: 5 & 6**.

Oriental honey buzzard



Figure: 5



Figure: 6

Figure: 5 – Calendar appearance, rather flated greyish head and neck, black streaked white breast, long white legs.

Figure: 6 – Calendar appearance, rather shorted head, long primary projection extend up to two-third of the tail, also it is larger than **Figure: 4**.

DISCUSSION

There seem to be no records available of species from Gujarat. **Ali (1954-55)**, did not come across the bird in Gujarat including Kachchh and Saurashtra region. Even Dharamkumarsinhji had not recorded Saurashtra area of Gujarat, 1955, Naoroji does not showed any record in distribution map of Gujarat and including India, 2006. It is not showed by Kry's (2012), Grimmett (2011), Rasmussen (2012) also bird was not listed in checklist of birds of Gujarat – **Parasarya et al., 2004**. Also, doesn't mention in checklist of the birds of Gujarat, 2014 and 2020 – **Ganpule**. Recent two records are available in Gujarat. One from Porbandar, Saurashtra and injured juvenile bird was sighted by **Pitroda** on 26th November, 2019, 6 km West from coastal area. Second (Hybrid), bird by Shah at Motvan wetland, Bharuch, South Gujarat. Three records by Author are introduced in this article.

REFERENCES

1. Ali, S. (1945). *The birds of Kutch*. Oxford University Press.
2. Ali, S. (1954). The birds of Gujarat. Part I. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, 52, 374–458.
3. Ali, S. (1955). The birds of Gujarat. Part II. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, 53, 735–802.
4. Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D. (1978). *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka: Divers to hawks* (Vol. 1, 2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
5. Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D. (1983). *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan* (Compact ed.). Oxford University Press.
6. Ali, S. (1977). *Field guide to the birds of the Eastern Himalayas*.
7. Benny, G. *Collins guide to birds of prey of Britain and Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East*.
8. Borrow, N., & Demey, R. *A guide to the birds of Western Africa*.
9. del Hoyo, J., & Collar, N. J. *Illustrated checklist of the birds of the world* (Vol. 1).
10. Dharamkumarsinhji, R. S. (1955). *Birds of Saurashtra, India, with additional notes on the birds of Kutch and Gujarat*. Published by the author.
11. Forsman, D. (2006). *The raptors of Europe and the Middle East*. Christopher Helm.
12. Forsman, D. (2016). *The flight identification of raptors of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East*. Christopher Helm, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.
13. Grimmett, R., & Inskipp, T. (2011). *Birds of Southern India*.
14. Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (1998). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1st ed.). Christopher Helm.
15. Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (2011). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (2nd ed.). Christopher Helm & Oxford University Press.
16. Kryś, K. (2012). *Birds of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives*. OM Field Guides.
17. Naoroji, R. (2006). *Birds of prey of the Indian Subcontinent* (1st ed.). Om Books International.
18. Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C. (2012). *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley guide*.