

Short Article

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Important breeding record of Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus Ibis Ibis* from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. Distribution Range Extend to Gujarat, Western India

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Abstract: In present article, going to introduce breeding record of Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis* very close to combine heronary of Great, Little, Eastern Egret and Cormorant. During this observation, three birds were sighted and photographed. One bird was perched on Neem trees melia azadirachta and another two birds were in nest, one on neem tree branch and another on Banyan tree branch, in Green Park elongated Eastern range of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, South-West range of Viramgam Taluka, Dist. – Ahmedabad. Site is located 65 km. West from Ahmedabad city (23.0225° N, 72.5714° E), and 55 km East from Surendranagar city (22.7251° N, 71.6370° E). Breeding record was considered as important, due to its breed in Europe and probably in Pakistan.

Classification: -

Genus: *Bubulcus Ibis***Family:** Ardeidae**Order:** Ciconiiformes**Species authority:** Linnaeus, 1758**Domain:** Eukaryota**Kingdom:** Animalia**Class:** Aves**Phylum:** Chordata**Binomial name:** *Bubulcus Ibis Ibis***Gujarati name:** Pashchim no Dhor Baglo

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INTRODUCTION

The Western Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis ibis* is resembling of Eastern Cattle Egret *B. I. Coromandus*, belongs to Ardeidae Family, Order – Ciconiiformes. Detached in three different races. 1. *B. I. Seyphelles* – Found in America. 2. *B. I. Coromundus* – Found in India, Japan, Australia & New Zealand. 3. *B. I. ibis* – found in Europe, Africa (**Borrow & Demey**) and Madagascar (Mauritius Reunion Island, Rodrigues – **Sinclair & Langrand**) – **del hoyo**, 2014. Vagrant or winter visitor in Pakistan – **Rasmussen, 2012**.

Observation

On 6th June, 2017, I was birding in Green park, adjusted North-East range of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary. Site is known for largest nesting site of Great, Little, Eastern Cattle Egret and Indian cormorant. Also adjusted with largest breeding site of Little, Black, Yellow and cinnamon Bittern. Has a *M. Azadarach*, *M. aczadiruchta*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Salvadora persica*, *acacia arabica*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Capparis*, *P. juiflora* mixed dry deciduous forest is remarkable fluttering feathered congregations' habitat, also provide excellent habitation to every feathered waterfowl. Site was declared Bird Sanctuary in April, 1969 and Ramsar site in 2012.

At 11:30, I came across birds like Cattle Egret, one perched on Neem tree branch while two birds were in nest. Has yellowish-brown flying feathers on crown, white neck, yellowish bill, yellow iris, black pupil, brownish orbital ring, brownish-yellow feathers on upper breast, white facial ring, pink legs, distinguished from (fig. 5 has) red bill, brownish-yellow feathers on upper breast, red eye, brownish-yellow necked Eastern cattle Egret. Characteristic differences disconnect it and elevate to different and separate species and recognize as a Western cattle Egret *Bubulcus Ibis Ibis*.



Fig. 1



Fig 2: Western Cattle egret in nest.



Fig. 3

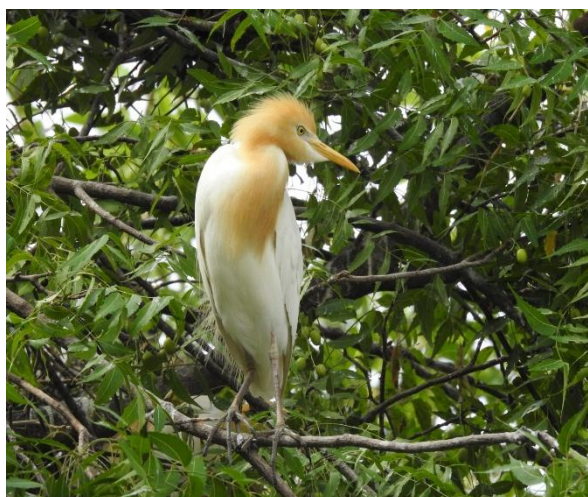


Fig. 4

Yellowish bill, yellowish brown crown and upper breast feathers distinguished from Fig. 3.



Fig 5: Eastern Cattle Egret

DISCUSSION

The breeding record of the Western Cattle Egret is extremely very important for its distribution range. It is found in Europe, Africa and Pakistan. generally observed near marshes, lagoons, well-wooded area near waterbody, nesting in colony like Eastern Cattle Egret, Gregarious seek food in field, dry marshes, usually in flock, often along site of Cattle, normally in considerably drier terrain than other Herons. **Grimmett, 2011, Kry's 2012, Ali 2012**, does not mention in their work, also not mention in Checklist of Birds of Gujarat, 2004, 2014, 2020. Might be bird is overlooked due to its plumage, very difficult to identify in Winter plumage.

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