

by Arun Bhatia

Thereafter we went to Pirotan Island in the Gulf of Kutch (as camp participants in Mr. Lavkumar's IIIrd Marine Camp.) Since Gulf of Kutch is protected from the reach of Indian Ocean rollers and southwest monsoon winds by the Saurashtra peninsula, an intricate network of tidal creeks and mangrove islands extend from Jamnagar to Okha and Pirotan is one such island. Mangrove islands offer nesting and feeding for our various species of storks and ibises. Flamingoes and pelicans when not nesting in the Great Rann of Kutch nearby also come and we listed the following sighted at Pirotan,

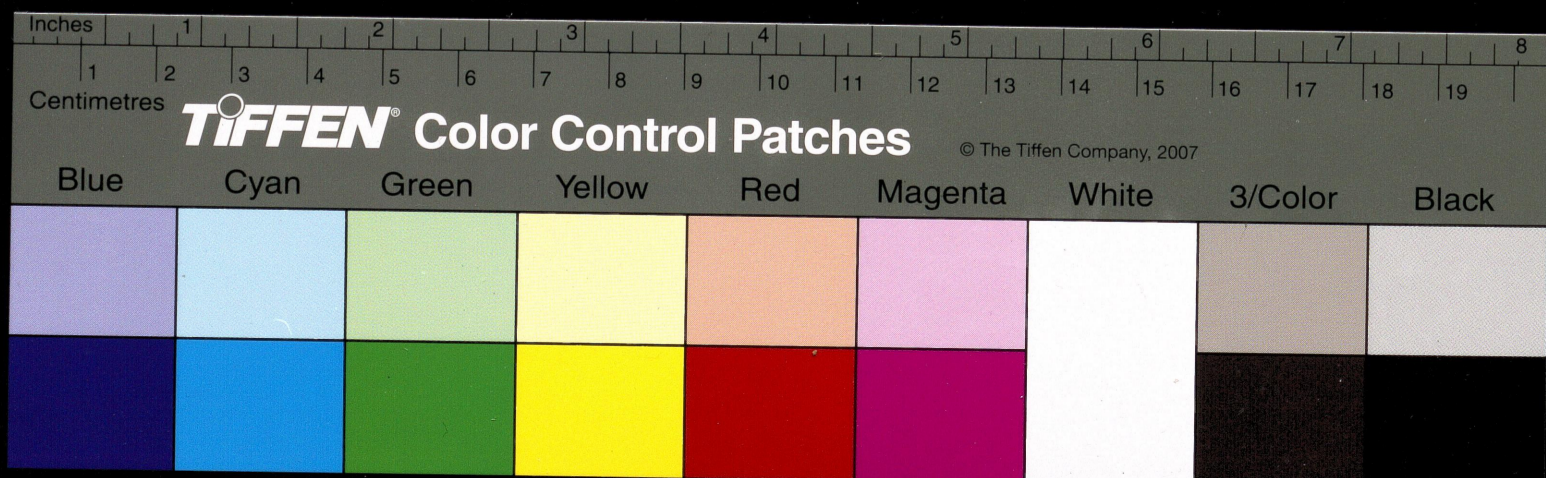
Large Egret, Rosy Pelican, Grey Heron, Reef Heron, The Flamingo, Marsh Harrier, Booted Eagle, Painted Stork, Oystercatcher, Kentish Plover, Grey Plover, Little Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover, Dunstone, Curlew, Whimbrel, Common Swallow, Bartailed Godwit, Spotted Sandpiper, Redshank, Green Shank, Dunlin, Little Stint, Sanderlin, Blackwinged Stilt, Herring Gull, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Black Headed Gull, Brown Headed Gull, Indian Whiskered Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Little Tern, Small Blue Kingfisher, Sandlark (the "national" bird of Pirotan!) Desert Wheatear.

The Government of Gujarat declared this area of 110 sq. Km. between Okha and Jamnagar as a Marine National Park in August, 1980. Several representations made by the Saurashtra Branch of World Wildlife Fund*India to the Govt. of Gujrat resulted in this enlightened step now taken by Gujrat Forest Department.

At Khijadia, infrastructure is nil. Pirotan Island is not inhabited except for lighthouse staff and drinking water is not available.

Incidentally, the present Jam Sahib has a fantastic aviary within his palace precincts where rarities are also kept and he does some breeding in Jamnagar. Peacocks and peahens roam freely in palace grounds etc.

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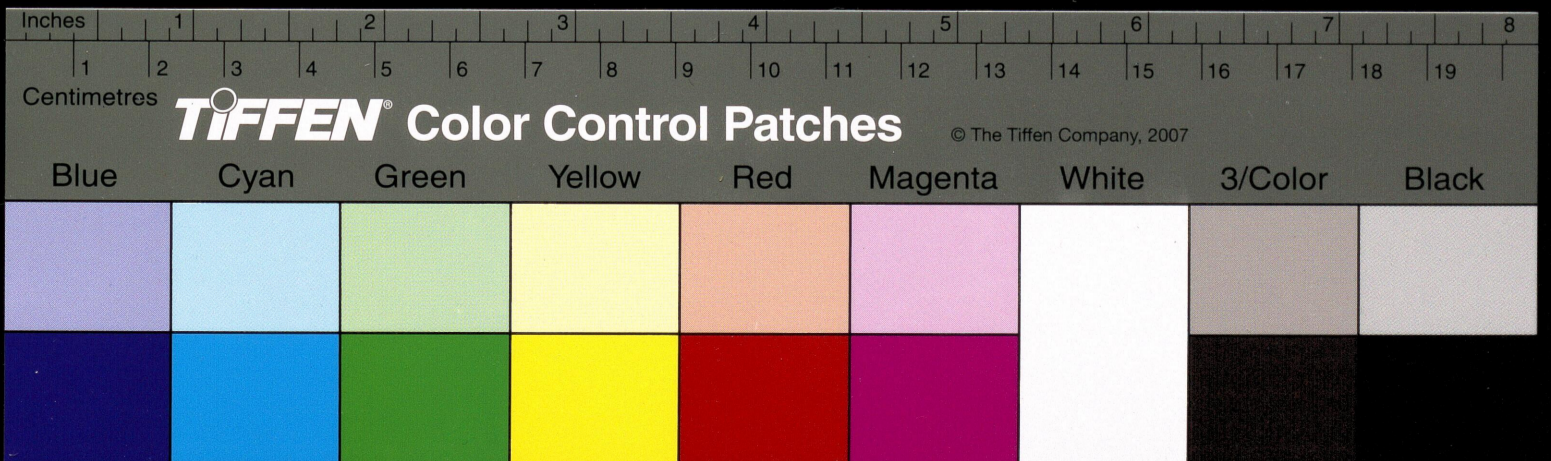


LIST OF GULF OF KUTCH WADERS & OTHERS (IN SYNOPSIS ORDER) seen Jan.25/26/1981

Little Grebe/Dabchick	Podiceps ruficollis	Common Crane	Grus grus
White/Rosy Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	Sarus Crane	Grus antigone
Grey/Spotbilled Pelican	Pelecanus philippensis	Demoiselle Crane	Anthropoides virgo
Indian Shag	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis	Purple Moorhen	Porphyrio porphyrio
Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger	Goot	Fulica atra
Darter/Snakebird	Anhinga rufa	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirugus
Grey Heron	Ardea Cinerea	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus
Purple Heron	Ardea Purpurea	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus
Pond Heron/Paddybird	Ardeola grayii	Gray Plover	Plurialis squatarola
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Large Sand Plover	Charadrius leschenaultii
Large Egret	Egretta alba	Little Ringed "	" dubicus
Median/Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia	Kentish "	" alexandrinus
Little Egret	Egretta gartetta	Lesser Sand "	" mongolus
Reef heron(both phase)	Egretta gularis	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
The Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	Gurlew	" arquata
Painted Stork	Ibis leucocephalus	Blacktailed Godwit	Limosa Limosa
Blacknecked Stork	Xenorhynchys asiaticus	Bar-tailed "	" lapponica
White Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephala	Redshank	Tringa Totanus
Black Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa	Marsh Sandpiper	" stagnatilis
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	Greenshank	" nebularia
The Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus/ruber	Green Sandpiper	" ochropus
Lesser/Rosy Flamingo	" minor	Wood Sandpiper	" glareola
Pintail Duck	Anas acuta	Terch Sandpiper	" terch
Common Teal	" creca	Common Sandpiper	" hypolenchos
Mallard	" platyrhynchos	Turnstone	Arnaria interpres
Wigeon	" penelope	Sanderling	Calidris alba
Shoveller	" clypeata	Little Stint	" minutus
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	Dunlin	" alpinas
Pariah kite	Milvus migrans	Curlew Sandpiper	" ferruginea?
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus	Ruff & Reeve	Philomachus pugnax
Booted Hawk-eagle	Hieraetus pennatus	Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta
White-backed Vulture	Gyps Bengalensis	Black-winged stilt	Himantopus himantopus
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	Lesser black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Brownhead "	" brunnicephalus
		Blackhead "	" ridibundus
		Indian Whiskered Tern	
		Gull-billed Tern	Chlidonia hybrida
		Caspian Tern	Gelochelidon milotica
		Little Tern	Sterna?/Hydroprogne caspia
		Blue Rock Pigeon	Columba livia

Ref ZF letter 9/2/81
 List Resubmitted 24/2/81 AB
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2/3/81



LIST OF GULF OF KUTCH WADERS & OTHERS (IN SYNOPSIS ORDER) SEEN Jan 25/26, 1981

Red Turtle Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica
Indian Rig Dove	" decaocta
Spotted Dove	" senegalensis chinensis
Little Brown Dove	" senegalensis
Rose Ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri
Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Common/Small Blue Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
White-breasted Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis
Small Green bee-eater	Merops orientalis
Roller/Blue Jay	Coracias benghalensis
Hoopoe	Upupa Epops
XXXXXXXXXX Sandlark	Calandrella raytal
Common Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Grey Shrike	Lanius excubitor
Bay-backed Shrike	" vittatus
Rufous-backed Shrike	" schach
Brown Shrike	" cristatus
Black Drongo	Nicrurus adsimilis
Blackheaded/Brahminy Myna	Sturnus pagodarus
Rosy Pastor	" roseus
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Bank Myna	Acridotheres gingianus
House Crow	Corvus splendens
Jungle Crow	" macrorhynchos
Red vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer
Ashy wren-warbler/Indian Prinia	Prinia subflava
Great Indian reed Warbler	Acrocephalis stentoreus
Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros
Collared Bush-Chat (Stonechat)	Saxicola torquata
Pied Bush-chart	" caprata
Desert Chat/Wheatear	Oenanthe desertii
Indian Robin	Saxicoloides fulicata
White/Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba
Yellow wagtail	" flava
Purple Sunbird	Nectarinia asiatica
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Spotted Munia	Lonchura punctulata

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