

New addition of two 'Least Concern' bird species to the avifauna of Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan

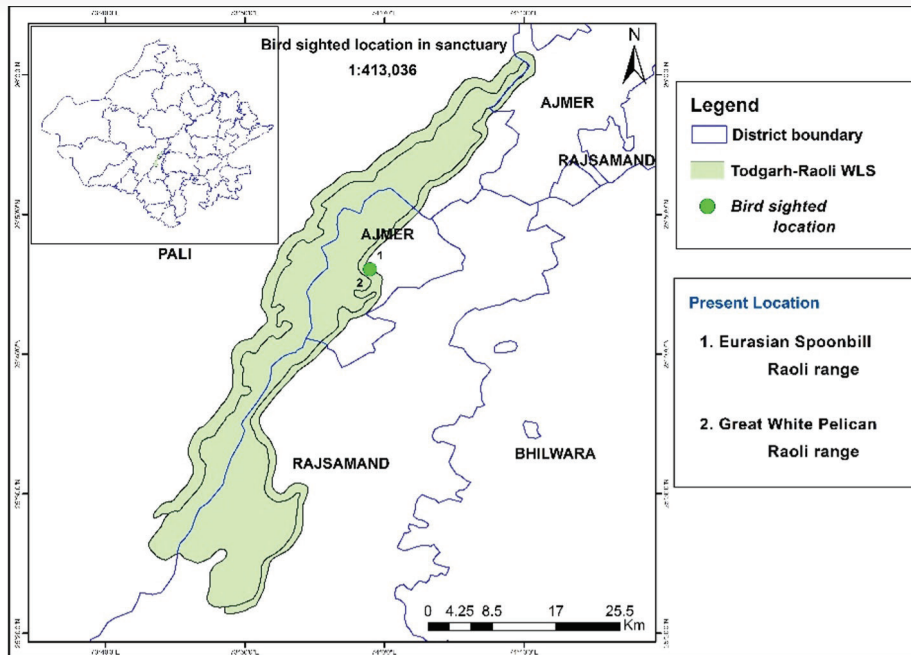
Out of 871 species of water birds found worldwide (Ali & Ripley 1986), India contributes about 310 wetland bird species (Kumar et al. 2005) and Rajasthan represents about 100 wetland bird species, out of this order Pelecaniformes represent 34 species from Rajasthan and 10 species were reported from this sanctuary (Kumar & Gupta 2013; Koli 2014).

Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary is situated between 73.67 – 74.17 E and 25.33 – 26.00 N, covers an area of about 495.27 km², and is extended in three districts viz. Rajsamand, Pali and Ajmer in the southwestern part of Rajasthan State.

During the survey of the sanctuary from 2015 to 2019, we sighted two wetland bird species of the order Pelecaniformes. All the bird species have been identified by using various published literature (Ali & Ripley 1986;



Eurasian Spoonbill & Great White Pelican in Todgarh-Raoli WS.
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Distribution of Eurasian Spoonbill & Great White Pelican in Todgarh-Raoli WS.

Beaman & Madge 1998; Grimmett et al. 1999; Singh et al. 2022). After the critical study, both species are in addition to the avian diversity of this sanctuary.

(1) Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Distribution: Palearctic region (Europe to Mongolia), Asia, Iran, Iraq and India (Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Rajasthan- Jaipur, Bharatpur, Jodhpur, Kota and Ajmer (Ajmer city) (Catsadorakis et al. 2015; Thirunaranan et al. 2017)).

Status: Least Concern (BirdLife International 2018).

Note: Pelecanidae is the first-time reported family from this sanctuary. It mostly occurs in small groups or rarely in single. It often swims

forward in a semicircular formation, driving fish into shallow water, each bird then scoops up fish from the water into its pouch, before swallowing the food. Roosts in flocks usually on open sand bars, large legs, lagoons and tidal creeks.

Sighted at: Raoli Range, Tilakheda, 28 February 2019, 25.7679 N, 73.9826 E, 434.1m.

(2) Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758.

Distribution: Western Europe, northwestern Africa, China, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and India (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamilnadu. Rajasthan: Bharatpur, Ajmer (Ajmer city), Kota, Barmer (Champagnon et al. 2018)).

Status: Least Concern (BirdLife International 2019).

Note: The genera *Platalea* is reported for the first time from this sanctuary and this is the generic addition for the avifaunal diversity of this sanctuary. Wades in shallow water, making side-to-side sweeps of the bill and sifting prey. It is commonly found in longer lakes, lagoons, rivers and marshes, also tidal creeks and mangroves.

Sighted at: Raoli Range, Tilakheda, 6 September 2018, 25.7678 N, 73.9826 E, 485.6m.

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Citation: Purohit, C.S., M. Singh & R. Ram (2024). New addition of two 'Least Concern' bird species to the avifauna of Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan. *Bird-o-soar* #227, In: *Zoo's Print* 39(3): 17–19.