

Rare sighting of Sociable Lapwing in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan



Two individuals of Sociable Lapwing in Khetolai. © Mayank Bohra.

An IUCN Red List ‘Critically Endangered’ bird was sighted in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan after 15 years. The Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarious* migrates from Kazakhstan, for over 10,000 km every year.

The species lives its life across several habitats, including dry subtropical and temperate grasslands, wetlands, and temperate deserts. Its population has declined by about 40% between 1930 and 1960, and further got halved between 1960 and 1987 in northern Kazakhstan (Birdlife International 2019).

In 2020, an individual of Sociable Lapwing was seen in the waterbodies of three villages in Jaisalmer, namely, Khetolai, Chacha, and Lathi sitting

among a flock of Red-Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*. Again on 8 November 2021, two individuals were observed in waterbodies at Khetolai and Chacha amidst Red-Wattled Lapwing flock. Individuals of Sociable Lapwing were seen flying and feeding across different water bodies, in these villages. Radheshyam Bishnoi has made a video and reported the Sociable Lapwing in eBird in 2020. This is a report to publish the finding formally along with photograph and [video](#).

Reference

BirdLife International (2019). *Vanellus gregarius* (amended version of 2018 assessment). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T22694053A155545788. Accessed on 11 January 2022. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T22694053A155545788.en>.

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