

## Record of a Short-eared Owl in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, India

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* is a widespread winter visitor and a passage migrant to the Indian mainland subcontinent and occasional in Sri Lanka and Maldives (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is generally a species of low country, frequenting open undulating grassy country dotted with bushes, sparsely scrubbed hillsides, tall grassland on the margin of jheels, and also in semi-desert environment (Ali & Ripley 1987).

According to eBird database (2021), the species is rare in Andhra Pradesh and records are from a few locations. The confirmed records are from Rollapadu Bird Sanctuary and its surroundings in Kurnool District. On 16 December 2019, during a birdwatching trip to Attakanitippa (13.7244 N; 80.1237 E) located in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, I sighted a Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* perched on the thickets of *Prosopis juliflora* (1.8 m height). The species had not been recorded in the Pulicat area and adjacent locations including Sriharikota in earlier studies (Manakadan et al. 2009; David et al. 2018). Hence, record of the species in Pulicat is worth mentioning, both for Andhra Pradesh and Pulicat-Sriharikota.

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Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. © A. Kalaimani.

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**Acknowledgements:** I want to thank Ranjit Manakadan and S. Siva Kumar (BNHS) for helping during the birds survey. My sincere thanks to Idea Wild for the equipment support.

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**Citation:** Kalaimani, A. (2024). Record of a Short-eared Owl in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, India. Bird-o-soar #224, In: *Zoo's Print* 39(2): 11.