

Resighting of Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii* Lesson, 1826) from Rajasthan, India

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Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii* Lesson, 1826) is a wader bird belonging to Subclass Neornithes, family Charadriidae and a winter visitor to seaboard of West Pakistan and India (Ali and Ripley 2007). In India, they have reported the bird from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Orissa and West Bengal.

On 19th August, 2012, we were birding at Ghasa Pond (24°46'12" N, 73°47'47"E) for monthly data collection of aquatic avian diversity of this pond. At 07:25 AM we observed a bird with the help of binoculars from a distance of around 100 m. The bird resembled the Little ringed plover and at that time this bird was busy in feeding by tactile foraging method. After 10 minutes of observation, we slowly approached this bird without any disturbance for a better observation. Due to the cloudy cover and dim light of early morning hours, we could not identify this species properly with binoculars. We waited for a better light as the sun rose up. At first fleeting look we thought that it was a Little ringed plover. But on later observations it was noted that there was no ring around its neck and eyes. It had a chestnut breast, forehead and nape. It also had a black stripe from ear coverts to lores, black culmen, white chin and white belly part. We took some photographs and with the help of literature it was identified as Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) (Fig. 1).

In Rajasthan there is no reporting of this bird (Sharma and Tehsin 1994; Sharma 1998; Chhangani 2002; Saxena 2003; Sangha & Devarshi 2006; Koli *et al.* 2011; Bhatnagar *et al.* 2007, 2011) except one study by Kumar (2008). Since this bird was seen



Fig. 1. Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) during feeding. (Photo by: D.S. Shekhawat)

only twice in the study area it can be concluded that it was probably a passage migrant species in the study area.

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