Long-tailed Jaeger. Opinions on the bird from Kochi were divided and hence further detailed opinions are invited from experts.

The effort of getting multiple photographers to scan their archives, coordinating with them to pick the relevant images, processing them, and collating all these images is a herculean task! As indicated above, this whole process of retrospective identification was possible because photographs from multiple photographers (providing multiple angles and resolutions) were available for browsing at a single place.

This discussion highlights the importance of building up an archive of photographs to solve identification challenges for difficult groups like pelagic birds. It is recommended that in future pelagic trips the coordinators should transfer all photographs from participants, then and there, without worrying about content, quality, or size of the transferred images.

Acknowledgements

This result would not have been possible without the selfless contribution from a bunch of bird photographers who shared all their images without any further apprehensions. So I wish to thank all photographers who contributed to creating this database: Abhilash Arjunan, Anush Sheety, Arun C. G., Aravinikumar Bhat, Biju K. L., Biju P. B., Chirma Bhatia, P. J. George, Jayney Maria, Karthik, Kesavamurthy, E. Kunjikrishnan, Mike Prince, Mohanam Kemparanuj, Muruganmohan, Praveen E. S., Prashanth Poojari, Raju A. K., Sachin Shurpali, Sandeep Das, Shiva Shankar, Teddy Ninappa, K. V. Uthaman, Vijay Cavale, Vijesh Vallikkunnu, Vinayakumar Thimmappa, and Vishnu Sidivas. Thanks to Klaus Malling Olsen, Robert Flood, Rob van Bemmelen, John Martin, Martin Elliott, Ian Broadbent, Steve N. G. Howell, Mike Prince, and Daniel López-Velasco, who analysed the images and provided opinions on identification. I would also like to acknowledge Praveen J., for reviewing the initial draft and for overall support and encouragement.

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Lesser Noddy Anous tenuirostris from Kanyakumari coast, Tamil Nadu

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Manuscript received on 25 December 2013.

Pelagic bird watching trips have been conducted regularly since September 2010 off the western coast of India (Karuthedathu et al. 2013). However, on the eastern coast, they started only from September 2012. The fourth such trip was organized by the Pearl City Nature Society, on 07 September 2013 from off the Kanyakumari coast (08°05′N, 77°33′E). The Southwest Monsoon was not active over this part of the country at this time and reports from fishermen about bird sightings encouraged us to make this trip. At around 0900 hrs, approximately 5 kms from the harbor, we sighted, close to a catamaran, a Noddy, along with Sooty- Onychoprion fuscatus and Common Sterna hirundo Terns. At first sight, the Noddy appeared smaller than a Brown Noddy Anous stolidus, which we had sighted on previous trips, including one from Tuticorin, c. 100 kms from Kanyakumari. Its flight was faster than a Brown Noddy and somewhat fluttery. When we approached closer, it moved...
away from our boat and disappeared from view. While the bird was flying away from us, MM managed to take few good photographs, and DK managed to grab a short video footage. Analysis of these images indicated that the bird in question had a long thin beak, a relatively delicate build, long narrow wings, and uniform dark upper parts, all of which favored a Lesser- *A. minutus*, or a Black- *A. tenuirostris* Noddy (Karuthedathu 2013). The bird also showed pale lores and a pale cap grading evenly to the grey sides (85) and moderately forked tail, indicating a Lesser Noddy, as against a Black Noddy, which should have shown all dark lore, contrasting pale white cap, and deeply forked tail (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

These images were also circulated amongst various experts (David Montecelli, and Tony Diamond, pers. comm., emails of 12 September 2013; Charles Anderson, pers. comm., email of 18 September 2013; Chris Feare, pers. comm., emails of 18 October 2013) who were familiar with both types of birds, for confirmation. All of them agreed that it is one of the smaller noddies, and while commenting on the difficulty in separating Black and Lesser Noddy in field, most of them confirmed the identification mainly based on the pale lore and evenly grading cap. This is the second record of this species from Tamil Nadu, the first being from Point Calimere (Balachandran *et al.* 1986).

Breeding of the Lesser Noddy has been reported from Chagos and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is also reported as a non-breeding visitor to Sri Lanka (De Silva 1979; Robson 2011). Further pelagic trips from the southern Indian coast are essential to collect more data on this species and conspecifics.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank David Montecelli, Teresa Catry, Tony Diamond, W. R. P. Bourne, Chris Feare, and Charles Anderson for helping us with the identification and detailed inputs. We thank Sylendra Babu, ADGP of Costal Security Group Tamil Nadu Police, Subramaniam, Additional Director of Fisheries Dept., Chinnamuttom, Reena Siva, Deputy Director of Fisheries Dept., Nagercoil, and Anand Kumar, Coast Guard commandant, Tuticorin for their support and encouragement. Thanks to the President and Secretary of PCNS for initiating the trip and to Jerome and team for the logistics arrangements.

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