

An unusual nesting colony of Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* at Jamnagar, Gujarat

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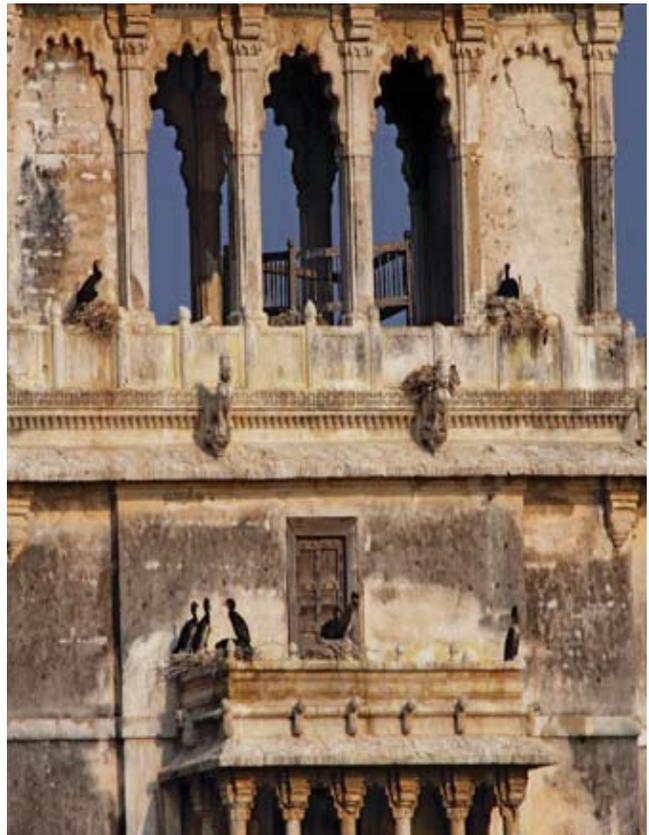
On 6 November 2009, while birdwatching at Lakhota Lake, Jamnagar (Gujarat, India), we came across a strange nesting colony of Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*. In the middle of the lake is the circular, and regal, mid-nineteenth century structure of the Lakhota Palace. Recently, around its walls, wooden scaffoldings have been erected for carrying out repair work. However, work has not yet started along certain parts of the walls, or at least, nothing has happened for several months.

We were pleasantly surprised to note that in this undisturbed area of the scaffolding, some Great Cormorants had constructed nest platforms. We counted 18 nests. A further six nests were located on window parapets, etc., of the palace itself. Chicks were visible in most of the nests, and adults were busy feeding them.

Ali & Ripley (1978) state that, Great Cormorants build their nests colonially, often in a mixed heronry, and on trees standing partially submerged in water. They mentioned one record of nests on ledges of rocks, described by Baker. But we have not come across mention of such a type of nesting colony. Hence this unusual nesting colony of Great Cormorant is worth recording.

Reference

Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1978. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Divers to hawks*. Vol 1. 2nd (Hardback) ed. Delhi (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press.



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Large Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* nesting on scaffolding around, and structure of Lakhota Palace in Lakhota Lake, Jamnagar.