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A Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* at Sambhar Lake, and its status in Rajasthan

The Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* is a winter visitor to the coasts of Pakistan (mainly Sind), southern India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, straggling (or overlooked) elsewhere on coasts; it's a passage migrant through south-western and north-eastern Afghanistan, eastern Pakistan, and north-western India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is generally considered rare in northern India (Grimmett et al. 2011), or a straggler, 'possibly sometimes confused by observers with Little Ringed Plover, and in immature plumage with Lesser Sand Plover' (Ali & Ripley 1980).

On 19 May 2019, at 0910 h, while birding on a satellite wetland of the Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan, I spotted a Common Ringed Plover in breeding plumage, in a small flock of Little Ringed Plovers *C. dubius*, and identified as such by its larger size, and the absence of an obvious eye-ring. Fortunately, the bird was confiding and continued foraging even when approached quite close and I was able to observe it for about 10–12 min. Gaurav Sharma, a photographer from Sambhar town, photographed another bird [208] in breeding plumage on 07 May 2020 at the salt pans of Sambhar. He observed the bird for two–three days. The species has not been previously recorded from Sambhar Lake (Adam 1873, 1874; Sangha 2009).



Gaurav Sharma

208. Common Ringed Plover at Sambhar salt pans, Rajasthan.

There are reports of its occurrence from the eastern parts of Rajasthan (Fig. 1). A bird in breeding plumage was observed on 17 February 2016 at Soorwal Lake in Sawai Madhopur District (Rowland 2017); the members of a birding group reported another on 02 December 2011 (Forsyth & Lindie 2011); and a third was photographed in non-breeding plumage at Bharatpur on 16 February 2019 (Holt 2019).

Its inclusion in the Bombay Natural History Society's Envis



Fig. 1. Sightings of the Common Ringed Plover from eastern Rajasthan.

Center Rajasthan checklist (Anonymous 2015), and in Vyas (2013), is obviously based on Grimmett et al. (2011) and Kazmierczak (2000), who indicated only one record from Bharatpur in their respective distribution maps, but the season of its occurrence is unspecified and the source of the information is not known. In the bare checklist of Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur it was included by Vijayan (1994)

The above records of the species indicate that it uncommonly occurs on wetlands in Rajasthan (Fig.1) during winter or spring passage. Perhaps it has been overlooked in the past.

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