London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
Hingston, R. W. G., 1921. A list of the birds of Dharmsala. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 27 (3): 555–572.
Kazmierczak, K., 2000. *A field guide to the birds of India*, *Sri Lanka*, *Pakistan*, *Nepal*, *Bhutan*, *Bangladesh and the Maldives*. 1st ed. New Delhi: Om Book Service. Pp. 1–352.
Koelz, W., 1939. New birds from Asia, chiefly from India. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 52: 61–82. Webpage URL: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/34606410#page/102/mode/1up. [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]
König, C., & Weick, F., 2008. *Owls of the world.* 2nd ed. London: Christopher Helm. Pp. 1–528.
Singh, M., 2020. Webpage URL: https://ebird.org/checklist/S66416311. [Accessed on 5 December 2022.].
MCM DAV Zoology. 2021. Webpage URL: https://ebird.org/checklist/S92118455 [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]
Olsen, P. D., de Juana, E., & Marks, J. S., 2020. Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Webpage URL: https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.brnhao1.01 [Accessed on 5 December 2022.].
Rahmani, A. R., Zafar-ul-Islam, M., & Kasambe, R. M., 2016. *Important bird and biodiversity areas in India: Priority sites for conservation.* Revised and updated 2nd ed. India: Bombay Natural History Society, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and BirdLife International (UK). Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Pp. 1 l., i–xii, 1–1002.
Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia*: *the Ripley guide.* 2nd ed. Washington, D. C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. 2 vols. Pp. 1–378, 1–683.
Singh, A. P., 2000. Birds of lower Garhwal Himalayas: Dehra Dun valley and neighbouring hills. *Forktail* 16: 101–123.
"Painted Stork." 2019. Webpage URL: https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S61392936. [Accessed on 5 March 2022.]
Thakur, S. K., 2017. Webpage URL: https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S35023439 [Accessed on 5 December 2022.].
Vaurie, C., 1960. Systematic notes on Palearctic birds. No. 43. Strigidae: The Genera *Otus*, *Aegolius*, *Ninox*, and *Tyto*. *American Museum Novitates* 2021: 1–19. Webpage URL: https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/bitstream/handle/2246/5396//v2/dspace/ingest/pdfSource/nov/N2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]
Vertnet. 2023. Webpage URL: http://portal.vertnet.org/search?q=Aegolius+funereus+india+vntype:specimen. [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]
Vyas, S., 2019. The birds of the Delhi area: An annotated checklist. *Indian BIRDS Monograph* 1: 1–128.
Whistler, H., 1926a. The birds of the Kangra District, Punjab. [Part I.]. *Ibis* 68 (3): 521–581.
Whistler, H., 1926b. The birds of the Kangra District, Punjab. [Part II.]. *Ibis* 68 (4): 724–783.
Winkler, D. W., Billerman, S. M., & Lovette I. J., 2020. Owls (Strigidae), version 1.0. In Birds of the World. (Billerman, S. M., Keeney, B. K., Rodewald, P. G., & Schulenberg, T. S., Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Webpage URL: https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.strigi1.01 [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]
Wright, F. S., 1892. Webpage URL: http://portal.vertnet.org/o/cumv/bird?id=a8d24475-bbfe-11e6-a6af-04012ac90e01 [Accessed on 5 December 2022.]

Correspondence

Site fidelity in a Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* from the Gulf of Kachchh, western India

The Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsfield 1821) is an iconic species among waders, and a study of its migration patterns has provided an increase in the knowledge of waders of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (Lisovski et al. 2016). The species also migrates across the Central Asian Flyway and is amongst the top twenty priority species for India (Anon 2018). They breed in North-East Siberia, Russia (Tomkovich 1996) and its non-breeding range extends along the coastline of SE Asia to the coasts of Australia and westwards to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and up to the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula (Gils et al. 2020, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). This correspondence focuses on a colour-marked individual that has been recorded over three years in Kachchh, Gujarat during the non-breeding period.

Balachadi (22.58°N 70.19°E) is a coastal village of the Jamnagar district situated on the southern coast of Gulf of Kachchh of Gujarat state of India. The intertidal area was visited on 06 October 2019 by Yashodhan Bhatia (YB) and Ashish Pankhania (AP) and a tagged Great Knot **[29]** as photographed amongst 20 Great Knots. There were two leg flags on the left tibia, a black flag without any number was over a yellow band which had '6Z' engraved on it in black. A metal ring on the right tibia was also visible.

Dr. Dmitry Dorofeev (Senior Researcher, All-Russian Research Institute of Nature) informed us that he had tagged this individual (6Z) in Kamchatka in far Eastern Russia on 17 July 2019 as an adult; caught on its roost with a special trap locally known as 'taynik' (Dmitry Dorofeev *verbally*). Later, after molecular analysis, '6Z' was confirmed to be a female. This bird travelled approximately 7,700 km to reach Balachadi (Fig. 1).


Yashodhan Bhatia

29. Great Knot 6Z was first photographed on 06 October 2019 (note active wing moult in all individuals).

In subsequent visits, the bird was observed and photographed roosting and foraging along with other waders, terns, and gulls. Observations of 6Z were made in flocks of Great Knots ranging between 10 to over 400 individuals. Such observations, provided by birders and photographers visiting the area, are summarized in Table 1. These re-sightings indicate that this particular individual spent the entire non-breeding (winter) period of 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 in this area.

In 2020, we visited the site till 20 March 2020 before the COVID-19-related lockdown was imposed in India. Further

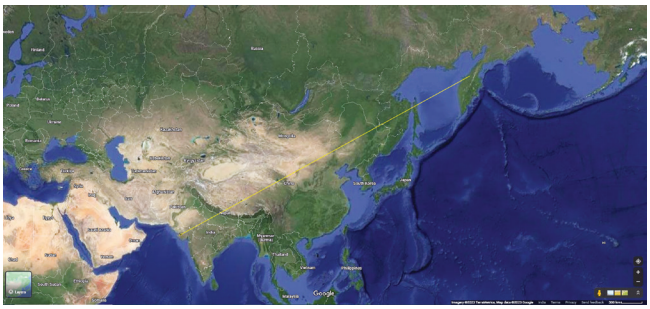


Fig. 1. Known end points of migration of 6Z from Kamchatka and Jamnagar.

sightings were not possible until the restrictions were lifted in September 2020. To keep a record of the re-sightings of this bird, we started a Facebook page 'The story of 6Z Great Knot' in October 2020. Furthermore, we disseminated an information brochure widely in the state requesting information about this individual. Besides Great Knot '6Z' in Gujarat, as we report here, there have been at least four observations of colour-flagged Great Knot from the west and east coasts of the Indian mainland.

This particular Great Knot, after it departs Jamnagar during summer is not sighted in the Russian tundra. As a matter of fact, there are no records of re-sightings of any of the tagged Great Knots from their breeding grounds, as they nest in very remote regions which are still inaccessible by birdwatchers and ornithologists. (Dmitry Dorofeev pers comm.). During northward migration, Great Knots fly nonstop to breeding areas, through the Russian part of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway region without a stopover (Tomkovich, 1997).

Yashodhan Bhatia

30. Great Knot 6Z assuming non-breeding plumage, was photographed on 25 October 2020.

Surprisingly, Great Knot 6Z was re-sighted in the subsequent non-breeding period on 29 August 2021 after a gap of just four and a half months. This short return interval may be a validation of the fact that the female departs the breeding grounds after the eggs hatch, leaving the male to tend to the chicks (Van Gills et al. 1996).

Table 1. Summary of sightings of Great Knot 6Z at Balachadi intertidal area, Gujarat, India (October 2019–March 2022)

Sl. No.	Date	No. of Great Knots (Minimum count)	Observers
1	06 October 2019	40	YB &AP
2	12 December 2019	--	KJ
3	21 February 2020	--	HK
4	05 March 2020	--	Nalsarovar Birders
5	20 March 2020	80	YB, MB
6	10 October 2020	50	YB, MB
7	25 October 2020	200	YB, MB, AP **[30]**
8	04 November 2020	--	AR, VM
9	10 November 2020	50	YB, AD, RB
10	24 November 2020	20	HK&AP
11	11 December 2020	--	CS
12	11 January 2021	30	YB, MB, AP
13	15 January 2021	20	SSD, CM, CS
14	20 January 2021	--	MT
15	09 March 2021	80	YB, MB, AP
16	24 March 2021	125	YB, MB, AP **[31]**
17	28 March 2021	50	SSD, CM, VD, CS
18	05 April 2021	--	VT, AG
19	06 April 2021	200	YB, MB
20	29 August 2021	10	AP, JR, HK
21	15 October 2021	100	YB, MB, AP **[32]**
22	31 October 2021	100	YB, MB, AP
23	30-November 2021	125	YB, MB, AP
24	14 December 2021	100	YB, MB, AP
25	12 March 2022	300	YB, MB, AP **[33]**
26	27 March 2022	400	YB, MB, AP
27	30 March 2022	100	YB, MB, AP

YB: Yashodhan Bhatia, AP: Ashish Pankhania, MB: Dr. Mehul Bhadania, KJ: Kunal Joshi, HK: Hiren Khambhayata, AR: Aditya Roy, VM: Vishal Mistry, AD: Arpit Deomurari, RB: Dr. Rahul Bhagwat, CS: Chetu Sitapara, SSD: Sejal Shah Daniel, CM: Chagan Modhvadia, VD: Vaneet Daniel, MT: Manish Trivedi, VT: Vishwas Thakkar, AG: Ankur Gohil, JR: Jagat Raval

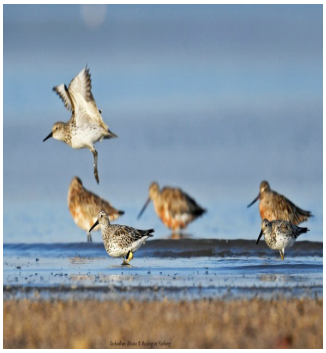
Table 2. The four prior instances of flagged Great Knots being reported from India

Date	Observed by	Observed at location	Tagged at location	Flag Details
01 February 2008	Sumit Sen & others	Henry's Island, West Bengal	Chongming Dao, China	Black over white 'LW'
02 August 2016	Babre & Kasambe	Chinchani, Maharashtra	Chongming Dongtan, China	Black over white
03 October 2018	Varu & Varu	Jamnagar, Gujarat	Kamchatka, Russia	Black over yellow 'VM'
04 November 2020	Avinash Bhagat	Akshi Beach, Maharashtra	Yalujiang, China	Green over orange flag

Yashodhan Bhatia

31. Great Knot 6Z having started acquiring breeding plumage on 24 March 2021, with Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* and Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

The re-sighting of '6Z' consecutively over three winter seasons at Balachadi provides evidence of winter site fidelity for this bird. Such site fidelity can be attributed to the age and sex of the bird (Lourenco et al. 2016) or there can be multiple factors (Sutherland et al. 2004), such as availability of food and/or secure habitats, which would need to be assessed through research. Site fidelity has been recorded in Great Knot in Australia where Higgins & Davies (1996) have given details of the recapture of banded birds at the banding site, often with considerable time between captures. In India, site fidelity is said to exist to some extent with 10% of banded birds re-trapped on the same grounds in the subsequent year (Sangha 2021).



Both: Yashodhan Bhatia

32 and 33. Great Knot 6Z photographed on 15 October 2021 acquiring non-breeding plumage (left) and on 12 March 2022, acquiring breeding plumage (right)

We are thankful to Taej Mundkur for initial data retrieval and in reviewing an early draft of this note. We are exceptionally grateful to Dmitry Dorofeev, Senior researcher at All-Russian Research Institute for Environmental Protection, for providing information regarding this banded bird. We are thankful to Late Jaydev Nansey of Nirmal Foundation frd, Jamnagar, INTACH and BNHS for support in publishing and releasing the brochure at CMS COP 13 held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in February 2020. We are also thankful to to the officers and staff of the Marine National Park, Jamnagar for their constant support during area visits. We thank the observers (see Table 1) for sharing their sightings of this particular Great Knot.

References

Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D., 1983.*Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*. Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Anon, 2018. *India's National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along Central Asian Flyway (2018-2023)*. Published by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India. Pp. 36.

Balachandran, S., 1998. Population, status, moult, and measurements of Great Knot Calidris tenuirostris wintering in South India. Wader Study Group Bull 86: 44–47.

Babre, A.A. & Kasambe, R., 2016. Re-sighting record of a Chinese flagged Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* along Western Coast of Maharashtra. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 56: 51–53.

BirdLife International, 2019. *Calidris tenuirostris* (amended version of 2016 assessment). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2019: e.T22693359A155482913. https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22693359A155482913.en. Downloaded on 28 November 2021.

BirdLife International, 2021 Species factsheet: *Calidris tenuirostris*. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org on 28/09/2020.

CMS., 2021.Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (as amended by the Conference of the Parties in1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2020).https://www.cms.int/en/species/appendix-i-ii-cms

Deomurari, A., 2007. *Seabirds and Shorebirds of Gulf of Kachchh*. M.Sc. Thesis submitted to Sikkim Manipal University. Pp. 225.

EAAFP, 2015. Shorebird Protocols. Coordination of colour marking. https://www.eaaflyway.net/coordination-of-colour-marking/

Ganpule, P. Varu, M., Zala, K. V. & Trivedi, A., 2011.Status and Distribution of Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) in the Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, India. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 118 (3): 192–193.

Hayman, P., Marchant J. & Prater, T., 1986. *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World.* Croom Helm, London.

Higgins, P. J. & Davies, S. J. J. F. (Eds) 1996. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds*. Volume 3, Snipe to pigeons. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Lisovski, S., K. Gosbell, C. Hassell & C. Minton., 2016. Tracking the full annual-cycle of the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*, a long-distance migratory shorebird of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. *Wader Study* 123 (3): Pp.1–13.

Lourenco, P, Alves J, ReneerkensJ, Loonstra AH, Potts P, Granadeiro J & Teresa Catry, 2016, Influence of age and sex on winter site fidelity of sanderlings¸ *Calidris alba*. PeerJ 4:e2517.

Lourenco, P., Alves J., Reneerkens, J., Loonstra, A. H., Potts, P., Granadeiro, J., & Catry, T. 2016. Influence of age and sex on winter site fidelity of sanderlings¸ *Calidris alba*. PeerJ 4:e2517.

Ma, Z.J., D.S. Melville, J.G. Liu, Y. Chen, H.Y. Yang, W.W. Ren, Z.W. Zhang, T. Piersma & B. Li., 2014. Rethinking China's new great wall. *Science* 346: 912–914.

Mori, D., 2017. Recent Sightings of Great Knot in Gujarat. *Flamingo*.Vol.XV-I. Pp. 7

Murray, N.J., R.S. Clemens, S.R. Phinn, H.P.Possingham & R.A. Fuller, 2014. Tracking the rapid loss of tidal wetlands in the Yellow Sea. *Frontiers in Ecology & the Environment* 12: 267–272.

Naik, R.M., Murthy, M.S., Mansuri, A.P., Rao, Y.N., Pravez, R., Mundkur, T., Krishnan, S., Faldu, P.J. & Krishna, T.S.V.R., 1991.WWF India Sponsored Research Project on *Coastal Marine Ecosystems and Anthropogenic Pressure in the Gulf of Kachchh*. Department of Biosciences, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, India.

Neelakantan, K.K., Sashikumar, C., & Venugopalan, R., 1993. *A Book of Kerala Birds. Part 1*. World Wide Fund for Nature India. Kerala State Committee, Trivandrum. Pp. 39.

Piersma, T., T. Lok, Y. Chen, C.J. Hassell, H.Y. Yang, A. Boyle, M. Slaymaker, Y.C. Chan, D.S. Melville, Z.W. Zhang & Z.J. Ma., 2016. Simultaneous declines in summer survival of three shorebird species signals a flyway at risk. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 53: 479–490.

Sangha, H. S., 2021. Waders of the Indian Subcontinent. Jaipur, published by the author and partly supported by WWF India.

Solanki, C., 2018. A large congregation of Great Knots and sighting of Red Knot near Jamnagar. *Flamingo* XVI-2. Pp. 13–14

Sutherland, W, Newton I and Rhys Green, 2004. *Bird Ecology and Conservation a Handbook of Techniques.* Oxford University Press, New York. Pp. 386

Tomkovich, P.S., 1996. A third report on the biology of the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostrius* on the breeding grounds. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* (81) 88-90.

Tomkovich, P.S., 1997. Breeding Distribution, Migrations and Conservation Status of the Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) in Russia. *Emu* 97: 265–282.

Van Gils, J., P. Wiersma, G. M. Kirwan, and C. J. Sharpe, 2020. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.grekno.01

Varu, S.N., 1988. Some information on the shorebirds of Kutch. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 28: 13.
Varu, M. & Varu, S., 2018. Tagged Great Knot from Jamnagar. *Flamingo*.XVI-4. Pp. 12-13
Ward, S., 2012. *Great Knot Calidris tenuirostris. Threatened Species of the Northern Territory*. Published by Northern Territory Government. Pp. 1–3.

– Yashodhan Bhatia, Ashish Pankhania, Mehul Bhadania & Dishant Parasharya
Yashodhan Bhatia, Nirmal Foundation frd, Jamnagar. 361008.
E-mail: jamnagarbirds@gmail.com (Corresponding Author)
Ashish Pankhania, 101/ Madhav Kunj apt., Vasa Vira society, street # 3, near Under-bridge, Jamnagar 361006. E-mail: ashish.mr.birds@gmail.com
Dr. Mehul Bhadania, 53 / A, AmbaVijay Society, Opp Mahavir C, Jamnagar 361008.
E-mail: mehulbhadania@gmail.com
Dr. Dishant Parasharya Scientist B, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai 400 001.
E-mail: dparasharya@gmail.com

An Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* egg in a Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* nest

On 6 June 2022, at 1006 h, while returning after bird watching at Bhigwan, Pune (18.28°N, 74.77°E), we came across a nest with three Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and one Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* egg **[34]**. The nest was located in an unused agricultural field. The nest was a shallow mud scrape made up of shell fragments, twigs, and agricultural stubble. The Black-winged Stilt eggs were cream-coloured with black and brown spots, whereas the Oriental Pratincole egg was relatively smaller in size with black-brown blotches on a pale brown base.

Both: Mayank Shukla

34. Black-winged Stilt nest with an egg of Oriental Pratincole.

The extra egg presumed as the Oriental Pratincole egg based on our observations of several other Oriental Pratincoles incubating in the same agricultural field, and the egg was visually compared with other Oriental Pratincole eggs. Photographs were taken from a safe distance without approaching very close to the nest. After photographing the nest, we moved outside the field carefully to a distant point to observe the nest using binoculars. The observations were made from a distance of about 15 m. We lied down on the ground after scanning the sky and nearby area to ensure that there are no predators and then observed the nest. After a few minutes, a pair of Black-winged Stilt approached the nest and one of the birds started to incubate while the other one flew away **[35]**. We observed the nest for about one hour during which the eggs were continuously incubated by the parent bird **[35]**. We could only observe the same nest the next day for about 15 min and found no change in egg composition and number. The Black-winged Stilt pair was found to incubate the nest.

35. Parent Black-winged Stilt incubating.

The breeding ecology of Oriental Pratincole has not been studied extensively (Maclean & Kirwan 2020), however further emphasis on this could potentially reveal if such instances are just mistakes of egg laying by Oriental Pratincole or possibly a case of brood parasitism.

We are thankful to Tamás Székely for his support.

References:

Maclean, G.L., & Kirwan, G.M., 2020. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Webpage URL: https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.oripra.01. [Accessed on 20 October 2022.]

– Mayank Shukla & Shalini Jain
Mayank Shukla, 1407, Victory-B, Nirmal Lifestyle, Kalyan (W), Thane 421102, Maharashtra, India. Email: mayankshuklams@gmail.com [Corresponding author]
Shalini Jain, 9/85, Chippaity, Aligarh 200201, Uttar Pradesh, India.
Email: jshaliniwls@gmail.com

High altitude records of Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* and Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* in the Nepal Himalaya

We report sightings of Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* and Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* from altitudes previously unreported for them, from ward number 4 of Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Mustang District, Gandaki Province, Nepal, which lies in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

In Nepal, the Orange-headed Thrush is a locally common and mainly a summer visitor, with some birds remaining all year as widespread partial migrants (Inskipp et al. 2016). This bird inhabits wet ravines and understory of the moist deciduous forests (Inskipp & Inskipp 1991), evergreen forest, bamboo thickets, and plantations in tropical and subtropical zones (Collar & Juana 2020). The maximum elevations documented for this species are 1,830 m (Ali & Ripley 1971; Kazmeirczak 2000 ; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Inskipp et al. 2016; Grimmett et al. 2016), and 2,300 m (BirdLife International 2022a).

On Saturday, 22 May 2021, one Orange-headed Thrush entered a house in Jomsom village (28.78°N, 83.73°E) and got