



First photographic evidence of Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) at Jorbeer Conservation Reserve, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

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The Pacific golden plover belongs to the Charadriidae family (Birdlife International, 2019). The morphological character includes a rounded head, a short bill, a slender body, large eyes, a slim neck, and long legs. In the breeding plumage stage, the inner parts, from the tail feathers to the mandible, together with the eyes, are black, along with white stripes on the tail. The outer parts of the crown and feathers are golden brown, together with a white and black patch on the wings. A white line separates the upper and inner parts, starting from behind the upper eye and ending at the tail. A black stripe is visible inside the inner wings. In non-breeding plumage, it has wide nut-brown to white eyebrows, and the outer parts are light golden brown with white patches, and the inner parts are brown to light grey. In juvenile non-breeding plumage, the breast is variegated brown-yellow and grey-brown, and the bird has a light-yellow stripe on the eye (Birdlife International, 2019). It is the place of least concern in the IUCN Category with the declining population (Birdlife International, 2019).

Generally, they were found near coasts and inland in Bangladesh and NE India. Scarce but regular passage migrant to inland and frequently most commonly visitor in the SE India (Birdlife International, 2019). for the breeding they found in Arctic tundra and western Alaska, and during the winter they visit South America, the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, India, Indonesia, and Australia. (Grimmett *et al.*, 2014; Kazierczak, 2000).

However, the current observation near Jorbeer Conservation Reserve, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India, consists of an area of 56.46 km² situated in the south-east of Bikaner, 12 km with a 20°30' N and 73°50' E longitude and a 234.84 MSL.

On October 1, 2020, while bird-watching near scattered water bodies in front of the Jorbeer conservation reserve (27.58° N, 73.21° E) in Bikaner, Rajasthan, India, we observed and clicked a photograph of a juvenile Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) at 1745 hr. While it was perching on the side corner of a sewage catchment water body (where the water is collected from the city area for purification) with a mixed flock of ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) and black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*).

After a few days, we again visited the study site, but we couldn't find the species. It might be changing their route because the Golden-plover is a passage migration bird, and this juvenile is staying here for a day. Generally, Golden-plover is found in the parts of south-west and western Rajasthan, near the Tal Chappar sanctuary, Churu (e-bird, 2021) and Barmer (e-bird, 2023), but this was the first photographic record from the western part of Rajasthan.



Figure 1: Pacific Golden-Plover with ruff at Jorbeer conservation reserve, Bikaner, Rajasthan

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