



Sighting of the Changeable Hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) at HNG University, Patan, Gujarat, India

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Changeable Hawk-eagle also known as Crested Hawk-eagle (Bird International. 2020.) *Nisaetus cirrhatus* belongs to Accipitridae family. Changeable Hawk-eagle mostly prefers woody forest and open area with scattered trees (Bird International, 2020). With a diminishing population, it comprises the IUCN Category's Least Concerned (Birdlife International, 2020). They hunt down their prey (Ali, Ripley, 1987). However, this species can take on game birds and very large animals (Naoroji, 2006).

An adult bird's feather diameter ranges from 63 to 77cm. There is a noticeable crest on the upper portion of its head. It is a huge eagle with long, broad tail and wide wings. It may not have a noticeable crest. The subspecies that inhabits the Indian peninsula, however, has a noticeable crest. The adults are distinguished by their unmarked, pale buffy underparts that are prominently striped. Its sounds like kri-kri-kri-kri khee ah. During breeding plumage, bird is mostly remains silent (Grimmett *et al.*, 2014) The species is having a large home range in the part Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vietnam (Bird International. 2020). In India, Himalayan hills, North East India, Gangetic Plain, South Gujarat and East

Rajasthan are the places where these birds are commonly can be observed (Grimmett *et al.*, 2014).

In north Gujarat this bird is very uncommon to sight (Grimmett *et al.*, 2014). Several scientific studies have been published from north Gujarat (Patel and Dharaiya, 2016; Parihar *et al.*, 2020a; Parihar *et al.*, 2020b; Patel *et al.*, 2021; Chaudhary *et al.*, 2022a; Chaudhary *et al.*, 2022b, Prajapati *et al.*, 2023). Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University (23.859234 N, 72.133496 E) is located at Patan district of Gujarat state, India. The HNG University campus spread around 212.50 acres with the exception of the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons which is located near to the Sarasvati River, The campus consists of educational facilities, sports ground, parks, man-made lakes, hostels, etc. Because of the artificial gardens, botanical garden, and Sarasvati Van (Cultivated Mini Forest), that has naturally occurred trees, bushes, grasses, herbs and many plant species, the campus harbor wide variety of flora diversity. Most of the plants in the varied ecosystem are native to the area, although others are exotic.

Changeable Hawk-eagle was sighted in the Botanical garden (23.859566 N, 72.132074 E) which is situated behind the Life Science Department on the Oct, 8 2023, at 1525 hrs (Fig. 1). We sighted this bird from the window of the department. It was roosted on the Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*). The bird was identified by its' prominent characteristics such as crest on head, pale buffy underparts that are prominently striped. Photographs were taken with the help of Nikon d3200 with 55-200mm lens. After few minutes, we saw a pair of shikra on the same branch; they tried to push back eagle from that branch because they had a nest on that branch. After 10 minutes eagle was fled from the branch and sat on nearby tree. Later on, the bird fled away from the botanical garden.



Figure 1: Changeable Hawk-eagle sitting on the Neem tree at HNG University, Patan, Gujarat.

University campus is having a wide range of birds but Changeable Hawk-eagle is sighted first time in the Patan district. It is coming in the side due to deforestation and university is having the lots of prey for this bird (Patel *et. al* 2021). In the entire India facing the problem of vanishing the trees and forest too (Choudhury, 2003). That's impact on the mostly on the bird's ecology and behaviors. Changeable Hawk-eagle sighting in the North Gujarat is may be one of the strong reasons due to lack of food and habitat they dispersed and finding the other places for their survival and suitable place for breeding also.

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