



Black Eagle (*Inctinaetus malayensis*) Sighting in Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

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Raptors are considered on the third or fourth level consumers and playing an important role in the ecosystem and also known for controlling the rodent and small mammal population. They are categorized as a focal species, being sensitive to environmental change, such as impacts to their ecosystems, and vulnerable to pollution, hence they serve as an icon for conservation initiatives (Withaningsih et al. 2019).



Image 1: Black eagle soaring above Shivrajpur

A raptor with the vivid yellow bill and feet was soaring in the clear and bright sky during the field visit at the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Panchmahal district of Gujarat. It was November month in the year 2016. After looking in the reference book (Grimmett et al. 1999), we concluded that it is a Black Eagle (*Inctinaetusmalayensis*). The coordinates of the sighting is 22° 25' 26.60" N & 73° 37' 07.11" E.



Image 2: Sighting of the Black eagle in Jambughoda wildlife sanctuary, Panchmahal District, Gujarat.

The Jambughoda is the area with forested mountains and hills in the central Gujarat. While walking transect in the Shivrajpur village we observed this Raptor. This species has been reported from Jambughoda forest by Ali on November 11, 1945 after that, it was recorded by Trivedi and Soni continuously for four years (2002, 2003,



2004 and 2005) in the same area and also in Purna WLS in year 2001 (Parasharya 2010). Vikas (2015) have listed Black Eagle from Vansda National Park, this indicates its range of distribution in central and southern part of the state. Along with Black eagle, we also observed other raptors like Shikra (*Accipiter badius*), Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*), Black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

References:

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