

# Birds of Banni Grassland



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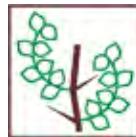
Banni, an unique landscape and flourishing grassland, is endowed with fascinating history, geography, biodiversity, and a rich cultural heritage. The diversity of habitats and dynamic pattern changes with changing climatic conditions provide rich habitats for a variety of animals, especially birds. Birds are the natural capital of this grassland, which attracts many birdwatchers and tourists throughout the year. The grassland also attracts thousands of migratory birds from many parts of India, as well as the globe, during the winter. These avian visitors enhance the biodiversity and bring life to the grassland, in conjugation with the socio-cultural dimensions of its indigenous communities.

This book describes 262 species of birds (166 terrestrial species and 96 aquatic species) which are recorded from various parts of Banni Grassland. These birds belong to 51 families under 14 orders of Aves. Among them, 118 are resident to Banni, 76 are resident/short migratory, and 68 are migratory. The book contains short descriptions and photographs of all the recorded bird species of Banni Grassland for researchers, academicians, birdwatchers, bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, and general readers.



# Birds of Banni Grassland

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**Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology**

Published by  
**The Ravi Sankaran Foundation**

## Message

In the early hours before sunrise of January 17, 2009, Dr. Ravi Sankaran, Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a massive heart attack, on his farm some 40 km from Coimbatore. Within six hours thereafter, in the presence of his family, friends, colleagues, students, and local residents, his last rites were performed. Some eighteen months later, in a bizarre car accident, his wife and daughter died. The whole of the Ravi Sankaran family ceased to exist.

However unrelated, sad, and tragic these events, the irony should not be lost: first, the loss of a researcher and conservationist at the prime of his productive life, and then the speed with which the whole family disappeared. So with the avian species that Ravi so diligently researched, which depend on the existence of thriving grasslands. As these spaces disappear, so will these species. As humans we need to tread lightly on the path of development, for we do not know when, and at what speed, the consequences of our consumption today will hurt our tomorrow. What we do know, from the excellent work being done by people like Ravi and others, is that when it does hit us it will be gargantuan, unanticipated, and will devastate our whole species. How close are we to our environmental apocalypse?

India's unique grasslands are an ecological asset that is not too well understood. The Adivasi tribes that traverse these landscapes know their importance, utility, and magnificence. Outsiders do not. A few, like Ravi, have made the effort. Unfortunately, with few champions, the march of development will seek to "unlock" the "value" of these spaces for other purposes, mainly industry and urbanization. The recently announced policy of the Government of India to establish

gigawatt-scale solar farms has major implications for our remaining grasslands. A single megawatt of solar power requires 5 acres of land, as against the 0.25 acres required in conventional power plants! Such large tracts of land will inevitably include grasslands, unless banned from such use. Policy must respond urgently and ban any development on India's remaining grasslands. The Adivasis should be paid to look after them and ensure that they are sustained for succeeding generations. Research on the ecological role played by grasslands and study of the species that live off grasslands must be urgently supported.

The Ravi Sankaran Foundation (RSF) was formed in Ravi's name, soon after his death, to support initiatives that lead to sustainable conservation measures, support research, and further our understanding of the workings of such fragile ecosystems, and to build human resources and other capacity in the fields of ecology, field biology, and conservation. It was thus with the greatest of pleasure that the RSF agreed to sponsor this book when approached by the Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology.

We hope that the book will give readers an unique insight into one of India's fast disappearing landscapes, provoke those in power to act to preserve these ecological assets, and instigate more research. Above all, we wish it makes enjoyable reading!

Finally, we would like to place on record our appreciation of the selfless support the Foundation has received from Kirti Trivedi in designing the book. His contribution to the world of design has been, at once, both inspirational and transformative. We could not have left this task to any other.

### **The Ravi Sankaran Foundation**

## **Foreword**

India had vast stretches of grasslands, distributed across varied altitudes, longitudes, latitudes, agro-climatic regimes, and biogeographical provinces. However, most have vanished due to the misconceptions about their ecological worth. Thus, contrary to the popular perception, grasslands have become highly endangered terrestrial ecosystems in the country. Consequently, we have lost several species, including the stunning Cheetah, and we are on the way to losing species such as Great Indian Bustard, several other birds, mammals, and reptiles, and many more. Grasslands traditionally used as community grazing areas, a common property resource, have always been an inseparable part of the economic, ecological, and socio-cultural landscape of humankind. However, increasing demands on these fragile ecosystems from multiple quarters, notably agricultural intensification, infrastructure development, mining, quarrying, industrial and commercial development, invasive species, and what is more, the very neglect of the common property resources, have eroded much of the native grasslands in the Subcontinent. In particular, the semi-arid grasslands of northern Gujarat are among the most vulnerable to such modern-day externalities. In recognition of the unique biodiversity value of these grasslands and their importance to the livelihood of local communities, Government of India in 2008 designated the Kachchh region as the 15th Biosphere Reserve of the country. The region's rich flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the ecosystem, are represented by about 35 species of mammals including the Asiatic Wild Ass and Caracal, and over 250 species of birds: waterfowl, waders including flamingos, raptors, bustards, coursers, cranes, sandgrouse, larks, shrikes, wheatears, and chats.

Regrettably, the inimitable biodiversity of the region remains poorly documented and this has seriously impeded efforts to understand the strong linkages between people and biodiversity in the region and the entire gamut of ecosystem services and functions of the landscape elements. Our current knowledge of Kachchh's avifauna is immensely indebted to the works of stalwarts like Salim Ali, Dharmakumarsinhji, Himmatsinhji, and Lavkumar Khachar. However, much more

is to be learnt about the diversity and status of the birds of the grasslands of Kachchh. In this context, this work admirably documenting the avifauna of the Banni grasslands of the Kachchh region is a laudable attempt to fill the gap. The cover with the excellent photograph of the landscape and the Steppe Eagle is so inviting to explore the landscape. With bird photographs of remarkably uniform quality, this book serves as a handy identification guide to the birds in the field. It is also quite thoughtful that snippets of ecology and population status of each species are given as annotation. I compliment the authors for their remarkable efforts.

As India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (2008) has rightfully acknowledged that grasslands are one of the high-priority landscapes for conservation planning, the semi-arid grasslands of Banni require an integrated approach involving all the stakeholders. With the publication of this key documentation, we can hope that the grasslands of Banni and their unique avifauna will now receive much deserved attention from birdwatchers, conservationists, and decision makers.

I am excited to find that this remarkable contribution to the country's ornithological knowledge is dedicated to Dr. Ravi Sankaran, the former Director of SACON and a close friend and intimate colleague of mine as well as many researchers. He also happened to be one of the early researchers on the grasslands of western India, completing his Ph.D. working on Lesser Florican, an endangered grassland species. It is a befitting homage to the path-breaking and industrious ornithologist, who left us all at a very young and productive age. I wish to congratulate the Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, its Chairman Mr. Sudhir G. Mankad, and the Ravi Sankaran Foundation, Mumbai for this commendable gesture. I am sure that the conservation research community would greatly appreciate and benefit from the "Birds of Banni Grassland".

*P.A. Azeez*  
**Director**  
**Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**  
**Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.**



## **Foreword**

Banni constitutes nearly 2,500 sq. km of arid grassland, roughly 85 km in length and 30 km wide, separating habitats from the Rann, in the border district of Kachchh in Gujarat. Many years ago, parts of it were lush grasslands, supporting animal husbandry and dairy farming by the people living on its fringes. The rich grasslands were gradually taken over by the invasive *Prosopis juliflora*, Gaando Baval in Gujarati, which brought in its wake rapacious charcoal makers, who destroyed the green cover of Banni, leaving it bare, brown, and vulnerable. It is heartening that after charcoal making was banned, and as a result of the efforts of State foresters, Banni is showing signs of recovery.

Banni is a unique ecosystem not seen elsewhere. Amid the desolation exists abundant avian life. Chhari Dhandh and other water bodies in Banni are a favourite stopover for thousands of migrating birds from cold climes. Banni is also home to many other small animals and raptors, and the Wild Ass can be seen in some parts.

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) and its small team of dedicated scientists have been studying avian life in Banni for many years. During the last three years, they have put together photographs of more than 250 species of birds found in Banni, and presented to enthusiasts and the common reader basic scientific information for each. Without their commitment and enthusiasm, this book could not have happened. We at GUIDE sincerely acknowledge the generosity of those well wishers who made available the photographs used in this publication.

I am grateful to my friend Hari Sankaran for agreeing to publish this book in memory of his brother, the late Dr. Ravi Sankaran, ornithologist and former Director of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON). GUIDE is deeply obliged to the Ravi Sankaran Foundation for presenting this beautiful book on the Birds of Banni Grassland.

*Sudhir G. Mankad, IAS (Retd)*  
**Chairman**  
**Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology**  
**Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat.**



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## **Introduction**

### **Grasslands – An Overview**

Grasslands are a unique kind of ecosystem dominated by grasses over other kinds of vegetation, and characterised by diverse life forms which are linked together through the food chain and food web. Grasslands are mainly distributed in areas of low and erratic rainfall and are classified as a region where annual precipitation is just enough to support predominantly grasses and some scattered trees. Grasses and their value to human beings have been recognized since time immemorial. Humans directly and indirectly use grassland and grasses for many purposes. The relationship between man and grasses dates back to Palaeolithic times (Leafe, 1988).

India accounts for 15% of the world's livestock population, while available grazing lands in India are very meagre (2% of the world's area). This leads to excessive grazing pressure followed by land degradation, resulting in about 80% of the grassland range being categorised as "poor" (GoI, 2007). It is a matter of concern that grasslands are the most neglected and least protected ecosystem in India (GoI, 2007).

The varied species of grasses and associated vegetation in a grassland offer ideal habitats for large numbers of animal species that co-exist and sustain themselves successfully. The presence of large open grassland ecosystems helps prey species to escape from predators, by providing greater visibility to the escaping species. On the other hand, predators can easily spot their prey in open grassland landscapes. Thus, grassland ecosystems play a pivotal role in prey-predator relationships. The interspersed water bodies in a grassland form an ideal habitat for several kinds of animal groups, particularly wetland birds, herpetofauna, insects, annelids, etc., to survive and sustain themselves successfully.

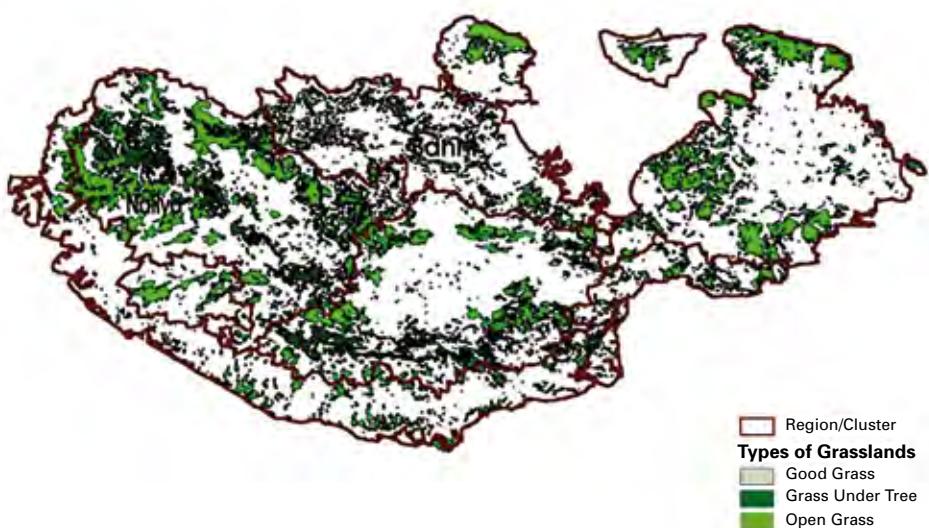
### **Grasslands of Gujarat and Kachchh**

The grasslands of Gujarat state, which encompass an area of 8,490 km<sup>2</sup>, are distributed in eight districts of the state, with the majority (41.23%) occurring in Kachchh district (SAC, 2001). The State Forest Department manages an area of about

1,400 km<sup>2</sup> of grasslands known as *vidis* or *rakhals*, of which an area of 1,295 km<sup>2</sup> is located in Kachchh and Saurashtra region of the state (Tiwari and Rahmani, 1997). In ecological terms, the Kachchh grasslands fall under *Dichanthium-Cenchrus-Lasiurus* type (Dabadghao and Shankarnarayan 1973, Yadava and Singh 1977). Though grasslands are part of every ecosystem type, the total grassland area reported in Kachchh was 5,077 km<sup>2</sup> (Figures 1, 2), which constitutes 24% of the main land area (total reported area 21,111 km<sup>2</sup>) of Kachchh district (GUIDE, 2004). There are two important grassland regions in Kachchh: Banni Grassland covering an area of 2,617.72 km<sup>2</sup> and Naliya which extends up to 654 km<sup>2</sup>. Other scattered patches of grasslands are found in the hilly undulating areas of Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, and Mundra, while isolated pockets of coastal grasslands are spread in Lakhpat, Abdasa, Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar, and Bhachau talukas of the district (GUIDE, 2004). All grasslands are invaded by many weeds, especially *Prosopis juliflora* which has infested about 3,853 km<sup>2</sup> (75.88%) of the grasslands to various extents, whereas good grass cover is found only in an area of 568 km<sup>2</sup> (11.19%) out of the total 5,077 km<sup>2</sup>. These grasslands, besides supporting the regional economy through the animal husbandry sector, also play an important role in performing various ecological services, including maintenance of biodiversity.

**Figure 1**  
Distribution of  
grasslands in Kachchh  
district, Gujarat

### Grassland Map of Kachchh (GUIDE, 2004)

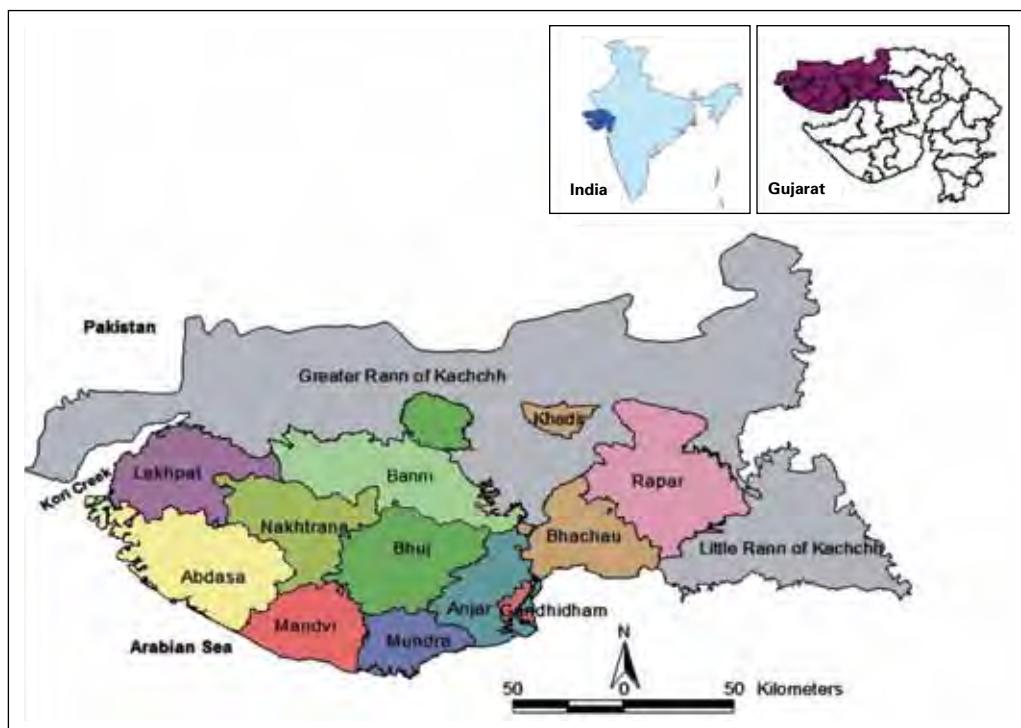


## Overview of Banni Grassland

Banni, the largest and perhaps the only vast stretch of grassland in India, spreads between  $23^{\circ} 22' 15''$  N and  $23^{\circ} 48' 07''$  N latitudes and from  $69^{\circ} 09'14''$  E to  $70^{\circ} 10' 23''$  E longitudes, with a perimeter of 367 km (Figure 3). It is located in Kachchh district of Gujarat along the southern fringes of the Greater Rann of Kachchh. The term Banni was derived from a Kachchhi word *Bannai*, which means ‘made of’ and thus signifies that the land has been formed by detritus.

Interestingly, the grasslands of Banni have many interspersed temporary as well as permanent wetlands, which in good rainfall years attract many migratory bird species. The most important wetlands in Banni are Chhari Dhandh with a maximum waterspread of 8,000 ha, Luna Dhandh, and Servo Dhandh. Chhari Dhandh has recently been declared as a Conservation Reserve by the Government of Gujarat.

**Figure 2**  
Map showing Kachchh district and Greater Rann of Kachchh

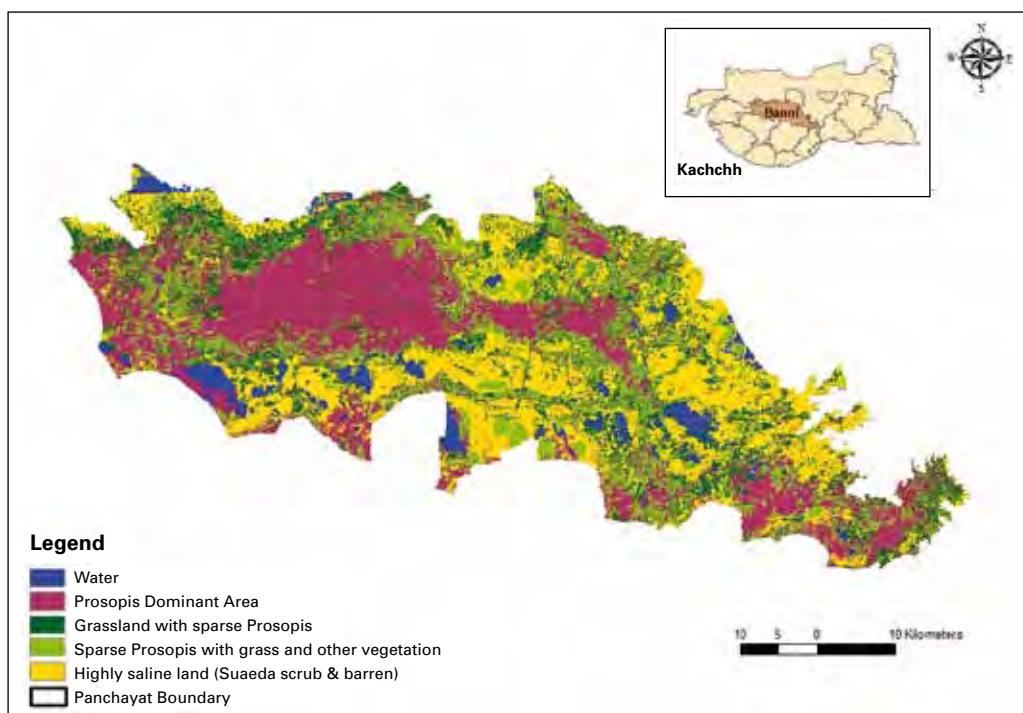


**Geography and geological history of Banni Grassland:** The plains of Banni represent an embayment between the Kachchh mainland uplift in the south, the Pachchham uplift in the north, and the Wagad and Bela uplift in the east. Banni plains form a low alluvial tableland rising 3 to 10 m above the level of the Greater Rann, and the entire area is more or less flat and without

any gradient. In the southern part of Banni there is an intervening stretch of salty waste separating Banni from the Kachchh mainland, known as Little Rann of Banni.

As the name implies, it is commonly believed that Banni was formed by detritus and sediments brought down and deposited by the many rivers flowing northwards from Bhuj ridge, including Nara, Bhurud, Bhukhi, Nirona, Kaila, Khari, Kaswati, and Panjora. However, the sediments actually show a strong affinity to the materials brought down by the Rivers Indus, Luni, Banas, and Saraswati, which in the recent geological past flowed through this area from the north and east (Kadikar, 1994). Studies on heavy minerals (Roy, 1973) also confirm that the sediments of Banni plains represent the sediments brought by the Indus river. There are also evidences to suggest that Banni is a part of the Greater Rann of Kachchh (GIAP, 1989) and together with the Little Rann, used to form “the old arms” of the Arabian Sea that silted up, and subsequently gave rise to the Banni plains.

**Figure 3**  
Location and overview  
(GIS map) of Banni  
grassland in Kachchh  
district



### Climate

The climate of Banni is arid, with maximum temperatures of 44 °C to 47 °C during summer and a minimum of 11 °C during winter which on rare occasions dips to 4 to 5 °C. The annual evapo-transpiration is 1,887 mm and relative humidity is between 50 and 60% (Rao *et al.*, 1996).

## Biodiversity

**Flora:** The waterlogged and marshy saline areas get colonized by sedges like *Fimbristylis*, *Scirpus*, *Cyperus*, and *Elaeocharis*, whereas low to moderately saline areas are covered with annual halophytic species such as *Zygophyllum* sp., *Cressa cretica*, and *Portulaca* sp. *Suaeda fruticosa* is a predominant species in low-lying saline areas and at places the density goes over 4,000–8,000 plants/ha. High saline areas are colonized by perennial grasses of low productivity and palatability such as *Aeluropes* sp. and *Urochondra* sp. The perennial, palatable grasses with high productivity in this area, which grow in low to moderate saline areas, include *Sporobolus pallidus*, *S. helvolus*, *Dichanthium annulatum*, *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *C. setigerus*, and *Desmostachya bipinnata* (Singh and Kar, 1996).

Overview of the grassland habitat

Among the tree species, *Acacia nilotica* was once distributed all over Banni, but it has been, in the course of time, replaced by *Prosopis juliflora*. The tree and shrub strata are mainly composed of *Prosopis cineraria*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, *Salvadora persica*, *S. oleoides*, *Capparis decidua*, *Tamarix* sp., and *Prosopis juliflora*. These are found in the wilderness as well as near human settlements. Further, tree species like *Azadirachta indica* and other plant species such as *Ziziphus nummularia* and *Calotropis procera* are also found in the area. Today the upper canopy is, however, largely dominated by the woody shrub *Prosopis juliflora*.

Banni grassland during monsoon

**Fauna:** Banni has traditionally supported wildlife that has adapted to local conditions. The major wild animals of Banni include Blue Bull, Chinkara, Indian Hare, Wild Boar, Jackal, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Hyaena, Fox, and Jungle Cat. The endangered mammals of the area include the Indian Wolf, Caracal, and Chinkara. Banni also supports a rich diversity of avifauna, herpetofauna, invertebrates, and micro-organisms. The important avifauna of Banni Grassland includes Flamingos, MacQueen's Bustard, White-winged Black Tit, Stoliczka's Bushchat, and Grey Hypocolius (GUIDE 1998). Banni is also a haven for migratory raptors and an important staging ground for the migratory Common Crane *Grus grus*. The herpetofauna includes Spiny-tailed Lizard *Uromastyx hardwickii*, Common Monitor Lizard, and species of snakes such as vipers and sand snakes.

High saline area with invasion of *Prosopis juliflora*

Reptiles and rodents form the major diet of raptors in Banni. Luna village in western Banni encompasses a pond which is one of the best heronries of Gujarat. This 50 year





old heronry supports the largest nesting colony of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* not only in Gujarat, but also throughout western India (Tiwari and Rahmani 1997). This apart, a good number of nests of Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Median Egret, Night Heron, Little Cormorant, Oriental White Ibis, and Spoonbill have been recorded in this heronry.

### **What is a bird?**

Birds are warm-blooded quadrupeds with the unique ability to fly. The normal body temperature of birds is about 38–44 °C, which is higher than that of most mammals. Therefore, the basal metabolic rate (BMR) of birds is also higher than that of mammals.

Birds are believed to have originated from a reptilian ancestor. The total number of bird species inhabiting the earth today is estimated at about 8,600. If subspecies or geographical races are taken into account, the figure would rise to nearly 30,000.

## Methods

### Avifaunal sampling

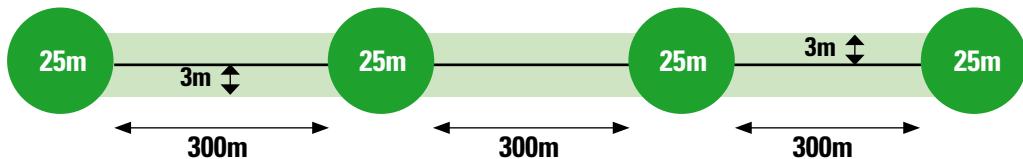
Prior to field surveys, the Banni study area was classified into various land use categories, such as Woodland, Grasslands, Wetlands, and human habitation. Woodland and Grasslands were further subdivided into distinguishable habitats such as Dense *Prosopis* (DP), Moderate *Prosopis* (MP), Sparse *Prosopis* (SP), *Euphorbia-Salvadora* (ES), Dense grassland (DG), and Sparse grassland (SG).

**Table 1: Land use classes with area (1979–2009)**

Class	1989		1999		2009	
	Area (ha)	% Area	Area (ha)	% Area	Area (ha)	% Area
<b>Grassland</b>	142,882.0	54.57	80,639.4	30.80	63,073.4	24.09
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> dominated area	41,180.8	15.72	63,717.5	24.33	80,356.7	30.67
<b>Saline Soil</b>	71,473.9	27.30	109,180.0	41.69	113,376.0	43.30
<b>Water</b>	6,323.92	2.41	8,323.65	3.17	5,054.5	1.94
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>261,860.62</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>261,860.55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>261,860.55</b>	<b>100</b>

To assess the diversity and distribution pattern of birds in Banni Grassland, stratified random sampling method was employed, using transects of 1.1 km (n=60 transects) in different habitats. All transects were laid diagonally to randomly picked 1 x 1 km grid. Care was taken to represent the sampling in each of the topographical features across lateral and vertical gradients, like altitudinal range and terrain, and spatially within each habitat type. Sampling was done in summer (breeding season), monsoon (breeding season and monsoon visitors), and winter (migrants and winter visitors) for a period of three years between 2009 and 2011.

Bird survey was done using direct count methods, which include: (1) Point Count method and (2) Area Search method. In the former method, all birds were recorded in four 25 m radius plots at a distance of 300 m, as suggested by Bibby *et al.* (1992) (Figure 4). Each plot was surveyed for 15 minutes. In the case of Area Search method, survey was done using a 300 m long and 3 m wide belt between the abovementioned points, which was mentioned as a time and area constrained survey technique by Dieni and Jones (2002).



**Figure 4**  
Design of line transect  
and circular plot for  
sampling of birds

The time taken for survey varied from 1 hour 45 minutes to 2 hours 15 minutes, depending upon the terrain and topography. During winter and monsoon seasons, survey was conducted in the morning between 6.30 am and 9.30 am, and in the evening between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm. However, during summer season, survey was done for one hour early in the morning and one hour late in the evening. Observations were carried out with the aid of 8 x 40 binoculars and field characteristics were noted down on special ornithological data sheets that include species, number of individuals, activity, microhabitat, and threat, along with other details. The birds were identified with the help of reference books of Ali and Ripley (1983), Ali (2002), and Grimmett *et al.* (2006). Major water bodies in the study area were also surveyed for aquatic bird species and the number of individuals were counted. In the case of larger water bodies having numerous individuals, flock or block count method was used (Bhupathy, 1991).

Birds sighted during our survey were categorized as per their migratory status, such as resident breeder (RB), resident (R), and migrant (M), based on observations during the present study and the previous records by Ali (2002). The birds were also grouped into trophic guilds as insectivores, nectarivores, omnivores, scavengers, frugivores, carnivores, piscivores, and granivores, based on the descriptions provided by Karr *et al.* (1990), Anjos (2001) and field observations on the birds' activity. The status of bird populations was categorized as very common (VC) if recorded during >80% of

field visits; common (C) if recorded during 50–79% of field visits; fairly common (FC) if recorded during 20–49% of field visits; and rare (R) if recorded during <19% of field visits.

## **Overview of the Avifauna of Banni Grassland and Kachchh**

The grasslands of India are very important for avifauna, as they are an abode for 477 species of birds which are solely dependent on grasslands for their survival (Groombridge, 1992). Altogether, 370 bird species have been reported from Kachchh district (Sen, 2012). Banni Grassland is known for its rich avifaunal diversity. The water bodies of Banni support over 150 species of migratory and resident birds, and are important staging grounds for several thousands of migratory cranes (GEC, 1998). Various workers reported rich diversity of birds from Banni Grassland, including 78 bird species by CEDO (2012), 66 species by Sorensen (2007), and 250 species from Chhaari Dhandh by Sen (2012). Further, Banni Grassland acts as a breeding and nesting ground for more than 250 bird species, including residents and winter migrants (Banni Breeders Association, 2012). Among the reported birds from Banni, 47 species are threatened (IBC, 2012).

Interesting sighting records of some bird species include Long-eared Owl (Joshua *et al.*, 2005), Habshi Flamingo (Vaidya, 1987), and Blacknecked Grebe from Chhari Dhandh (Akhtar and Tiwari, 1992). Keeping these in view, Rahmani *et al.* (1998) emphasized the conservation significance of Banni Grassland and recommended it for conservation action.

## **Avifaunal composition of the recorded birds in Banni Grassland**

During the present survey between 2009 and 2011, a total of 262 species of birds (166 terrestrial and 96 aquatic species) belonging to 153 genera of 51 families under 14 orders of Aves were recorded in Banni. Among the recorded birds, 118 were resident to Banni, 76 species were resident/short migratory, and the rest of the 68 species were migratory. On analysing the feeding habits of the recorded birds, it was found that there were 87 species of insectivores, 69 species of omnivores, 68 species of carnivores, 20 species of granivores, 15 species of piscivores, 2 species of frugivores, and one species of nectarivore. According to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act,

1972, 3 of the Banni bird species are recorded under Part-III of Schedule-I, and the remaining 259 species fall under Schedule-IV. Among the total recorded bird species, 4 are Critically Endangered (CR), 1 Endangered (EN), 8 Vulnerable (VU), 11 Near Threatened (NT), and the rest of the 238 species are under Least Concern (LC) category of the IUCN Redlist of Threatened Animals, 2011.

The detailed descriptions of all these bird species are given in this book.





Birds of  
Banni Grassland

*Terrestrial Birds*

## **Black-winged Kite or Black-shouldered Kite**

***Elanus caeruleus* (Desfontaines, 1789)**

**Synonym:** *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

**Local Names:** Kapasi (Gujarati); Kapassi (Hindi, Bengali); Adavi ramadasu (Telugu); Argellur (Yerkali); Velli-eriyam (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, <33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Forest and grassland

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Round the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly seen on overhead electric wires and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Oriental Honey-buzzard or Honey Buzzard

*Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Temminck, 1821)

**Synonym:** *Pernis ptilorhynchus ptilorhynchus*

**Local Names:** Madhiyo baj (Gujarati); Shahutela, Madkare (Hindi); Tenu geddu (Telugu); Ten parandu (Tamil); Jen alawa (Kannada); Ten kotichi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, ±68 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Semi-desert to semi-evergreen forest, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution:** India: North-west India

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Maldives

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## **Black Kite**

***Milvus migrans* (Boddaert, 1783)**

**Synonyms:** *Milvus korschun*, *Milvus migrans migrans*, *Milvus migrans govinda*

**Local Names:** Samadi (Gujarati); Cheel (Hindi, Bengali); Malla gadda (Telugu); Paria parandu, Kalu parandu (Tamil); Chilana, Mugacharani (Assam); Chakki parandu (Malayalam); Ghar (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** 61 cm

**Habitat:** Chiefly urban localities

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Round the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on overhead electric wires, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Suaeda* scrub.

## Brahminy Kite

*Haliastur indus* (Boddaert, 1783)

**Local Names:** Chotili samadi (Gujarati); Brahmani cheel, Sankar cheel, Dhobia cheel (Hindi); Shankha cheel (Bengal); Khemankari (Sanskrit); Garuda (Kannada); Garuda lawa, Garuda mantaru (Telugu); Sem parundu, Krishna parunthu (Tamil); Ranga cheelanai (Assam); Garudan, Krishna parundu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <48 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Sea coast and inland

**Breeding Period:** December to April

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Round the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found on *Prosopis juliflora*, sometimes on overhead electric wires.

## **Shikra**

***Accipiter badius* (Gmelin, 1788)**

**Synonym:** *Accipiter badius badius*

**Local Names:** Shakro (Gujarati); Shikra – male, Chipka or Cheepak – female (Hindi, Marathi); Shikre (Bengal); Tingkyi (Lepcha); U-cham (Sikkim)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, <30–34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Light deciduous forest, village groves

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally seen on *Prosopis juliflora*, electric wires, and ground.

## Eurasian Sparrow-hawk or Sparrow-Hawk

*Accipiter nisus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Badshah Shakro (Gujarati); Basha (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, <31–36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Forest and grassland

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Himalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, North-west India

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Long-legged Buzzard**

***Buteo rufinus* (Cretzschmar, 1827)**

**Synonym:** *Buteo ferox*

**Local Names:** Mosami tiso (Gujarati); Chuhamar (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, ±61 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Rocky ground with forest, open country, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to May

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** **India:** Himalayan forests, North-west India, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly seen on *Prosopis juliflora* and electric poles.

## White-eyed Buzzard

**Butastur teesa** (Franklin, 1831)  
**Local Names:** Savet nayan tiso (Gujarati);  
Tisa (Hindi); Buda mali gedda (Telugu);  
Parundu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, ±43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open dry forest, scrub, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Bonelli's Eagle**

***Hieraetus fasciatus* (Vieillot, 1822)**

**Synonyms:** *Aquila fasciata*, *Aquila fasciatus*

**Local Names:** Sansa garaj (Gujarati); Morangi (Hindi); Kundeli salawa (Telugu); Rajali (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 68–72 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Well-wooded country

**Breeding Period:** December and January

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found on ground, trees, electric poles, normally singly or in pairs.

## Booted Eagle or Booted Hawk-Eagle

*Hieraetus pennatus* (Gmelin, 1788)

**Synonyms:** *Aquila pennata*, *Aquila pennatus*, *Hieraetus dubius*

**Local Names:** Pardesi ane, Shiyalu, Sansa, Garaj (Gujarati); Baghati, Jumiz, Gilehrimar (Hindi); Udalal gedda (Telugu); Punja parandu, Rasali, Kalugu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <50–54 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Well-wooded country, hills, plains, and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** December and February

**Clutch Size:** 1–2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Eastern Imperial Eagle or Imperial Eagle**

***Aquila heliaca* Savigny, 1809**

**Synonym:** *Aquila heliaca heliaca*

**Local Names:** Shahi jummas (Gujarati); Jumiz, Bada jumiz, Salangal (Hindi); Frus (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, <81–90 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open treeless country

**Breeding Period:** February to April

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Most of the individuals were recorded in grassland, one to three individuals at a time.

## Tawny Eagle

*Aquila rapax* (Temminck, 1828)

Synonym: *Aquila vindhiana*

**Local Names:** Deshi jummas (Gujarati); Ukaab, Ragor (Hindi); Dholva (Wagri); Alawa, Salawa (Telugu); Ali (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 63–71 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Semi-desert, dry deciduous and moist deciduous country

**Breeding Period:** November to April

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in grass cover areas and on top of *Prosopis juliflora*.

## **Steppe Eagle**

***Aquila nipalensis* Hodgson, 1833**

**Synonyms:** *Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*, *Aquila rapax nipalensis*

**Local Names:** Nepali jummas (Gujarati); Ali (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 62–81 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open dry, desert, semi-desert, and savannah

**Breeding Period:** December to March

**Clutch Size:** 1–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on electric poles, *Prosopis juliflora*, and above ground.

## Greater Spotted Eagle

*Aquila clanga* Pallas, 1811

**Synonyms:** *Aquila maculata*, *Ictinaetus clangus*

**Local Names:** Tapkivalo jummas (Gujarati);  
Kaljanga (Hindi); Ali (Tamil); Nalla gadda  
(Telugu)



**Shape & Size:** Kite, 64–72 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Large marshes, lakes, and canals

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 1–2

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on ground, electric pole,  
and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## **Lesser Spotted Eagle**

***Aquila pomarina* Brehm, 1831**

**Synonyms:** *Aquila pomarina pomarina*,  
*Ictinaetus pomarinus*

**Local Names:** Nano tapkivalo jummas  
(Gujarati); Pahari teesa (Hindi); Gutimiar  
(Bengali); Ali (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 61–66 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open wooded country and  
cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 1–3



**Distribution: India:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, and western states

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on electric pole, *Prosopis juliflora*, and above ground.

## Red-headed Vulture or King Vulture

*Sarcogyps calvus* (Scopoli, 1786)

**Synonyms:** *Aegypius calvus*, *Aegypus calvus*

**Local Names:** Raj gidh (Gujarati); Raj gidh, Mulla gidh, Bhaonra (Hindi); Raj shakun, Kalo shakun (Bengal); Raj hogon (Assam); Nalla borawa (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** 84 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open country, cultivation, and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** December to April

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## **Cinereous Vulture**

*Aegypius monachus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

**Local Names:** Shahi gidh (Gujarati); Kala gidh (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, 100–110 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** March to April

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution: India:** Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala

**Elsewhere:** Baluchistan, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## Griffon Vulture or Eurasian Griffon

*Gyps fulvus* (Hablitzl, 1783)

**Local Name:** Pahadi gidh (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, 110–122 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Bare mountains, open savannah, and semi-desert country

**Breeding Period:** January to April

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution:** India: North-west India, Assam, Maharashtra

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## **Indian Vulture or Indian Long-billed Vulture**

***Gyps indicus* (Scopoli, 1786)**

**Synonym:** *Gyps indicus indicus*

**Local Names:** Bhartiya gidh (Gujarati); Gidh (Hindi); Gidhad (Marathi); Shakun (Bengali); Hogun (Assamese); Gut (Lepcha)

**Shape & Size:** 92 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open countryside

**Breeding Period:** November to March

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution: India:** Himalaya, eastern India, Rajasthan, Gujarat

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## White-rumped Vulture or Indian White-backed Vulture

*Gyps bengalensis* (Gmelin, 1788)

**Synonym:** *Pseudogyps bengalensis*

**Local Names:** Savet pith gidh (Gujarati); Gidh (Hindi); Gidhad (Marathi); Shakun (Bengali); Matti pudum-gadu (Telugu); Kazhukan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** 90 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open countryside

**Breeding Period:** October to March

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## **Scavenger Vulture**

***Neophron percnopterus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Khero gidh (Gujarati); Safed gidh, Kal kurgh (Hindi); Shwet shakun (Bengali); Got gidh (Bihar); Tella borawa, Peethiri gadda (Telugu); Thotti kazhukan (Malayalam); Manjal thirudi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, ±64 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Near towns and villages

**Breeding Period:** February to April

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Endangered

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare

**Remarks:** One pair recorded in December 2010 along the roadside near Bhirandiyara village.

## Northern Harrier or Hen Harrier

*Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonym: *Circus cyaneus cyaneus*

Local Name: Uttari pattaei (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 43–52 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Swamps, grassy plains, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Normally found on *Prosopis* trees and grass beds.

## Pallid Harrier or Pale Harrier

*Circus macrourus* (Gmelin, 1770)

**Local Names:** Ujali pattaei (Gujarati); Dastamal, Girgitmar, Pattai (Hindi); Math cheel (Bengal); Tellu chappa gadda, Pilli gadda (Telugu); Poonai parundu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 46–51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Undulating country, plateau, grassland, hills, cultivation, and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in open grassland areas.

## Montagu's Harrier

*Circus pygargus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Circus pigargus*

**Local Names:** Pati patta (Gujarati); Das-tamal, Girgitmar, Pattai (Hindi); Math cheel (Bengal); Tella chappa gadda, Pilli gadda (Telugu); Poonai parundu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <46–49 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Swamps, grassy plains, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat (Kachchh)

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## **Western Marsh-Harrier or Eurasian Marsh Harrier**

***Circus aeruginosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Pan pattaei (Gujarati); Kutar, Safed sira (Hindi); Pan cheel, Tilla bauri (Bengali); Poonai parundu (Tamil); Karitappi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <54–59 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, flooded rice fields, and hills

**Breeding Period:** March to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–8



**Distribution: India:** All coastal areas

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Maldives

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland and village areas.

## Short-toed Snake-eagle or Short-toed Eagle

*Circaetus gallicus* (Gmelin, 1788)

**Synonym:** *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*

**Local Names:** Sapmar (Gujarati); Saampmar (Hindi); Sapmaril (Bengal); Malpatar (Kannada); Pamula gadda (Telugu); Onan koththi, Pambu parandu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, 63–68 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Agriculture, stony deciduous scrub, semi-desert, and hills

**Breeding Period:** December to May

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Round the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Observed in most of our surveys in Banni Grassland.

## **Osprey**

***Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Machchhimar (Gujarati); Machhlimar, Machhariya, Machhmanga (Hindi); Machhmarol, Kurari, Utkrosh (Bengal); Koramen gadda (Telugu); Vral addipan (Tamil); Talipparundu (Malayalam); Pantiong (Lepcha)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <56 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes, reservoirs, estuaries

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 1–2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule I, Part-III

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded most of the time in pairs in open grassy habitats.

## Peregrine Falcon

*Falco peregrinus* Tunstall, 1771

**Synonyms:** *Falco madens*, *Falco japonicus*,

*Falco kreyengorgi*

**Local Names:** Shahin (Gujarati); Bhyri – female, Bhyri bacha – male (Hindi);

Bhyridgea (Telugu); Kayal pullu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Jungle Crow, <40–48 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Banks of rivers, marshes, and lagoons

**Breeding Period:** February to March

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Most of the time observed on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## **Eurasian Hobby or Hobby**

***Falco subbuteo* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Names:** Moti dhoti (Gujarati);  
Morassani (Uttar Pradesh)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, 31–34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open wooded country and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** North-west India,  
Karnataka

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.



## Red-headed Falcon or Red-necked Falcon

*Falco chicquera* Daudin, 1800

**Local Names:** Turoomti (Gujarati); Turumti – male, Turumtari – female (Hindi); Jellaganta, Jelgadda (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, 31–36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open country with groves of trees and in cultivation

**Breeding Period:** January to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Round the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Observed on overhead electric wires most of the time.

## Laggar Falcon or Laggar

*Falco jugger* Gray, 1834

**Synonym:** *Falco biarmicus jugger*

**Local Names:** Lagad (Gujarati); Laggar, Jaggar (Hindi); Lagadu (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <43–46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry open country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** January to April

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution:** **India:** Assam, South India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Near Threatened

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Most of the time observed alone in all types of habitats.

## Common Kestrel or Kestrel

*Falco tinnunculus* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Falco tinnunculus* [*tinnunculus* group]

**Local Name:** Moti larjee (Gujarati); Karontia, Khermutia, Narzinak – male, Narzi – female (Hindi); Thondala muchi gadda (Telugu); Cherupullu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, semi-desert, cultivation, and rocky areas

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–6

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in grassland.



### Cream-coloured Courser

*Cursorius cursor* (Latham, 1787)

**Synonym:** *Cursorius cursor cursor*

**Local Name:** Retal rann godhalo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, <25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open dry, semi-desert country

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded on short grass beds around seasonal waterbodies in grassland.

## Indian Courser

*Cursorius coromandelicus* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Local Names:** Badami rann godhalo  
(Gujarati); Nukri (Hindi); Thonth (Bihar);  
Yarra chitawa (Telugu); Allkatti (Tamil); Veli  
alappan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, <26 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry stony plains and fallow land

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded mostly in open areas in the grassland.

## **Small Pratincole or Small Indian Pratincole**

***Glareola lactea* Temminck, 1820**

**Local Names:** Nanu tejpar (Gujarati); Chhota babuibatan (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Large streams, marshes, and coastal swamps

**Breeding Period:** February to April

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## White-tailed Lapwing

*Vanellus leucurus* (Lichtenstein, 1823)

**Synonyms:** *Chettusia leucura*, *Chettusia leucurus*, *Vanellochettusia leucura*

**Local Name:** Savetpoonchh titodi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, >28 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious in marshy area and jheel edges

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** **India:** North India, Gujarat, northern Madhya Pradesh

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Red-wattled Lapwing**

***Vanellus indicus* (Boddaert, 1783)**

**Synonyms:** *Hoplopterus indicus*, *Lobivanellus indicus*

**Local Names:** Titodi (Gujarati); Titeeri, Titi, Titor (Hindi); Hatatut, Hatatertu (Kashmir); Balighora, Tetatua (North-east India); Titwi (Marathi); Yennapa chitawa (Telugu); Allkati (Tamil); Chenkanni (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, >33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Near water in open country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly observed in all types of habitats in Banni.

## Yellow-wattled Lapwing

*Vanellus malabaricus* (Boddaert, 1783)

**Synonyms:** *Hoplopterus malabaricus*,

*Lobipluvia malabarica*

**Local Names:** Parasna titodi (Gujarati); Zirdi (Hindi); Laori (M.P.); Chitawa (Telugu); Allkatti (Tamil); Manjakkanni (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, >27 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Wasteland, stubble, and fallow fields in dry biotope

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Observed in all types of habitats.

## **Sociable Lapwing**

***Vanellus gregarius* (Pallas, 1771)**

**Synonyms:** *Chettusia gregaria*, *Chettusia gregarius*

**Local Name:** Maltavdi titodi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, <27–30 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open grassland, wasteland, stubble, and fallow fields in dry biotope

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 5



**Distribution: India:** North-west India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Israel, Sudan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very Rare.

## Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse or Indian Sandgrouse

*Pterocles exustus* Temminck, 1825

**Synonym:** *Pterocles senegalensis*

**Local Names:** Deshi batavdo (Gujarati); Bhat teetar, Kuhar (Hindi); Pokurdee, Pokundi (Marathi); Kal gojal hakki (Kannada); Jam polanki (Telugu); Kal koudari (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±28 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Stony semi-desert and dry fallow land

**Breeding Period:** January to May

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all areas, very common on bushes.

## **Spotted Sandgrouse**

**Pterocles senegallus** (Linnaeus, 1771)

**Local Name:** Kachchhi Batavdo (Kachchh-Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±32 cm

**Habitat:** Stony semi-desert and dry fallow land

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Breeding Period:** January to April

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Afghanistan, Arabian countries, some parts of Europe

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in most parts of Banni Grassland.

## Painted Sandgrouse

*Pterocles indicus* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Local Names:** Rangin batavdo (Gujarati);  
Pahari bhat-teetar, Bhat-ban (Hindi); Gutila  
teetar (Uttar Pradesh); Kal gojal hakki  
(Karnataka)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, >28 cm

**Habitat:** Bare, stony plateau country

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Most of the time observed in groups in all parts of this grassland.

## **Black Francolin**

***Francolinus francolinus* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Local Names:** Kalo tetar (Gujarati); Kala teeter (Hindi); Tetra, Kalo tetra (Garhwal)

**Shape & Size:** 34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Aquatic bodies with tall grass, scrub and wet cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 6–8



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Most individuals recorded in grasses and bushes.

## Grey Francolin

*Francolinus pondicerianus* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Synonym:** *Francolinus pondericanus*

**Local Names:** Khadiya tetar ane tetar (Gujarati); Safed teetar (Hindi); Gowjal hakki (Kannada); Kawanga (Telugu); Kondari, Kauthari (Tamil); Kozhi kata (Malayalam); Chittur (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** 33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Thorn-scrub, dry jungle, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 4–8



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of landscape in Banni Grassland.

## **Common Quail or Grey Quail**

***Coturnix coturnix* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Coturnix coturnix africana*,

*Coturnix coturnix coturnix*

**Local Names:** Moti lavri (Gujarati); Bater, Ghagus bater (Hindi); Bhatri (Bengal); Gundri (Orissa); Bota sorai (Assam); Gurganj (Maharashtra); Barli, Sipale hakki (Karnataka); Gogari yellichi (Telugu); Kata (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, agricultural land

**Breeding Period:** February to October

**Clutch Size:** 6–14



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common.

## Rain Quail

*Coturnix coromandelica* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Synonym:** *Tetrao coromandelicus*

**Local Names:** Varsha lavri, Chinaga bater (Gujarati); China bater (north India); Kadai (Tamil); Chinna yellichi (Telugu); Kata (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, >18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland and standing crops

**Breeding Period:** March to October

**Clutch Size:** 6–8



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, North

Myanmar, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common.

## **Rock Bush-Quail**

***Perdicula argoondah* (Sykes, 1832)**

**Local Names:** Vagdauv bhadkiyu (Gujarati); Lowwa (Hindi, Marathi); Kampa lawya (Kannada); Lawunka (Telugu); Sinna kadai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, >17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Open semi-desert and thorn-scrub country

**Breeding Period:** Throughout the year

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Indian Peafowl or Common Peafowl

*Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758

**Local Names:** Mor – male, Dhel – female (Gujarati); Mor, Manjur, Mayura (Hindi); Mayur (Bengali); Mor – male, Landor – female (Maharashtra); Manja – male, Mania – female (Orissa); Moira (Assamese); Mayil (Malayalam, Tamil); Nemali (Telugu); Navilu (Kannada)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, Male 92–122 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Moist and dry deciduous forest, cultivation and in the vicinity of villages

**Breeding Period:** January to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule I Part-III

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found mostly in open areas; some individuals recorded in village areas.

## Common Buttonquail or Common Bustard Quail

*Turnix suscitator* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Synonym:** *Turnix suscitator suscitator*

**Local Names:** Rakhodi pag bil bater (Gujarati); Sansorai (Assam); Gundra, Gundlu (Hindi); Gulu (Bengal); Kalada – male, Pured – female (Telugu); Ankadik – male, Kurungkadik – female (Tamil); Durwa (Maharashtra); Karechakki (Kannada)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, 15 cm in length

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, scrub jungle, and deciduous forest

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Common Crane

*Grus grus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Samany kunj (Gujarati); Kurunch (Hindi); Kudam (Andhra Pradesh)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing ±140 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Cultivated plains, reed, marshes, and sandy riverbeds

**Breeding Period:** July to December

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** **India:** North-west India, West Bengal, Maharashtra

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Observed in large flocks, most of them recorded in *Suaeda* grasses.

## **Sarus Crane**

***Grus antigone* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Saras (Gujarati, Hindi); Khur sang (Assamese)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, 156 cm in height

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** July to December

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Central and North-east India

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** In most of the observations, recorded in pairs in wet grasses.

## Demoiselle Crane

*Grus virgo* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Anthropoides virgo*

**Local Names:** Karkaro (Gujarati); Karkara (Hindi); Karkucha (Marathi); Kurra (Bihar); Garara (Orissa); Wada koraka (Telugu); Karkoncha (Kannada)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, 76 cm in height

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Winter crops, paddy stubble, banks of water bodies

**Breeding Period:** July to December

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded in flocks in open grassland.

## Houbara Bustard or Macqueen's Bustard or Houbara

*Chlamydotis undulata* (Jacquin, 1784)

**Synonyms:** *Chlamydotis undulata undulata*,

*Otis undulata*

**Local Names:** Macqueenno ghorad  
(Gujarati); Tiloor, Hobara, Obara (Punjab);  
Tilor (Rajasthan); Siara tiloor (Kachchh)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen±, Male 73 cm,

Female 66 cm

**Habitat:** Sandy semi-desert

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Breeding Period:** June to February

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kashmir, Delhi, Kerala

**Elsewhere:** Baluchistan, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**IWPA:** Schedule I Part-III

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** A single individual recorded in Banni Grassland in December 2010.

## Rock Pigeon or Blue Rock Pigeon

*Columba livia Gmelin, 1789*

**Local Names:** Kabutar, Parevun (Gujarati); Kabutar (Hindi); Gola payra (Bengali); Peruwa (Jharkhand); Parva (Marathi); Mada pura, Malai pura (Tamil); Kutta pravu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, 33 cm in length

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Human habitation, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitats in and around villages and cultivation.

## **Eurasian Collared-Dove or Ring Dove**

***Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldszky, 1838)**

**Local Names:** Holo, Dhol (Gujarati); Parki, Panduk, Gugi (Hindi); Kukil (Kashmir); Doula (Bihar); Par ghughu (Bengal); Pitha hola, Kavda (Marathi); Pedda bella guwa (Telugu); Kalli pura (Tamil); Pottanchengali (Malayalam); Set kopu (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±32 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous plains with light jungle and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all kinds of habitats.

## Red Collared-Dove or Red Turtle-Dove

*Streptopelia tranquebarica* (Hermann, 1804)

**Synonym:** *Oenopelia tranquebarica*

**Local Names:** Lotan holo (Gujarati); Lali pohu, Harua kopu (Assam); Gulabi ghughu, Ithuiya ghughu, Tuma khuri, Lal ghughu (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±23 cm in length

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous scrub jungle, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Indian sub-continent

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in groups of 2–3 individuals in all types of habitat.

## **Little Brown Dove or Laughing Dove**

***Streptopelia senegalensis* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Synonym:** *Stigmatopelia senegalensis*

**Local Names:** Khumadi holi (Gujarati); Chhota fakhta, Parki, Panduk (Hindi); Chitti bellaguvva (Telugu); Touta pura (Tamil); Aripavu (Malayalam); Ram kopu (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, <27 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous forests, arid areas

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Western India

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Most of the time observed in *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Spotted Dove

*Spilopelia chinensis* (Scopoli, 1768)

**Synonyms:** *Stigmatopelia chinensis*, *Streptopelia chinensis*

**Local Names:** Taliyo holo – male, Vana holi – female (Gujarati); Chitroka fakhta, Parki, Chitta, Panduk (Hindi); Chhite ghughu, Telia ghughu (Bengal); Tipkya kavda (Marathi); Chakkara kutta pravu, Aripavu (Malayalam); Poda bellaguvva (Telugu); Pulli pura (Tamil); Pati kopu (Assam); Inruigu (Naga); Voh kurup (Kuki)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, <30 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous and moist deciduous forest areas

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2

**Distribution: India:** North-western parts of the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in *Prosopis juliflora* and in open grassland.



## Rose-ringed Parakeet

***Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli, 1769)**

**Local Names:** Popat, Sudo (Gujarati); Tota, Lybar tota (Hindi); Swa, Suva (Madhya Pradesh); Popat, Keera (Marathi); Chiluka (Telugu); Kili (Tamil); Tatta (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna+, overall 42 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Frugivorous

**Habitat:** Moist and dry deciduous forests, gardens, cultivation, human habitation

**Breeding Period:** February to April

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Usually recorded on overhead electric wires in groups of 2–7 individuals.

## Pied Cuckoo or Pied Crested Cuckoo

***Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert, 1783)**

**Synonyms:** *Clamator serratus*, *Oxylophus jacobinus*, *Oxylophus serratus*

**Local Names:** Chatak, Motido (Gujarati); Papiya, Kala papiya, Chatak (Hindi); Horkuk (Kashmir); Kala bulbul, Shah bulbul (Bengal); Chatak (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±33 cm in length

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous and moist deciduous areas

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 1–2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** March to June

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

### **Common Hawk-Cuckoo**

*Hierococcyx varius* (Vahl, 1797)

**Synonym:** *Cuculus varius*

**Local Name:** Bappieyo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, >34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous and moist deciduous lightly wooded country

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 1



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** March to June

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Common Cuckoo or The Cuckoo or Eurasian Cuckoo

*Cuculus canorus* Linnaeus, 1758

**Local Names:** Pardeshi kuhukanth (Gujarati); Phuphu, Kupwah (Himachal Pradesh); Akku (Bhutea); Horkuk, Shakuk, Kuki (Kashmir)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Keeps to the tree canopy in well-wooded country

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** March to June

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded on bushes and in *Prosopis juliflora*.

**Order: Cuculiformes**

**Family: Cuculidae**

## **Asian Koel**

***Eudynamys scolopacea* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Eudynamys scolopaceus* [*scolopaceus* group]

**Local Names:** Koyal (Gujarati); Koel (Hindi); Kokil, Kokila (Bengali, Marathi); Kovela (Telugu); Kuyil, Pullikuyil (Malayalam); Kuyil (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, >43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Frugivorous

**Habitat:** Lightly wooded country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed on *Prosopis juliflora*.



## Sirkeer Malkoha or Sirkeer Cuckoo

*Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii* (Lesson, 1830)

**Synonym:** *Taccocua leschenaulti*

**Local Names:** Sirkeer (Gujarati); Sirkeer malkoha (Hindi); Chiluka (Telugu); Kalli kuyil (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, >42 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Lightly wooded country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat.

## **Greater Coucal or Crow-Pheasant**

***Centropus sinensis* (Stephens, 1815)**

**Synonym:** *Centropus menbecki*

**Local Names:** Kukadiyo kumbhar, Hokko, Ghoyaro (Gujarati); Mahok (Hindi); Jemudu kaki (Telugu); Kalli kaka (Tamil); Uppan, Chemboth (Malayalam); Kumbhar kaola (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Jungle Crow, >48 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous scrub forest and gardens

**Breeding Period:** February to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly seen in grassland and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Barn Owl

*Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769)

**Synonym:** *Tyto alba* [excluding *insularis* group]

**Local Names:** Revi devi (Gujarati); Kuraya, Karail, Buri churi (Hindi); Lakhi pecha (Bengal); Ghuvad (Marathi); Chavu kuruvi (Tamil); Chao pitta (Telugu); Veli moonga (Malayalam); Madoosa (Bihar); Ghughu (Madhya Pradesh)

**Shape & Size:** Jungle Crow, <36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Buildings and wasteland

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 4–7

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## **Eurasian Eagle-Owl or Great Horned Owl**

***Bubo bubo* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Bubo bubo bubo*, *Bubo ignavus*,

*Bubo maximus*

**Local Names:** Moto ghuvad, Ghuvad (Gujarati); Ghughu (Hindi); Hutom pecha (Bengal); Ghubad (Marathi); Yerra gudla guba (Telugu); Komban moonga (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, <56 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Rocky hills, riverine patches, forest

**Breeding Period:** November to April

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Most of the sightings were in open grassland.

## Spotted Owlet

*Athene brama* (Temminck, 1821)

**Synonym:** *Athene brahma*

**Local Names:** Chibari (Gujarati); Ullu, Khakusat, Khusattia, Chughad (Hindi); Pencha (Bihar); Kuture pencha (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Ruins of buildings, mango trees, old trees

**Breeding Period:** November to April

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally recorded in *Prosopis juliflora* and *Prosopis cineraria*.

## **Short-eared Owl**

***Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)**

**Synonym:** *Asio accipitrinus*

**Local Names:** Ravaeido ghuwad (Gujarati);  
Poocha moonga (Malayalam); Aandai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, >38 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open undulating grasslands, scrub,  
marshes, plains and hills

**Breeding Period:** November to March

**Clutch Size:** 4–7



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Mostly observed in grasses and  
bushes.

## Eurasian Nightjar

***Caprimulgus europaeus* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Name:** Shiyalu dashrathiyu (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, 25–30 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open desert with a few trees or bushes

**Breeding Period:** February to September

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** West Asia, North Africa, Europe

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly seen in open dry grassland.

## **Indian Nightjar or Common Indian Nightjar**

***Caprimulgus asiaticus* Latham, 1790**

**Local Names:** Nanu dashrathiyyu, Deshi chhapo (Gujarati); Chapka (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±24 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous scrub jungle

**Breeding Period:** February to September

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in bushes.

## Savanna Nightjar or Franklin's Nightjar

*Caprimulgus affinis* Horsfield, 1821

**Synonyms:** *Caprimulgus monticolus*,

*Caprimulgus affinis affinis*

**Local Names:** Chabuk dashrathiyu (Gujarati);

Chhippak, Chhappa, Dabchiri (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Scrubby hillsides, light deciduous forest, and grassy jungle

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Alpine Swift**

***Tachymarptis melba* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Apus melba*

**Local Names:** Pahadi ababil, Pahadi ababeelo (Gujarati); Badi ababeel (Hindi); Sarappakshi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, >22 cm

**Habitat:** High cliffs

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Plains and hills

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Little Swift or House Swift

*Apus affinis* (Gray, 1830)

Synonym: *Apus affinus*

**Local Names:** Moto ababil, Ababeelo (Gujarati); Ababeel, Babeela (Hindi); Pakoi (Marathi); Sarappakshi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious around buildings and cliffs

**Breeding Period:** February to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat.

### **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater or Madagascar Bee-eater**

***Merops persicus* Pallas, 1773**

**Synonym:** *Merops superciliosus persicus*

**Local Names:** Bada hajamda, Bhura galvalo patrango, Moto patrangyo (Gujarati); Bada patringa (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, overall >31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Near lakes, tanks, and sandy seashores

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** North-west India (Kachchh, Rajasthan)

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded on overhead electric wires and *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Little Green Bee-eater or Green Bee-eater or Small Bee-eater

*Merops orientalis* Latham, 1802

Synonym: *Merops viridis*

**Local Names:** Nano patrango, Nano patrangyo (Gujarati); Chhota hajamda (Kachchh); Patringa, Harial (Hindi); Banspati (Bengal); Tai lingi, Veda raghu, Patur, Pateri (Marathi); Chinna passeriki (Telugu); Veli tatta (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 4–7



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all surveys in all types of grassland habitat.

## **European Roller**

***Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Names:** Kashmiri chas, Kashmiri nilkanth (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Wooded parkland, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** May to September

**Clutch Size:** 5–6



**Distribution: India:** Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Near Threatened

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** March to June

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Frequently seen on overhead electric wires, on top of houses and *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Indian Roller

*Coracias benghalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*  
**Local Names:** Deshi nilkanth (Gujarati); Nilkanth (Hiindi); Tas, Chash (Marathi); Pala pitta (Telugu); Kattu kadei, Pal kuriwi (Tamil); Panamkakka (Malayalam); Panankadai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±31 cm

**Habitat:** Open country, cultivation, gardens, thin deciduous forest

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** One of the abundant species of Banni Grassland, recorded in each survey.

## **Eurasian Hoopoe or Common Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Upupa senegalensis*

**Local Names:** Ghanti tankno, Hudhud (Gujarati); Hudhud (Hindi, Marathi); Konda pitta (Telugu); Chaval kuruvi (Tamil); Uppooppan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open hillsides, cultivation, light forest, and human habitation

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 5–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** In most of the surveys recorded in open grassland.

## Eurasian Wryneck or Wryneck

*Jynx torquilla* Linnaeus, 1758

**Local Names:** Doka mardi (Gujarati); Gardan eyengtha (Hindi); Meda nulingadu (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <19 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Thorn jungle, open deciduous scrub, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** May and June

**Clutch Size:** 6–8



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker or Yellow-crowned Woodpecker**

***Dendrocopos mahrattensis* (Latham, 1801)**

**Synonym:** *Picoides mahrattensis*

**Local Names:** Kabro lakkadkhod (Gujarati); Katphora (Hindi); Vadrangi pitta (Telugu); Maramkothi (Malayalam); Chitla katkola (Madhya Pradesh); Kaudya sutar (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Semi-desert to moist deciduous biotope

**Breeding Period:** January to May

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Indian Lark or Indian Bushlark or Red-winged Bush Lark

*Mirafra erythroptera* Blyth, 1845

**Local Names:** Aagiya agan (Gujarati); Aggiya (Hindi); Jhirjhira (Madhya Pradesh)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sparse scrub jungle and fallow land at low elevations

**Breeding Period:** April to October

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded in flocks on open grassland and *Suaeda* vegetation.

## Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark or Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark

*Eremopterix grisea* (Scopoli, 1786)

**Synonym:** *Eremopterix griseus*

**Local Names:** Bhon chakli, Rakhodi bhonya chakli (Gujarati); Diyora, Duri, Fothauli, Deoli (Hindi); Math charai, Dhula chata (Bengali); Poti pichika, Piyada pichika (Telugu); Gotowli (Bihar); Vanampadi kuruvi (Tamil); Karimpandi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sparse scrub wasteland, stubble, and ploughed fields

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded in flocks on open grassland and *Suaeda* vegetation.

## Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark or Blackcrowned Finch-Lark

*Eremopterix nigriceps* (Gould, 1839)

**Synonyms:** *Eremopterix nigriceps nigriceps*,  
*Eremopterix nigriceps affinis*, *Eremopterix nigriceps melanuchen*

**Local Name:** Shyamsir bhonya chakli  
(Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry savanna, open stony scrub, and  
bush plains

**Breeding Period:** More or less round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Indian sub-continent, Arabian countries, Europe, North Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Frequently observed in small flocks in open grassland with *Suaeda* scrub.

## Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark or Rufous-tailed Lark

*Ammomanes phoenicurus* (Franklin, 1831)

**Synonyms:** *Ammomanes phoenicura testacea*,

*Ammomanes phoenicura phoenicura*

**Local Names:** Khetariyo (Gujarati); Ambali jori gadu, Dowa pitta (Telugu); Vanambadi kurivi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±16 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open scrubby plains, hillocks, fallow land, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Frequently observed in small flocks in open grassland with *Suaeda* vegetation.

## Greater Hoopoe-Lark or Large Desert Lark

*Alaemon alaudipes* (Desfontaines, 1789)

Synonym: *Alaemon alaudiceps*

Local Name: Rann chandul (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open stony scrub and bushy plains

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Afghanistan, Pakistan, Africa,

Arabian Peninsula

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Indian Short-toed Lark or Sand Lark

*Calandrella raytal* (Blyth, 1844)

**Local Names:** Ret chandul (Gujarati); Retal (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sandy river banks and islets

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Frequently observed in open areas in Banni Grassland.

## Crested Lark or Franklin's Crested Lark or Common Crested Lark

*Galerida cristata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Galerida cristata* [cristata group]

**Local Names:** Moto chandul, Ghaghas chandul (Gujarati); Chandul (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sandy semi-desert and cultivated plains

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** **India:** Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in small flocks in open areas and *Suaeda* vegetation.

## Tawny Lark or Sykes' Crested Lark

*Galerida deva* (Sykes, 1832)

**Local Names:** Nano chandul (Gujarati);  
Chandul (Hindi); Chinna chandul (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Stony, sparse scrub in plateau  
country and dry cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution:** **India:** Rajasthan, North Gujarat and Kachchh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in small flocks in  
open areas and *Suaeda* vegetation.

## Singing Bushlark

*Mirafra cantillans* Blyth, 1845

**Synonym:** *Mirafra cheniaia schillingsi*

**Local Names:** Agan chandul (Gujarati); Agan, Agin (Hindi); Burutta pitta, Agin pitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, fallow cultivation, and sparse scrubby semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution:** **India:** Eastern India, Kerala, Kachchh

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in flocks in small bushes.

## Dusky Crag Martin

**Hirundo concolor** Sykes, 1833

**Synonyms:** *Ptyonoprogne concolor*,

*Ptyonoprocne concolor*

**Local Names:** Nani ababil (Gujarati); Chatan ababil (Hindi); Katrikappakshi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** In the vicinity of forts, old buildings

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly recorded in buildings in villages.

## Barn Swallow or Common Swallow

**Hirundo rustica Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Chelidon erythrogaster*, *Hirundo erythrogaster*, *Hirundo rustica rustica*

**Local Names:** Shiyalu tarodiyu (Gujarati); Ababil (Hindi, Bengali); Katij (Kashmir); Adai kallan kuruvi (Tamil); Wana kovela (Telugu); Vayalkoti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open cultivated country and around human settlements

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Observed in large flocks of 50–55 individuals on overhead electric wires.

## Wire-tailed Swallow

**Hirundo smithii Leach, 1818**

**Synonyms:** *Hirundo smithi*, *Hirundo smithii smithii*

**Local Names:** Tarpoonchh tarodiyu (Gujarati); Ababil (Hindi, Bengali); Katij (Kashmir); Tam-padi (Tamil); Wana kovela (Telugu); Vayalkoti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open, broken or cultivated country

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in large flocks of 50–70 individuals on overhead electric wires.

## Streak-throated Swallow

*Hirundo fluvicola* Blyth, 1855

Synonym: *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

Local Names: Bhekhad ababil, Nanu tarodiyu (Gujarati); Nahar ababil (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open country, cultivation, and around rivers and canals

**Breeding Period:** July to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** North India, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Red-rumped Swallow**

**Hirundo daurica Linnaeus, 1771**

**Synonym:** *Cecropis daurica* [daurica group]

**Local Names:** Kenchi ababil, Kenchipoonchh tarodiyu (Gujarati); Masjid ababil (Hindi); Varayankatrika (Malayalam); Phairni (Kashmir)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open, broken or cultivated country

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in large flocks of 70–100 individuals in open areas and on overhead electric wires.

## Bay-backed Shrike

**Lanius vittatus Valenciennes, 1826**

**Local Names:** Pachanak latoro (Gujarati); Pachanak (Hindi); Chhoto kilatora, Khayeri karkata (Bengali); Chinna bilinki, Venne dega (Telugu); Kichan kuruvi (Tamil); Asurakkili (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous open thorn-scrub jungle, outskirts of cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–3

**Distribution:** India: North-west India, Tamil

Nadu, West Bengal

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in grasses, *Prosopis juliflora*, and open areas.



## **Red-backed Shrike**

**Lanius collurio Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Name:** Lalipith latoro (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <16–18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous open thorn-scrub jungle

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Europe, western Asia, tropical Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly observed on *Prosopis juliflora*.

## Rufous-tailed Shrike

**Lanius isabellinus** Hemprich & Ehrenberg,  
1833

**Synonym:** *Lanius arenarius*

**Local Name:** Lal poonchh latoro (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open wooded country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasslands.

## Long-tailed Shrike or Rufous-backed Shrike

**Lanius schach Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonym:** *Lanius schach schach*

**Local Names:** Lambi poonchh latoro (Gujarati); Matiya latora, Kajala latora (Hindi); Majhla latora (Madhya Pradesh); Yerra lilinchi (Telugu); Kattu kuruvi, Pey kuruvi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, >25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Open wooded country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** February to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and open grasslands.

## Brown Shrike

***Lanius cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonym:** *Lanius cristatus cristatus*

**Local Names:** Badami latoro (Gujarati); Kerkheta (Hindi); Karkata (Bengali); Batte gadu, Batte kiriti gadu (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, ±19 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub, and scattered bushes

**Breeding Period:** May or June

**Clutch Size:** 2–6

**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and open grasslands.



## Southern Grey Shrike

**Lanius meridionalis** Temminck, 1820

**Synonyms:** *Lanius excubitor meridionalis*,

*Lanius elegans*, *Lanius elegans meridionalis*

**Local Names:** Dudhio or Moto latoro, Dakshini rakhodi latoro (Gujarati); Dudiya latora, Safed latora, Bada latora (Hindi); Kachkacha, Anjana (Bengal); Pedda kiriti gadu (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, ±17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub and scattered bushes

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Europe, Asia, North Africa

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and open grasslands.

## Black Drongo

*Dicrurus macrocercus* Vieillot, 1817

**Local Names:** Kosita, Kalo koshi (Gujarati); Kanchh, Kalkanchh (Kachchh); Kolsa, Bhujanga, Kotwal (Hindi); Karanjuwa (Madhya Pradesh); Finga (Bengali); Pasala poli gadu (Telugu); Karuvattu vali (Tamil); Anaranchi (Malayalam); Chosia (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, >31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open deciduous forest and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.



## **House Crow**

***Corvus splendens* Vieillot, 1817**

**Local Names:** Kagdo (Gujarati); Kowwa, Desi kowwa (Hindi); Kaola (Marathi); Kag, Kak (Bengali); Pat kaori (Assamese); Manchi kaki (Telugu); Nalla kaka (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, >43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Human habitation, towns and cities

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in human habitation.

## Large-billed Crow or Jungle Crow

*Corvus macrorhynchos* Wagler, 1827

**Synonym:** *Corvus macrorhynchus*

**Local Names:** Girnari kagdo (Gujarati); Kala kowwa, Pahari kowwa, Jangli kowwa (Hindi); Kagh (Bihar); Dom kaola (Marathi); Mala kaki (Telugu); Andan kakai, Karung kakai (Tamil); Tonnan kakka, Veli kakka (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, 48–50 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Wooded country and outskirts of towns and cities

**Breeding Period:** December to April

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## **Common Raven**

***Corvus corax* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Names:** Mahakag (Gujarati); Domkak (Hindi); Doda kaang (Punjab)

**Shape & Size:** Kite, >69 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Near towns and villages, desert settlements, and semi-arid areas

**Breeding Period:** December to March

**Clutch Size:** 3–6



**Distribution: India:** Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Commonly recorded in human habitation.

## Small Minivet

***Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Synonym:** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

*cinnamomeus*

**Local Names:** Nano rajalal (Gujarati);  
Bulalchashm, Rajalal, Saheli (Hindi);  
Kunkumpu jitta (Telugu); Techinnam  
(Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous forest, open scrub,  
gardens

**Breeding Period:** February and September

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,  
Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found inside the canopy of trees  
and in bushes.

## **White-bellied Minivet**

***Pericrocotus erythropygius* (Jerdon, 1840)**

**Synonym:** *Pericrocotus erythropygius erythropygius*

**Local Names:** Savet petal rajalal, Kabao rajalal (Gujarati); Safed rajalal (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous forest and thorn-scrub

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Peninsular India, Bihar, Bengal

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern,

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## White-tailed Iora or Marshall's Iora

*Aegithina nigrolutea* (Marshall, 1876)

**Local Names:** Marshalni shobigi (Gujarati); Shaubeegei (Hindi); Fatik jal (Bengali); Barsat sorai (Assamese); Daotisha gurrmo gadeba (Assam); Ingaruina (Naga)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous scrub, thorn jungle, and groves

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution:** India: Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Most of the sightings were in small or large bushes.

## Brahminy Starling or Brahminy Myna

*Sturnus pagodarum* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Synonyms:** *Temenuchus pagodarum*, *Sturnia pagodarum*

**Local Names:** Shyamshir kabar (Gujarati); Popoya myna, Brahmini myna, Puhaia (Hindi); Bamani myna, Harbola (Bengal); Pabiyapawi (Uttar Pradesh); Papata gorinki (Telugu); Papata pariki (Tamil); Karimtalaichikkili (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, <22 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Open deciduous and scrub forest, near cultivation and habitations

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in areas near human habitation.

## Rosy Starling or Rosy Pastor

*Sturnus roseus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Pastor roseus*

**Local Names:** Gulabi vaiyu (Gujarati); Wyha, Waheeo, Wyho (Kachchh); Gulabi myna, Tilyar (Hindi); Lal myna (Bengal); Ganggoya (Bihar); Pariki pitta, Palisa (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±23 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Open cultivation, grassland, and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** May and June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** **India:** North-west and South India, West Bengal, Andamans

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in large flocks on overhead electric wires.

## Common Myna

***Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Synonyms:** *Acridotheres griseus*, *Acridotheres tristis*, *Sturnus tristis*

**Local Names:** Kabar (Gujarati); Desi myna (Hindi); Hor (Kashmiri); Salik, Bhat salik (Bengali); Salik sorai, Ghor salika (Assamese); Bemni, Saloo (Jharkhand); Gulgul (Madhya Pradesh); Shale, Salonki (Marathi); Gorwantera (Kannada); Nahanavai (Tamil); Goranka (Telugu); Kavalamkili, Matatta (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, <23 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Neighbourhood of homesteads in villages and cities

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## Bank Myna

*Acridotheres ginginianus* (Latham, 1790)

**Synonym:** *Acridotheres gingianus*

**Local Names:** Shirajee kabar, Ghoda kabar (Gujarati); Ganga myna, Daryla myna (Hindi); Gang salik (Bengali); Barad myna (Bihar)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, <21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Neighbourhood of human habitations

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Mostly found in human habitations and with herds of livestock.



## **Grey Hypocolius**

***Hypocolius ampelinus* Bonaparte, 1850**

**Local Name:** Maskati latoro (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** 19–21 cm

**Habitat:** Woodland and scrub in arid and semiarid regions, near desert, irrigated and cultivated areas with trees

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Breeding Period:** June and July

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Western India

**Elsewhere:** Africa, Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern,

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## White-eared Bulbul or White-cheeked Bulbul

*Pycnonotus leucotis* (Gould, 1836)

**Synonyms:** *Pycnonotus leucogenys leucotis*,  
*Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis*

**Local Names:** Savetkarn bulbul, Kanaru bulbul (Gujarati); Jogido (Kachchh); Kushandra (Punjab)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, <20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open scrub, cultivation, and gardens

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** India: Western and Central India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat.

## **Red-vented Bulbul**

***Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Local Names:** Hadiyo bulbul (Gujarati);  
Bulbul, Guldum (Hindi); Piglipitta (Telugu);  
Kondalati, Kondai kuruvi (Tamil); Nattu  
bulbul (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, <20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Cultivation and scrub

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar,

Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat.

## Zitting Cisticola or Streaked Fantail Warbler

*Cisticola juncidis* (Rafinesque, 1810)

**Synonym:** *Cisticola juncidus*

**Local Names:** Nani pantikiki (Gujarati); Ghas ki phutki, Ghas ki pitpiti (Hindi); Khergusa, Tuntunia (Bihar); Yedrupitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <10 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Tall grass, paddy fields, dry grassland

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed on grasses, bushes, and in open areas.

## **Grey-breasted Prinia or Franklin's Wren-Warbler or Franklin's Prinia**

***Prinia hodgsonii* Blyth, 1844**

**Synonym:** *Prinia hodgsoni*

**Local Names:** Kathiyavadi fadakfutki  
(Gujarati); Phutki (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <11 cm

**Habitat:** Scrub and grass jungle, undergrowth in deciduous forest, mangrove swamps, reed beds

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed on grasses, bushes, and in open areas.

## Rufous-fronted Prinia or Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler

*Prinia buchanani* Blyth, 1844

**Local Names:** Lalbhalni fudki, Lalbhal fadakfutki (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Arid scrub forest and grass patches in semi-desert areas

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution:** **India:** North-west India, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed on grasses, bushes, and in open areas.

## **Plain Prinia**

***Prinia inornata* Sykes, 1832**

**Synonym:** *Prinia subflava inornata*

**Local Names:** Pan fadakfutki (Gujarati); Phutki (Hindi); Lota kun jitta (Telugu); Chitakul (Madhya Pradesh)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Mixed thorn-scrub forest and tall grass patches, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed in groups of 2–3 individuals in all types of habitat.

## Jungle Prinia

*Prinia sylvatica* Jerdon, 1840

**Local Names:** Moti fadakfutki (Gujarati); Tot rungi (Hindi); Kenda lotakun jitta (Telugu); Chettolirivo (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Low bush jungle mixed with coarse grasses

**Breeding Period:** March to October

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed in groups of 2–3 individuals on grassy patches.

## Ashy Prinia

*Prinia socialis* Sykes, 1832

**Local Names:** Rakhodi fadakfutki (Gujarati); Phutki, Kali phutki (Hindi); Katirkuruvi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, scrub, garden, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** March to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally observed in groups of 4–5 individuals on grassy patches.

## Graceful Prinia or Streaked Wren-Warbler

*Prinia gracilis* (Lichtenstein, 1823)

**Synonyms:** *Prinia gracilis gracilis*, *Prinia gracilis palaestinae*, *Prinia gracilis deltae*

**Local Names:** Vid fudki, Rann fadakfutki (Gujarati); Khar phutki (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grass and scrub forest in sandy and semi-desert areas

**Breeding Period:** February to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## **Common Tailorbird**

***Orthotomus sutorius* (Pennant, 1769)**

**Synonyms:** *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus*,

*Orthotomus sutorius luteus*

**Local Names:** Tashko, Darjido (Gujarati);  
Darzee, Phutki, Piddi (Hindi, Marathi); Likka  
jitta (Telugu); Panakkuruvi (Malayalam);  
Thaiyal chittu, Pon chittu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Scrub country near cultivation,  
gardens, and deciduous jungle

**Breeding Period:** April to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,  
Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in  
Banni Grassland.

## Clamorous Reed Warbler or Indian Great Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus stentoreus* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

**Synonyms:** *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus*, *Acrocephalus stentoreus levantinus*

**Local Names:** Moto pan karkariyo, Pan tiktiki (Gujarati); Karkat, Korkuch (Kashmir); Bora jitti (Telugu); Kaitakkallan (Malayalam); Kosu kattai, Nunni chirai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, ±19 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Bushes and shrubs around lakes, jheels, ponds, and canals

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–6

**Distribution: India:** Andamans, Kashmir, North India, West Bengal, Kerala

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## Blyth's Reed-Warbler

***Acrocephalus dumetorum* Blyth, 1849**

**Synonyms:** *Herbicola dumetorum*, *Notiocichla dumetora*

**Local Names:** Pan tiktiki, Nano pan karkariyo (Gujarati); Podna, Tiktiki (Hindi); Tikra (Bengali); Kumpa jitta (Telugu); Eetapolappan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Bushes, hedges, orchards, bamboo clumps, and agricultural fields

**Breeding Period:** September to April

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Paddyfield Warbler

*Acrocephalus agricola* (Jerdon, 1845)

**Synonyms:** *Acrocephalus agricola agricola*,  
*Notiocichla agricola*, *Sollicitus agricola*

**Local Names:** Dangar karkariyo (Gujarati);  
 Yerra kumpa jitta (Telugu); Patakkuruvi  
 (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Elephant grass, sugarcane, and wet  
 paddy cultivation

**Breeding Period:** October to March

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** India: Kachchh

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded on grass patches in Banni  
 Grassland.

## **Booted Warbler**

***Hippolais caligata* (Lichtenstein, 1823)**

**Synonyms:** *Iduna caligata*, *Hippolais caligata caligata*

**Local Name:** Dangar karkariyo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous scrub jungle

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Eastern Ghats ranges

**Elsewhere:** Baluchistan, Bangladesh,  
Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat.

## Yellow-eyed Babbler

*Chrysomma sinense* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Local Names:** Pili aankh lela (Gujarati);  
Bulalchashm, Gulabchashm (Hindi); Yerra  
kali jitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Scrub, thorn jungle, reed beds,  
bamboo

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 4–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka,  
Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat.



## Common Babbler

***Turdoides caudatus* (Dumont, 1823)**

**Synonyms:** *Turdoides caudata caudata*,

*Turdoides caudata eclipses*

**Local Names:** Thoriyu lela, Sheradi (Gujarati); Chilchil, Sor, Genga, Chhota genga, Dumri (Hindi); Chinna sida (Telugu); Huni (Tamil); Chilappan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, >23 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Thorn-scrub forest in semi-desert and dry plains

**Breeding Period:** March and July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Very common

**Remarks:** Found in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## Large Grey Babbler

*Turdoides malcolmii* (Sykes, 1832)

**Synonym:** *Turdoides makomi*

**Local Names:** Laledo, Motu lela (Gujarati); Ghogoi, Ghaughai, Bhaina (Hindi); Gongya (Kannada); Kokatti, Khekta (Marathi); Verri chinda, Gowa sida (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >28 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry, open, sparse scrub country, thorn forest, and around cultivation

**Breeding Period:** More or less throughout the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally recorded among bushes.



## Jungle Babbler

***Turdooides striatus* (Dumont, 1823)**

**Synonyms:** *Crateropus canorus*, *Turdooides striatus striatus*

**Local Names:** Van laledi (Gujarati); Sat bhai (Hindi); Kariyilakkili (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous and scrub forest, bamboo brakes, cultivation

**Breeding Period:** Throughout the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally recorded in grassy and bushy areas.



## Orphean Warbler

*Sylvia hortensis* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Synonyms:** *Hortensis hortensis*, *Hortensis hortensis hortensis*, *Sylvia hortensis hortensis*, *Sylvia orphea orphea*

**Local Names:** Seetafutki, Moto shveta kanth (Gujarati); Pedda nalla kampa jitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Shrubs on stony slopes and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Bihar, Orissa, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.





### **Lesser Whitethroat or Common Lesser Whitethroat**

***Sylvia curruca* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Curruca curruca*, *Sylvia carruca*,  
*Sylvia curraca*, *Sylvia currura*

**Local Names:** Nano savetkanth (Gujarati);  
Chinna nalla kampa jitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Scrub jungle and bushes in stony  
semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Kashmir, West Bengal,  
North India

**Elsewhere:** Baluchistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in  
Banni Grassland.

## Common Whitethroat or Indian Whitethroat or Greater Whitethroat

*Sylvia communis* Latham, 1787

**Synonym:** *Communis communis*

**Local Name:** Divali savetkanth (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–7

**Distribution: India:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab

**Elsewhere:** Europe, West Asia, Africa, Arabia, Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat.



## Desert Warbler

**Sylvia nana** (Ehrenberg, 1833)

**Synonyms:** *Atraphornis nana*, *Sylvia nana nana*

**Local Name:** Rann savetkanth (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <11–12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Shrubs on stony slopes and semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Central and Western Asia, Europe

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally recorded in groups of 3–5 individuals in shrubby areas.

## Common Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot, 1817)

**Synonyms:** *Phylloscopus tristis*, *Phylloscopus collybita collybita*, *Phylloscopus collybitus*

**Local Name:** Jal kitkit (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open country and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Southern and Western Europe,

South Asia, North Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Spotted Flycatcher**

***Muscicapa striata* (Pallas, 1764)**

**Local Name:** Tapkilo makhimar (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands, parks and gardens

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Europe, West Asia, Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in small and medium sized trees and bushes in Banni Grassland.

## Red-breasted Flycatcher or Red-throated Flycatcher

*Ficedula parva* (Bechstein, 1792)

**Synonym:** *Ficedula parva parva*

**Local Names:** Sifiya makhimar (Gujarati); Turra (Hindi); Yeepidippam (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <11–12 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands, especially near water

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–7



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Europe, Asia

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found on small and medium sized trees and bushes in Banni Grassland.

## Oriental Magpie-Robin

*Copsychus saularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Daiyad (Gujarati); Dhaiyal, Dhaiyar (Hindi, Bengali); Dominga (Marathi); Kali sooi chiria (Madhya Pradesh); Pedda nalanchi, Sarela gadu (Telugu); Hatiure, Deyalo (Jharkhand)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, ±20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry and moist deciduous forest, secondary jungle and near human habitations

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

## Bluethroat

**Luscinia svecica** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Cyanecula suecica*, *Cyanosylvia suecica*, *Cyanosylvia svecica*, *Erithacus svecica*, *Erithacus svecicus*, *Erithacus svecius*, *Luscinia svecicus*

**Local Names:** Nilkanthi lusiniya (Gujarati); Nyul hot (Kashmir); Nilkanthi, Hussaini pidda (Hindi); Gunpigera, Gurpeorah (West Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Agricultural fields, grassland, reeds, bushes near water, gardens, fallow fields

**Breeding Period:** June to July

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Generally found singly or in groups of up to 3 individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grass beds.

## **Black Redstart**

***Phoenicurus ochruros* (Gmelin, 1774)**

**Local Names:** Kalo thartharo (Gujarati); Thirthira, Thirthir kampa (Hindi); Phirira, Lal girdi (Bengali); Nune bundi gadu (Telugu); Kankal (Mundari)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Stony, sparse, scrubby broken country, and near cultivation and villages

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Plains and hills

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally found singly or in pairs on *Prosopis juliflora* and on grassy patches.

## Pied Bushchat

**Saxicola caprata** (Linnaeus, 1766)

**Synonyms:** *Saxicola aethiops*, *Saxicola caprata caprata*

**Local Names:** Kabaro piddo (Gujarati); Kumpa nalanchi (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Cultivated fields, sparsely scrubby hillsides, tamarisk, reeds, coarse grasses near water and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Plains and hilly areas

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Generally found singly or in pairs on *Prosopis juliflora* and grassbeds.

## **Common Stone Chat or Collared Bushchat**

**Saxicola torquatus (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Synonyms:** *Saxicola axillaris*, *Saxicola torquata*

**Local Name:** Mediyo piddo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry, scrub-covered hillsides, wasteland, fallow fields, tamarisk jungle

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally recorded solitarily in grass and hedges.

## Stoliczka's Bushchat or White-browed Bushchat

*Saxicola macrorhynchos* (Stoliczka, 1872)

**Synonym:** *Saxicola macrorhyncha*

**Local Name:** Rann piddo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Semi-arid areas

**Breeding Period:** February to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution:** **India:** North-west India, Goa, Pune (Maharashtra)

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Afghanistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

### **Isabelline Wheatear or Isabelline Chat**

***Oenanthe isabellina* (Temminck, 1829)**

**Local Names:** Pilo piddo, Ujalo piddo  
(Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sandy semi-desert and wasteland

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 5



**Distribution: India:** Western India, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all types of habitat.

## Kurdish Wheatear or Rufous-tailed Chat

**Oenanthe xanthoprymna** (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

**Synonyms:** *Oenanthe chrysopygia*, *Oenanthe xanthoprymna xanthoprymna*

**Local Name:** Lalpoonchh piddo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Sandy semi-desert and wasteland

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Gujarat, Rajasthan

**Elsewhere:** Turkey, Iran, Arabian Peninsula, Africa

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** July to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found on *Prosopis juliflora* and other thorny trees.

**Order: Passeriformes**

**Family: Muscicapidae**

## Desert Wheatear

***Oenanthe deserti* (Temminck, 1825)**

**Local Names:** Rann piddo, Shyam kanth rann piddo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Arid, semi-desert broken tracts, and canal-irrigated desert cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6

**Distribution:** **India:** Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Sri Lanka, Baluchistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally solitary individuals found on grass beds, open areas, and on *Prosopis juliflora*.



## Variable Wheatear or Pied Chat

*Oenanthe picata* (Blyth, 1847)

**Local Name:** Striklandno piddo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Hot desert

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Europe

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally recorded solitarily in grass beds, open areas, and on *Prosopis juliflora*.



## **Indian Robin**

**Saxicoloides fulicata** (Linnaeus, 1766)

**Synonyms:** *Copsychus fulicatus*, *Saxicoloides fulicata fulicata*

**Local Names:** Kali deva, Deoli (Gujarati); Kalchuri (Hindi); Dachko (Bhil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±16 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Arid and stony country, semi-desert with scattered bushes, cultivation, and around habitations

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all parts of Banni Grassland.

## White-naped Tit or White-winged Black Tit or Pied Tit

*Parus nuchalis* Jerdon, 1845

**Local Names:** Kabari ramachakli (Gujarati);  
Nalla patsa jitta (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <13 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Hummocky semi-desert country

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution:** India: Gujarat, Rajasthan,  
Eastern Ghats, Karnataka

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Single individual recorded once on  
grass bed in Banni Grassland.

## Purple Sunbird

***Nectarinia asiatica* (Latham, 1790)**

**Synonym:** *Cinnyris asiaticus*

**Local Names:** Phul chakli, Jambali sakkarkhoro (Gujarati); Kala pidda (Punjab); Shakarkhora, Phool sungni (Urdu, Hindi); Jugi jugi (Bihar); Sue (Jharkhand); Chumka (Marathi); Karupan tenkili (Malayalam); Thena pitta (Telugu); Then kudi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <10 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Nectarivorous

**Habitat:** Light deciduous or dry thorn forest, cultivation, gardens, and compounds

**Breeding Period:** March to May

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally recorded in dense *Prosopis juliflora* and grasslands of Banni.

## House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonym:** *Passer italiae*

**Local Names:** Chakli (Gujarati); Churi, Khas churi, Gauriya (Hindi, Urdu); Choti charai (West Bengal); Ghor charika (Assam); Sendang (Manipur); Kuruvi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Ubiquitous commensal of man in cities, suburbs, and villages

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Found all over the grassland, the majority found in human habitation.



### **Chestnut-shouldered Petronia or Yellow-throated Sparrow**

**Petronia xanthocollis (Burton, 1838)**

**Synonyms:** *Gymnoris xanthocollis*, *Petronia xanthosterna*

**Local Names:** Pahalvan chakli, Raji (Gujarati); Raji, Jangli chiria (Hindi); Ban chiria (Bengali); Maharaoi, Daideem (Jharkhand); Konde pichike, Cheuka pichike (Telugu); Manjatali (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous forest, scrub and thorn forest, groves, and cultivation

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Tawny Pipit

*Anthus campestris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Agrodroma campestris*

Local Name: Vagdauw dhanchidi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >16 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Dry open country including semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** February to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–6

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Europe, Asia, Africa

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 2–5 individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasses.



## Paddyfield Pipit

*Anthus rufulus* Vieillot, 1818

**Synonym:** *Anthus novaeseelandiae rufulus*

**Local Names:** Vid dhanchidi (Gujarati);  
Rugail, Charchari (Hindi); Serwi, Chanchir  
(Jharkhand); Gurapa modi pitta (Telugu);  
Pulla purake, Nettai kali (Tamil); Chatuppan,  
Varamban (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, stubble fields, fallow and  
marshy ground

**Breeding Period:** February to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 2–5  
individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasses.

## Long-billed Pipit or Brown Rock Pipit

*Anthus similis* Jerdon, 1840

Synonym: *Anthus bannermani*

Local Name: Moti dhanchidi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, ±20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grassy slopes and plains, sparse scrub country, fallow land, sand dunes

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Western India, Deccan plateau, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## **Yellow Wagtail**

***Motacilla flava* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Names:** Bhura mathano pilakyo, Rakhodi pilakyo, Matano pilakyo (Gujarati); Pilkya (Hindi); Charattalayan valkuluki (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Pastures, wet paddy stubble, and wetlands

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–8



**Distribution: India:** Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on the fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.

## Citrine Wagtail or Yellowheaded Wagtail

*Motacilla citreola* Pallas, 1776

**Synonyms:** *Budytes citreola*, *Motacila citreola*,  
*Motacilla citrinella*

**Local Names:** Pitshir pilakiyo (Gujarati);  
Pilkya, Pani ka pilkya (Hindi); Tooni (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, irrigated paddy fields

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in grass patches around fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.



## **Grey Wagtail**

***Motacilla cinerea* Tunstall, 1771**

**Synonyms:** *Calobates cinerea*, *Motacila cinerea*,  
*Motacilla boarula*, *Motacilla caspica*

**Local Names:** Van pilakiyo (Gujarati);  
Khak dobbai (Kashmir); Balkatara (Punjab);  
Halidiya balimahi (Assam); Mudi tippudu jitta  
(Telugu); Valukulukki (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Along clear mountain streams with  
rocky banks and boulders

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,  
Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in grass patches around  
fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.

## White Wagtail or Pied Wagtail

*Motacilla alba* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Motacilla lugens*

**Local Names:** Diwali ghodo, Khatriani (Gujarati); Peenchkani, Dobbai (Kashmir); Balkatara (Punjab); Dhoban (Hindi); Khanjan (Jharkhand, West Bengal); Balimati, Tiposi (Assam); Vella valkulukki (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Bulbul, <18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Open country in the vicinity of watercourses, reservoirs, paddy cultivation

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–6

**Distribution: India:** North-western and eastern India

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in grassland around the fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.



## Baya Weaver

*Ploceus philippinus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

**Local Names:** Sughari (Gujarati); Baya, Sonchiri (Hindi); Bijra (Uttar Pradesh); Suyam (Jharkhand); Babui (Bengali); Parsupu pita (Telugu); Thonga nathan, Thukanan kuruvu (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland and scrubland with Acacia species.

**Breeding Period:** May to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Common in all terrestrial habitats in Banni Grassland.

## Streaked Weaver

*Ploceus manyar* (Horsfield, 1821)

**Local Names:** Litivali sughari (Gujarati); Teliya baya, Bamani baya (Hindi); Tite babui (Bengali); Attakuruvu, Kayatatta (Malayalam); Thukanan kuruvi, Manja kuruvi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Swampy reed beds in cultivated land or wetland

**Breeding Period:** February to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## **White-throated Munia or Indian Silverbill**

***Lonchura malabarica* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Eudice malabarica*

**Local Names:** Tapushiyu, Pavai munia (Gujarati); Charchara, Charga, Pidda (Hindi); Piduri, Sar munia (Bengali); Jinuwayi (Telugu); Vayalatta (Malayalam); Nellu kuruwi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <10 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Dry, open cultivated, sparse scrub and bush country

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 4–6

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in groups of 3–4 individuals on bushes.



## Black-headed Bunting

*Emberiza melanocephala* Scopoli, 1769

**Synonym:** *Granativora melanocephala*

**Local Names:** Shyamsir gandam (Gujarati);  
Gandam (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Cereal cultivation

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 5

**Distribution:** India: North, West, and  
Central India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



### **Grey-necked Bunting**

***Emberiza buchanani* Blyth, 1844**

**Synonym:** *Glycispina buchanani*

**Local Names:** Patharal gandam, Thoriyogandam (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Grassland, weedy or stubby fields

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Iran, Russia

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found on grasses and bushes.

## House Bunting or Striolated Bunting

*Emberiza striolata* (Lichtenstein, 1823)

**Synonym:** *Emberiza striolata* [striolata group]

**Local Name:** Laheriyo gandam (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <14 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Hillsides with rocky or stony sparse scrub

**Breeding Period:** February to November

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** India: North, West, and Central India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in grasses and bushes.





# Birds of Banni Grassland

*Aquatic Birds*

## **Greylag Goose**

***Anser anser* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Gaj hans (Gujarati); Raj hans (Hindi, Bengali, North-eastern states)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >81 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious in jheels and rivers

**Breeding Period:** July to October

**Clutch Size:** 6–10



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies in groups of 15–30 individuals.

## Lesser Whistling-Duck or Lesser Whistling Teal

*Dendrocygna javanica* (Horsfield, 1821)

**Local Names:** Nani sisoti batak, Nani sisoti (Gujarati); Seelhi, Seelkahi (Hindi); Sharal (Bengali); Horali (Assamese); Chilli thara (Tamil); Yeranda (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <42 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, reservoirs, reedy ponds

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 7–12



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies located in dense grassland.

## Ruddy Shelduck or Brahminy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea* (Pallas, 1764)

**Synonyms:** *Casarca casarca*, *Casarca ferruginea*

**Local Names:** Bhagvi surkhab (Gujarati); Chakva – male, Chakvi – female, Surkhab, Lal (Hindi); Chaka-chaki (West Bengal); Chakoi-chakoua (Assam); Panda hansa (Orissa); Sarza, Chakravak (Marathi); Bapana chiluwa (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >66 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes and rivers

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 6–10



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Marbled Teal

*Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Menetries, 1832)

**Synonyms:** *Anas angustirostris*,

*Marmarmonetta angustirostris*

**Local Name:** Chamkili murghabi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <48 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy jheels

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 9–12



**Distribution:** India: North-east India, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in Chhari Dhandh and Lakhara wetland in Banni Grassland.

## **Northern Pintail**

***Anas acuta* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Anas acuta acuta*, *Dafila acuta acuta*

**Local Names:** Singpar (Gujarati); Dhruguchho (Kachchh); Sand, Seenkhpar (Hindi); Dig hans, Bada digar, Sholoncho (West Bengal); Dighonch (Bihar); Nanda, Nanja (Orissa); Markalian (Tamil); Nejal hans, Dighal negi (Assam); Meitunga (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <56–74 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy jheels, brackish lagoons, and estuaries

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 7–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Common Teal

*Anas crecca* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonyms:** *Anas crecca crecca*, *Anas crecca nimia*, *Nettion crecca*, *Nettion crecca crecca*

**Local Names:** Nani murghabi (Gujarati); Chhoti murghabi, Patari, (Hindi); Naroib, Patari hans, Tulsibigri (West Bengal); Baijla (Bihar); Chakrang (Marathi); Siravi, Kilawai (Tamil); Solari hakki (Kannada); Kalimari, Chila hans, Patari hans (Assam); Surit (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, ±38 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and marshes

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 7–10



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Western Spot-billed Duck or Spot-billed Duck**

*Anas poecilorhyncha* Forster, 1781

**Synonym:** *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*

**Local Names:** Tilavali batak (Gujarati);  
Garmpai, Gugral (Hindi); Laddim (Bihar);  
Kara (Manipur); Bor mughi hans (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, ±61 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Shallow lakes and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 6–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Gadwall

*Anas strepera* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonyms:** *Anas strepera strepera*,  
*Chaulelasmus streperus*, *Mareca strepera*

**Local Names:** Luhar batak (Gujarati); Maila,  
 Bhuar, Beykhur (Hindi); Peeing hans (West  
 Bengal); Maila (Bihar); Saru mugi hans  
 (Assam); Thoidingnam (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy marshes

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 6–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Northern Europe, Asia

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Eurasian Wigeon or Wigeon

*Anas penelope* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Mareca penelope*

**Local Names:** Piyasan, Pharao (Gujarat, Nal Sarovar); Peasan, Patari, Pharia, Chhota lalsir (Hindi); Chhota lalsir (West Bengal); Aroon (Bihar); Khaltriya kunda (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <49 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy marshes

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 6–10



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Garganey

*Anas querquedula* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Querquedula querquedula*

**Local Names:** Chetva, Kardio (Gujarat); Chaita, Khira, Patari (Hindi); Ghang roib, Giria hans (West Bengal); Ghila hans (Assam); Gendu (Orissa); Surit angouba (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <41 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Granivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, reservoirs, and lakes

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 6–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Northern Shoveler or Shoveler**

***Anas clypeata* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Anas spathula*, *Spatula clypeata*

**Local Names:** Gaino (Gujarat, Nal Sarovar); Phatphaje (Kachchh); Tidari, Punana, Tokarwala, Ghirah (Hindi); Panta mukhi, Khunte hans (West Bengal); Sankhar (Bihar); Kantiya hans, Nak dungara (Assam); Mattimikh cherevi (Tamil); Khara (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Inland waters

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 7–16



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.



### Red-crested Pochard

**Netta rufina** (Pallas, 1773)

**Synonym:** *Rhodonessa rufina*

**Local Names:** Lal chanch karchiya, Ratobari (Gujarat); Lalchonch, Lalsir (Hindi); Bada rangamuri, Chобра hans (West Bengal); Doommer (Bihar); Deo hans (Assam); Irupi (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <54 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Large lakes and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 6–12

**Distribution:** India: North-west India, Assam, Tamil Nadu

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Common Pochard**

***Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Aristonetta ferina*, *Nyroca ferina*

**Local Names:** Rakhodi karchiyo, Tarandio (Gujarati); Lalsir (Hindi); Lal muri (Bengali); Ranga muriya (Assamese); Irupi (Manipuri)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <48 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Open jheels and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 8–12



**Distribution: India:** North-west India, North-east India, Karnataka, Pondicherry

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Tufted Duck or Tufted Pochard

*Aythya fuligula* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Nyroca fuligula*

Local Names: Chotili kabri batak, Kalwelio (Gujarat); Dubaru, Ablak, Rahvara (Hindi); Kurungalian (Tamil); Nalla chiluwa (Telugu); Bamuniya hans (West Bengal, Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, <46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Open lakes and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 7–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on most of the water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Cotton Teal

*Nettapus coromandelianus* (Gmelin, 1789)

**Local Names:** Kapasi murghabi (Gujarati); Girri, Girria, Girja, Gurgura (Hindi); Bali hans (West Bengal); Dandana (Orissa); Ade, Atla (Maharashtra); Keeke, Chuwa (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, ±33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Insectivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and ponds

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 6–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## Comb Duck

***Sarkidiornis melanotos* (Pennant, 1769)**

**Synonyms:** *Sarkidornis melanotos*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*

**Local Names:** Nakto (Gujarati); Nakta (Hindi, West Bengal); Nakwa (Bihar); Naki hansa (Orissa); Juttu chiluwa (Telugu); Doda sarle hakki (Kannada); Mookkan thara (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >76 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy water bodies in well-wooded plains

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 8–12

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found on all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Pied Kingfisher or Lesser Pied Kingfisher

*Ceryle rudis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Kabro kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Kirkiria (Kachchh); Koryala kilkila (Hindi); Karona (Bihar); Chitla kilkila (Madhya Pradesh); Phatka machhranga, Karikata (West Bengal); Sufaid tont, Duddru (Kashmir); Meenkotti (Tamil); Ngarakpi, Wakrek (Manipuri)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Stagnant water, jheels, reservoirs, ditches, and slow streams

**Breeding Period:** May and October

**Clutch Size:** 5–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally recorded on trees around water bodies.

## Common Kingfisher or Small Blue Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Nano kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Chhota kilkila, Nita or Nika machhrala (Hindi); Kola tonth, Chhota tont, Tuntu (Kashmiri)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, >18 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Along streams, canals, ponds, mangrove swamps, and seashore

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 5–7



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in the vicinity of all water bodies.

## White-throated Kingfisher or White-breasted Kingfisher

*Halcyon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Kalkaliyo, Savet kanth kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Kilkila, Kourilla (Hindi); Tanki (Bihar); Sandabuk machhranga (West Bengal); Lali mach sorai (Assam); Khanda (Marathi); Lakmuka, Buchegadu (Telugu); Vichuli, Meenkotti (Tamil); Ponman (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, >28 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Canals, streams, reservoirs, cultivation, and edges of forest away from water

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–7



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded singly or in pairs on *Prosopis juliflora* and overhead electric wires.

## White-breasted Waterhen

*Amaurornis phoenicurus* (Pennant, 1769)

**Synonym:** *Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis*

**Local Names:** Safed chhati santakukdi, Davak (Gujarati); Davak, Dahak, Dauk (Hindi); Panpaira (West Bengal); Kinati (Uttar Pradesh); Ban murghi (Bihar); Jal murghi (Madhya Pradesh); Kuku kombdi (Marathi); Pani duboi (Assam); Kula kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, ±32 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, ponds, and paddy fields

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 6–7



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## **Watercock**

***Gallicrex cinerea* (Gmelin, 1789)**

**Synonyms:** *Fulica cinerea*, *Gallicrex cinerea cinerea*

**Local Names:** Jal murgho (Gujarati); Kora, Kangra (Hindi); Toobka, Kora (Bihar); Kora, Jal morag (West Bengal); Khora sorai (Assam); Utum (Manipur); Tannir kozhi (Tamil); Thepporikkannan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, Male >43 cm,

Female 36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, ponds, and paddy fields

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–6, up to 8



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.

## Purple Swamphen or Purple Moorhen

*Porphyrio porphyrio* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Nil jal murgho, Neel kukadi (Gujarati); Kaim kharim, Kalim, Khima (Hindi); Kaim, Kam pakhi (West Bengal); Wan tech (Kashmir); Korma (Bihar); Kham charai (Assam); Umu (Manipur); Nila bolli kodi (Telugu); Neela kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen, ±43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshy reed beds, flooded paddy fields

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–7



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all marshy areas in groups of 3–6 individuals.

## **Common Moorhen**

***Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Gallinula chloropus* [*chloropus* group]

**Local Names:** Jal kukadi (Gujarati); Jal murghi, Pani murghi (Hindi); Tech (Kashmiri); Bodor (Bihar); Jal murgi, Dakab paira (West Bengal); Jumbo kodi, Bolli kodi (Telugu); Paat uren (Manipur); Kanan koli (Tamil); Patta kozhi (Malayalam); Pan kombdi (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >32 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, marshes, and ponds

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 5–12



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all small and large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Common Coot

*Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758

**Local Names:** Bhagatdu, Aad, Dasadi (Gujarati); Kokdi (Kachchh); Dasari, Aari, Khuskul, Thekari (Hindi); Karandab, Jal kukkut (West Bengal); Kesrar, Serar (Bihar); Bolli kodi (Telugu); Kaam, Poonaar (Marathi); Kolur, Kolru (Kashmir); Nganu porom (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, ±42 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Large jheels, lakes, and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** July to August

**Clutch Size:** 6–10



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all annual and perennial water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## **Great Crested Grebe**

*Podiceps cristatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Chotili moti dubki (Gujarati);  
Shivahans (North-east India)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, 50 cm in length

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes and littoral waters

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat

**Elsewhere:** Baluchistan

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in all small and large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Black-necked Grebe

*Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm, 1831

**Synonyms:** *Colymbus caspicus*, *Colymbus nigricollis*, *Podiceps caspicus*

**Local Name:** Shyam-griva dubki (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, 28–34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and littoral waters

**Breeding Period:** June to October

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly found in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## **Little Grebe or Dabchick**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis* (Pallas, 1764)

**Synonyms:** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*,

*Tachybaptus ruficollis* [ruficollis group]

**Local Names:** Nani dubki (Gujarati); Pandubi, Pantiri, Dubdubi, Churaka (Hindi); Dubdubi, Pandubi, Duburi (West Bengal); Munu gudi kodi (Telugu); Mukkulippan, Tanni pullu (Tamil); Pind (Kashmir)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, ±23 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Water tanks and ponds

**Breeding Period:** April to October

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Commonly recorded in small and large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Great White Pelican or Rosy Pelican

*Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonyms:** *Pelecanus onocrotalus roseus*,  
*Pelecanus roseus*

**Local Names:** Gulabi pen (Gujarati);  
 Havasil (Hindi); Gorapullo (West Bengal);  
 Chinkabatu (Telugu); Deohans (Assamese);  
 Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom  
 (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, >183 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and lagoons

**Breeding Period:** February to April

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution:** **India:** North, West, and Central India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on all water bodies in Banni Grassland in groups of 6–8 individuals.



## Dalmatian Pelican

*Pelecanus crispus* Bruch, 1832

**Local Names:** Chotili pen (Gujarati); Pen (Kachchh); Havaso, Havasil, Lorer (Hindi); Bellua, Birva (Bihar); Ganggoya, Garapolo (West Bengal); Chikabatu (Telugu); Deohans, Bhela (Assam); Uphong (Manipur); Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, 160–180 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Large lakes and rivers

**Breeding Period:** November to April

**Clutch Size:** 3

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 5–8 individuals.



## Spot-billed Pelican

*Pelecanus philippensis* Gmelin, 1789

**Local Names:** Rooperi pen (Gujarati); Pen (Kachchh, Sind); Havaso; Havasil, Lorer (Hindi); Bellua, Birva or Bheerva (Bihar); Ganggoya, Gaganber, Garapolo or Gorapullo (West Bengal); Chikabatu (Telugu); Deohans, Dhera, Bhela (Assam); Uphong (Manipur); Pas boruwa, Pasbara (Sinhala); Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, >152 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Large lakes and rivers

**Breeding Period:** November to April

**Clutch Size:** 3

**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 5–8 individuals.

## **Great Cormorant**

***Phalacrocorax carbo* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*

**Local Names:** Moto kajeyyo (Gujarati); Pankowwa (Hindi); Pani kaori (Assamese); Pankawri (Bengal); Bonta kaki (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >80 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Inland water and tidal lagoons

**Breeding Period:** September to February

**Clutch Size:** 3–5, sometimes 6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Indian Cormorant or Indian Shag

*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* Stephens, 1826

**Synonym:** *Hypoleucus fuscicollis*

**Local Names:** Vachet kajeyyo (Gujarati); Pankowwa, Jograbi, Ganhill (Hindi); Pani kaori (Assamese); Pankawri (Bengali); Neetikaki, Bontakaki (Telugu); Kadal kagam, Neer kagam (Tamil); Diya kawa (Sinhala); Kakataravu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >63 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, rivers, reservoirs, and estuaries

**Breeding Period:** July to February

**Clutch Size:** 3–6

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Not recorded

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 10–15 individuals.



## **Little Cormorant**

***Phalacrocorax niger* (Vieillot, 1817)**

**Synonyms:** *Microcarbo niger*, *Halietor niger*

**Local Names:** Nano kajeyo (Gujarati);  
Pankowwa, Jograbi, Ganhil (Hindi);  
Pankawri (West Bengal); Neetikaki (Telugu);  
Kadal kagam, Neer kagam (Tamil);  
Kakataravu (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Crow, >51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Found on all inland water bodies

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 10–15 individuals.

## Darter or Oriental Darter or Snakebird

*Anhinga melanogaster* Pennant, 1769

**Synonym:** *Anhinga melanogaster melanogaster*

**Local Names:** Sarpgriv (Gujarati); Panva, Pandubi, Banbe (Hindi); Goyer (West Bengal); Pamubatu (Telugu); Pambuttara (Tamil); Maniori, Begiagir (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >90 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

### Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in small and large water bodies and their vicinity.



## **Grey Heron**

***Ardea cinerea Linnaeus, 1758***

**Synonyms:** *Ardea cinerea monicae*, *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

**Local Names:** Kaboot baglo (Gujarati); Nari, Kabud, Anjan, Sain (Hindi); Khyra (Bihar); Sada kank or Kank, Anjan (West Bengal); Brag (Kashmir); Nazayana pachchi (Telugu); Narai, Sambal narai (Tamil); Charamunti (Malayalam); Kudal (Maharashtra)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, >98 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Swamps, estuaries, and rocky offshore habitats

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–6



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies singly or in pairs.



## Purple Heron

*Ardea purpurea* Linnaeus, 1766

**Synonyms:** *Ardea bournei*, *Ardea purpurea purpurea*

**Local Names:** Nadi baglo (Gujarati); Lal anjan (Hindi); Lal kank (Bengali); Lalkol (Assamese); Yerra narayana tella konga (Telugu); Peria vellai kokku (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, >97 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, reedy lakes, and rivers

**Breeding Period:** June to March

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies singly or in twos.

## **Little Heron or Little Green Heron**

***Butorides striatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Ardea striatus*

**Local Names:** Lili bagli (Gujarati); Kancha bagla (Hindi); Kana bak (West Bengal); Kona moochree (Assam); Dosi konga (Telugu); Doshi kokku (Tamil); Chinna kokku (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Inland waters and swamps

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies in groups of 2–4 individuals.



### Indian Pond-Heron

*Ardeola grayii* (Sykes, 1832)

**Local Names:** Kani bagli (Gujarati); Bagla, Andha bagla, Khunch bagla (Hindi); Konch bak (West Bengal); Bogli (Bihar); Kulathu kokku, Madai katan (Tamil); Guddi konga (Telugu); Broku (Kashmir); Kulamuti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, >46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, streams, paddy fields, and ponds

**Breeding Period:** May to September

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in trees and bushes on the periphery of water bodies.

## Cattle Egret

*Bubulcus ibis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Ardea ibis*, *Egretta ibis*, *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

**Local Names:** Dhor baglo (Gujarati); Surkhia bagla, Badami bagla, Doria bagla (Hindi); Gai bak (West Bengal); Samti konga (Telugu); Unni kokku (Tamil); Jobogali (Assam); Gai Bagla (Marathi); San dung il (Manipur); Kalikunti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious in grassland and agriculture

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland, associated with livestock, singly or in groups of 8–10 individuals.

## Large Egret

**Casmerodius albus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Egretta alba*, *Egretta albus*

**Local Names:** Moto baglo (Gujarati); Bada bagla (Hindi); Bada bak (Bengali); Bor bog (Assamese); Pedda pakshi (Telugu); Chennarai (Tamil); Chayamunti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, ±91 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, marshes, and rivers

**Breeding Period:** July to February

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Maldives

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies, in groups of 4–6 individuals.



### **Intermediate Egret or Median Egret**

*Mesophoyx intermedia* (Wagler, 1829)

**Synonyms:** *Ardea intermedia*, *Egretta intermedia*

**Local Names:** Dholo baglo (Gujarati); Karchia bagla (Hindi); Korche bak (West Bengal); Talla konga (Telugu); Vellai kokku (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, >80 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, marshes, estuaries, mangrove swamps

**Breeding Period:** July to February

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in water bodies and muddy, damp places in Banni Grassland.

## Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus, 1766)

**Synonym:** *Ardea garzetta*

**Local Names:** Nano dhor baglo (Gujarati); Kilchia or Karchia bagla (Hindi); Chhota korche bak (West Bengal); Teteri bog (Assamese); Chinna tella konga (Telugu); Chinna vellai kokku (Tamil); Chinnamunti (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, >63 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious in marshes, lakes, rivers, and tidal mudflats

**Breeding Period:** July to August

**Clutch Size:** 4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.





## **Western Reef-Egret or Indian Reef Heron**

***Egretta gularis* (Bosc, 1792)**

**Synonyms:** *Egretta garzetta gularis*, *Egretta gularis gularis*

**Local Names:** Dariyay baglo (Gujarati); Kala bagla (Hindi); Thiramunti (Malayalam); Theerapu konga (Telugu); Karai kokku, Karpu kallavayan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±63 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Rocky seashores, tidal lagoons and mudflats, mangroves, swamps

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Western India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in the vicinity of water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Black-crowned Night-Heron or Night Heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Local Names:** Awaak, Waak (Gujarati); Waak, Kwaak, Tar bagla, Kokrai (Hindi); Bor (Kashmir); Bachka (West Bengal); Chongkhu (Manipur); Raat baggal, Raat kokku, Raj kok (Marathi); Chinta wakha (Telugu); Vakka (Tamil); Toppi kokku (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, >58 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Inland water, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and backwater

**Breeding Period:** April to September

**Clutch Size:** 4–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in perennial and seasonal water bodies of Banni Grassland.



## **Painted Stork**

***Mycteria leucocephala* (Pennant, 1769)**

**Synonyms:** *Ibis leucocephalus*, *Mycteria leucocephalus*

**Local Names:** Pili chanch dhonk (Gujarati); Chitroda (Kachchh); Janghil, Dokh (Hindi); Kankari (Bihar); Jhangil, Ram jhankar, Sona jaingha (West Bengal); Yeru kala konga (Telugu); Chenga narai, Sanguvalai narai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing ±93 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Large marshes

**Breeding Period:** August and January

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Near Threatened

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** Throughout the year

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded on the periphery of water bodies in groups of 6–8 individuals.

## Woolly-necked Stork or White-necked Stork

*Ciconia episcopus* (Boddaert, 1783)

**Synonym:** *Ciconia espicopus*

**Local Names:** Safed dok honk, Kali tul (Gujarati); Manik jor (West Bengal); Laglag (Hindi); Bagula, Kardok, Kandesur, Kowrow (Marathi); Vannathi narai (Tamil); Kanua (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing >106 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Flooded grasslands, irrigated fields, marshes in forest

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal,

Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** A single individual recorded near a water body in Banni Grassland.

## **European White Stork or White Stork**

***Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Uajali dhonk (Gujarati);  
Laglag, Haji laglag, Ujli dhak, Gybar, Bada  
retwa (Hindi); Wadumi konga (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing >106 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, moist grassland

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal,

Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** A single individual recorded in Lakhara wetland in Banni Grassland.

## **Black Stork**

***Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Kali dhonk (Gujarati); Surmal (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing >106 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes and near rivers

**Breeding Period:** April to May

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Nepal east to Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Black-necked Stork**

***Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* (Latham, 1790)**

**Synonyms:** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

*asiaticus*, *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*

**Local Names:** Banaras, Kali dok dhonk (Gujarati); Banaras, Loharjang, Loha sarang (Hindi); Lohar jangh or Loha jangha (West Bengal); Telia hareng (Assam); Periya narai (Tamil); Pedda nulla konga (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, standing >135 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes and large rivers

**Breeding Period:** August and January

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Near Threatened

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in the vicinity of water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Asian Openbill-Stork or Asian Openbill

*Anastomus oscitans* (Boddaert, 1783)

**Local Names:** Fati chanch dhonk (Gujarati); Gunbla, Ghonghila, Ghungil (Hindi); Dokar (Bihar); Thonte bhanga, Shakukh khol (West Bengal); Galu konga (Telugu); Naththai kuththi narai (Tamil); Samuk bhanga (Assamese); Cherakokkan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, >81 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes and marshes

**Breeding Period:** July to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## White Ibis or Black-headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis

*Threskiornis melanocephalus* (Latham, 1790)

**Synonym:** *Threskiornis melanocephala*

**Local Names:** Safed kankansar (Gujarati); Munda, Safed baza, Didhar (Hindi); Kachator, Mundukh (Bihar); Kastechara, Sada dochara (West Bengal); Boga koki bog (Assam); Thalaikaththi (Tamil); Kashanti kokku (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±75 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Rivers, marshes, and inundated land

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Black Ibis or Red-naped Ibis

*Pseudibis papillosa* (Temminck, 1824)

**Synonym:** *Pseudibis papillosa papillosa*

**Local Names:** Kali kankansar (Gujarati); Baza, Kala baza, Karan kul (Hindi); Kalo dochara (West Bengal); Kala akohi bog (Assam); Nella kankanam (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±68 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** River banks, stubble fields, and jheel margins

**Breeding Period:** March to October

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution:** India: Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in water bodies, muddy and grassy areas of Banni Grassland.

## Glossy Ibis

**Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus, 1766)**

**Synonyms:** *Plegadis autumnalis*, *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*

**Local Names:** Pan-nani kankansar (Gujarati); Chhota bujja (Hindi); Kachia tora (Bengali); That kankanam (Telugu); Karuppukottan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Heron, ±52 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes and river banks

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in water bodies in groups of 2–3 individuals.



## Eurasian Spoonbill

*Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758

**Local Names:** Chamcha (Gujarati); Chamach baza, Chamcha, Dabil (Hindi); Chinta, Khunte bak (West Bengal); Khantiya bog (Assam); Gent muku konga (Telugu); Karandi much narai, Chappai chundan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, standing >60 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Carnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes and rivers

**Breeding Period:** July to November

**Clutch Size:** 4

**Distribution:** India: Throughout the year

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.

## **Greater Flamingo or American Flamingo**

***Phoenicopterus ruber* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Phoenicopterus roseus*,

*Phoenicopterus ruber antiquorum*

**Local Names:** Moto hanj (Gujarati); Hanj pakkhi (Kachchh); Bog hans, Raj hans (Hindi); Kanmunthi, Kanthuti (West Bengal); Charaj baggo (Bihar); Pu konga, Samudrapu chiluka (Telugu); Pun narai, Urian (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Vulture, >140 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Brackish lakes and lagoons, sea coast, estuaries, mudflats

**Breeding Period:** September to October, February to April

**Clutch Size:** 1–2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in some saline water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Lesser Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus minor* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1798

**Synonym:** *Phoeniconaias minor*

**Local Names:** Nano hanj (Gujarati); Chhotra rajhans (Hindi)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, 90–105 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Feeds on aquatic plants and insects

**Habitat:** Gregarious in highly saturated brine areas

**Breeding Period:** June to July

**Clutch Size:** 1–2

**Distribution: India:** Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa

**Elsewhere:** Sub-Saharan country, and from Arabian Peninsula to Pakistan

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** A breeding population recorded in Banni Grassland in Kachchh.



### **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**

*Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scopoli, 1786)

**Local Names:** Katthaei lal manjar (Gujarati); Pihoo, Pihuya (Hindi); Gund kav, Gair kov (Kashmir); Surdal, Sakdal, Dal kukra, Jal mayor, Jal kokra, Chitra billai (West Bengal, Bihar); Lobo dak (Santhali); Miwa, Manal pura (Tamil); Tamara kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, ±31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Northern and Western India

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Fairly Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.

## Bronze-winged Jacana

*Metopidius indicus* (Latham, 1790)

**Local Names:** Kalo jal manjar (Gujarati); Jal pipi (Hindi); Dal pipi, Jal pipi, Karatiya (West Bengal); Pipi, Kundai (Bihar); Thamnachenbi (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, Male ±28 cm, Female 31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## **Greater Painted-Snipe or Painted Snipe**

***Rostratula benghalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Rhynchaea capensis capensis*,  
*Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis*

**Local Names:** Sali poonchh garkhod,  
Garkhod (Gujarati); Chaha (Hindi); Chegga,  
Kadakhocha (West Bengal); Khocha sordid,  
Chaha sorai, Chergya (Assam); Cheklaobi  
(Manipur); Mor ullan, Ullan kuruvi, Korra  
kuthi (Tamil); Muku puredi (Telugu);  
Chuntan kata (Malayalam); Pan lawa  
(Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, >25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Reedy marshes and pools

**Breeding Period:** Round the year

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,  
Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all the water bodies  
surveyed in Banni Grassland.

## Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Himantopus ceylonensis*,

*Himantopus himantopus himantopus*

**Local Names:** Gajpauv (Gujarati); Gazpaon, Tinghur (Hindi); Sargain or Sargyne (Bihar); Lal gon, Lal thengi, Lam gora (West Bengal); Pavilla kal ullan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, <25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 10–15 in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.



## Pied Avocet or Avocet

***Recurvirostra avosetta* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Local Names:** Ulti-chanch (Gujarati); Kusya chaha (Hindi); Kooni arichchan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, lagoons, and mudflats, inland and seashore

**Breeding Period:** April

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Breeds in Great Rann of Kachchh.

## Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Numenius hudsonicus*, *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

**Local Names:** Nani khalili (Gujarati); Chhota ghongh, Chhota gulinda (Hindi, West Bengal); Chhota guinyar (Bihar); Tetti kokku (Malayalam); Kuthirai malai kottan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen, ±43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Asia, Europe, North America

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in groups of 5–6 individuals.



## Eurasian Curlew

***Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Numenius arquatus*

**Local Names:** Vilayti khalili, Khalili (Gujarati); Goar, Goonch, Bada gulinda (Hindi); Choppa, Sada kastachura (West Bengal); Guinyar (Bihar); Kuthirai malai kottan (Tamil); Valkokku (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen, ±58 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–5

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Near Threatened

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in most of the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Black-tailed Godwit**

***Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Kali poonchh gadero (Gujarati); Gudera, Gairiya, Jangral (Hindi); Malgujha (Bihar); Jaurali (Bengal); Tondu ulanka (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen, Male ±41 cm,

Female ±50 cm

**Habitat:** Marshes

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.



## **Bar-tailed Godwit**

***Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Limosa laponica*

**Local Names:** Patta poonchh gadero (Gujarati); Gudera, Gairiya, Khag (Hindi); Malgujha (Bihar); Jaurali (Bengal); Tondu ulanka (Telugu)

**Shape & Size:** Hen, Male ±36 cm,

Female ±41 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Western parts and islands

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 7–8 in most of the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Spotted Redshank or Dusky Redshank

*Tringa erythropus* (Pallas, 1764)

**Synonyms:** *Totanus erythropus*, *Tringa fuscus*

**Local Names:** Kali tutvari (Gujarati); Batan, Gatni, Surma (Hindi); Yerra kal ulanka (Tamil); Ngahoibi (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, ±33 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, reservoirs, estuaries

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Common Redshank**

***Tringa totanus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonym:** *Totanus totanus*

**Local Names:** Rata pag tutvari (Gujarati); Chhota batan (Hindi); Mali kottan, Segappu kal ullan (Tamil); Ngahoibi (Manipur)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, <28 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, margins of lakes, river banks, and estuaries

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Marsh Sandpiper

*Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein, 1803)

**Synonyms:** *Totanus stagnatilis*, *Tringa stagnatalis*

**Local Names:** Ganda pag tutvari (Gujarati); Chhota gotra (Hindi); Biler balubatan (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, <25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, margins of ponds, inundated fields, and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.

## **Common Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus, 1767)

**Synonyms:** *Glottis nebularia*, *Totanus nebularia*, *Totanus nebularius*

**Local Names:** Moti lilapag tutvari (Gujarati); Tantana, Timtima (Hindi); Gotra (Bengal); Peria kottan (Tamil); Pachakkali (Malayalam); Timbla (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >36 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, margins of ponds, lagoons, and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Green Sandpiper

*Tringa ochropus* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonyms:** *Helodromas ochrophus*, *Helodromas ochropus*, *Totanus ochropus*, *Tringa ochrophus*, *Tringa ochropus*

**Local Name:** Lili tutvari (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >34 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, margins of ponds, lagoons, and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola* Linnaeus, 1758

**Synonym:** *Rhyacophilus glareola*

**Local Names:** Van tutvari (Gujarati); Chupka, Chobaha, Titvari (Hindi); Balu batan (Bengal); Chinna ulanka (Telugu); Kata kokku (Malayalam); Vaya ullan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes, flooded paddy fields, mudflats

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Terek Sandpiper

*Xenus cinereus* (Guldenstadt, 1775)

**Synonyms:** *Tringa cinerea*, *Tringa cinereus*,  
*Tringa terek*, *Xenus cinerea*

**Local Name:** Dariyaei tutvari (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, >24 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore, mudflats, and lagoons

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 3–5



**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Normally found in the vicinity of water bodies and mudflats in Banni Grassland.

## **Common Sandpiper**

***Actitis hypoleucos* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonym:** *Tringa hypoleucos*

**Local Names:** Samanya tutvari (Gujarati); Polte ulanka (Telugu); Kottan (Tamil); Neerkata (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Gravel bars in rivers, reservoirs, lagoons, and seashore

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in the vicinity of water bodies in Banni Grassland.



## Common Snipe or Fantail Snipe

**Gallinago gallinago** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Capella gallinago*, *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

**Local Names:** Pankh poonchh garkhod, Garkhod (Gujarati); Chaha (Hindi); Chegga, Kadakhocha (Bengal); Khocha sorai, Chaha sorai, Chergya (Assam); Cheklaobi (Manipur); Mor ullan, Ullan kuruvi, Korra kuthi (Tamil); Muku puredi (Telugu); Chuntan kata (Malayalam); Pal lawa (Marathi)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, >27 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Jack Snipe**

*Lymnocryptes minimus* (Brünnich, 1764)

**Synonyms:** *Gallinago minima*, *Lymnocryptes gallinula*, *Lymnocryptes minima*

**Local Names:** Nani pankh poonchh garkhod (Gujarati); Chhota chaha (Hindi); Ullan (Tamil); Do ligin (Bihar)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±21 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Marshes

**Breeding Period:** May to July

**Clutch Size:** 4–5



**Distribution: India:** Andamans

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 4–6 individuals in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.



## Little Stint

*Calidris minuta* (Leisler, 1812)

**Synonyms:** *Ereunetes minutus*, *Erolia minuta*

**Local Names:** Nano kichadiyo (Gujarati); Chhota panlowwa (Hindi); Runni (Bihar); Kosu ullan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, <15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Shores, mudflats, and marshes

**Breeding Period:** June to July

**Clutch Size:** 4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the year

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 5–10 individuals in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Temminck's Stint**

***Calidris temminckii* (Leisler, 1812)**

**Synonyms:** *Ereunetes temminckii*, *Erolia temminckii*

**Local Names:** Uajla pag kichadiyo (Gujarati); Chhota panlowwa (Hindi); Runni (Bihar); Kosu ullan (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** Sparrow, ±15 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Coastal lagoons, tidal mudflats, and inland marshes

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Andamans

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Sri Lanka, and coastal areas

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Dunlin

*Calidris alpina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Ereunetes alpina*, *Erolia alpina*,  
*Pelidna alpina*, *Tringa alpina*

**Local Name:** Kalo pet kichadiyo (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±19 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Seashore, mudflats, and river banks

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution:** India: North-west and  
peninsular India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Maldives

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 10–15  
individuals in all water bodies of Banni  
Grassland.



## **Curlew Sandpiper**

***Calidris ferruginea* (Pontoppidan, 1763)**

**Synonyms:** *Calidris subarquata*, *Calidris testacea*, *Ereunetes ferrugineus*, *Erolia ferruginea*, *Erolia testacea*, *Tringa ferruginea*

**Local Name:** Vanki chanch kichadiyo  
(Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±20 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Feeds on aquatic invertebrates

**Habitat:** Seashore, mudflats, and marshes

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 3–4

**Distribution: India:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Maldives

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

## Ruff or Reeve

*Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Synonyms:** *Machetes pugnax*, *Pavoncella pugnax*

**Local Names:** Tiliyo (Gujarati); Gehwala, Bagbad (Hindi); Geowala (Bengal)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, Male ±31 cm,

Female >25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Mudflats, marshes, and wet paddy stubble

**Breeding Period:** March to July

**Clutch Size:** 4

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 4–6 individuals in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.



## **Eurasian Thick-knee or Stone Curlew**

***Burhinus oedicnemus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Local Names:** Nano chadvo (Gujarati); Karvanak, Barsiri (Hindi); Kharma, Chhota shilabatan (Bengal); Kolleydu (Telugu); Kannadi al katti (Tamil); Vayalkannan (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Partridge, >41 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Stony semi-desert

**Breeding Period:** February to August

**Clutch Size:** 2



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 2–3 individuals in and around water bodies.



## Great Thick-knee or Great Stone Plover

*Esacus recurvirostris* (Cuvier, 1829)

**Synonym:** *Burhinus recurvirostris*

**Local Names:** Moto chadvo (Gujarati); Bada karwanak (Hindi); Bada shilabatan (Bengal); Baligura (Assam)

**Shape & Size:** Village hen, ±51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Rocky river beds and sea coasts

**Breeding Period:** February to July

**Clutch Size:** 2–3

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 2–3 individuals in and around water bodies.

## **Grey Plover**

***Pluvialis squatarola* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Synonyms:** *Charadrius squatarola*, *Pluvialis squatarola squaratola*, *Squatarola squatarola*

**Local Names:** Batan titodi (Gujarati); Bada batan (Hindi, Bengali)

**Shape & Size:** Francolin, ±31 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Gregarious on sandy seashores, tidal creeks, and mudflats, less commonly inland

**Breeding Period:** April to July

**Clutch Size:** 3–4



**Distribution: India:** Coast of peninsular India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 5–10 individuals in and around water bodies.

## Common Ringed Plover

***Charadrius hiaticula* Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Aegialitis hiaticula*, *Charadrius hiaticulus*

**Local Name:** Samany zini titodi (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, 35–41 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Stony or sandy plains near lakes, bogs, and streams

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Northern Canada, Europe, South Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in groups of 6–10 individuals in and around all water bodies.

## **Little Ringed Plover**

***Charadrius dubius* Scopoli, 1786**

**Synonym:** *Aegialitis dubia*

**Local Names:** Vilayti zini titodi (Gujarati); Zierrea, Merwa (Hindi); Jiria (Bengal); Kola katij (Kashmiri); Bytu ulanka, Rewa (Telugu); Sinna kottan (Tamil); Motira kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, <17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Shingle beds in rivers, seashore and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** March to May

**Clutch Size:** 4



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around most of the water bodies in Banni Grassland.

## Kentish Plover

**Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus, 1758**

**Synonyms:** *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus*

**Local Names:** Bhulamani dhongili (Gujarati); Sinna kottan (Tamil); Manal kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, <17 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Sandy shores

**Breeding Period:** March to August

**Clutch Size:** 2–4



**Distribution: India:** East and west coast, Nicobars, Southern India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## **Lesser Sand Plover**

***Charadrius mongolus* Pallas, 1776**

**Synonyms:** *Aegialitis mongola*, *Charadrius monachus*, *Charadrius mongolus mongolus*

**Local Names:** Nani dhongili (Gujarati); Kottan (Tamil); Manal kozhi (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Quail, ±19 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Habitat:** Stony or sandy plains near lakes, bogs, and streams

**Breeding Period:** June to July

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** East and west coast, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around water bodies and mudflats in Banni Grassland.



## Black-headed Gull

**Larus ridibundus Linnaeus, 1766**

**Synonyms:** *Chroicocephala ridibundus*,  
*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, *Larus ridibundus ridibundus*

**Local Name:** Kala mathano dhomado  
 (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, ±43 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Sea coast and estuaries

**Breeding Period:** March to June

**Clutch Size:** 4–7

**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal,  
 Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Pallas's Gull or Great Black-headed Gull

*Larus ichthyaetus* Pallas, 1773

**Synonyms:** *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ichtyaetus*

**Local Names:** Moto kala mathano dhomado (Gujarati); Dhomra (Hindi); Kheir (Bihar)

**Shape & Size:** Duck, 66–72 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Sea coast, large rivers and lakes

**Breeding Period:** May to August

**Clutch Size:** 5–8



**Distribution: India:** Kachchh, Rajasthan

**Elsewhere:** Sri Lanka, Nepal

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all water bodies.

## Brown-headed Gull or Tibetan Gull

*Larus brunnicephalus* Jerdon, 1840

**Synonyms:** *Chroicocephala brunnicephalus*,

*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

**Local Names:** Ladakhi dhomado (Gujarati); Dhomra (Hindi); Kadpalatta (Malayalam); Kadal kakkai (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, >45 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Sea coast, lagoons, backwaters, estuaries, and large rivers

**Breeding Period:** June to July

**Clutch Size:** 6–8



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## **Slender-billed Gull**

**Larus geneii (Brème, 1839)**

**Synonyms:** *Chroicocephalus genei*,

*Chroicocephala genei*, *Larus galastes*

**Local Name:** Gulabi dhomado (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, >46 cm

**Habitat:** Sea coast, lagoons, backwaters, estuaries, and large rivers

**Feeding Habit:** Omnivorous

**Breeding Period:** June to August

**Clutch Size:** 5–8



**Distribution:** **India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** North Africa

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare.

## Whiskered Tern

*Chlidonias hybridus* (Pallas, 1811)

**Synonyms:** *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias leucopareai*, *Sterna hybrida*

**Local Names:** Kashmiri vabagli (Gujarati); Tehari, Ganga cheel, Machh louka, Kurari (Hindi); Krind, Kreu (Kashmir); Kadal kuruvi (Tamil); Ramadasu, Samudrapu kaki (Telugu); Kadalkakka (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** Pigeon, <25 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Lakes, marshes, coastal lagoons, and mudflats

**Breeding Period:** June to September

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** India: Kashmir, Assam

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, East Nepal, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.



## Gull-billed Tern

***Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, 1789)**

**Synonyms:** *Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*,

*Sterna angelica*, *Sterna nilotica*

**Local Names:** Dhomada – male, Dhomadi – female (Gujarati); Tehari, Ganga cheel, Machh louka, Kurari (Hindi); Krind, Kreu (Kashmir); Kadal kuruvi (Tamil); Ramadasu, Samudrapu kaki (Telugu); Kadalkakka (Malayalam)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, <38 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Jheels, rivers, and coastal mudflats

**Breeding Period:** April to June

**Clutch Size:** 2–3

**Distribution: India:** Andamans, West Bengal

**Elsewhere:** Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

Bangladesh

**Conservation Status:**

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**IWPA:** Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Rare

**Remarks:** Recorded in a group of 2–3 individuals in Lakhara wetland of Banni Grassland.

## Caspian Tern

*Sterna caspia* Pallas, 1770

**Synonyms:** *Hydroprogne tschegrava*,  
*Hydroprogne caspia*, *Sterna caspica*, *Sterna tschegrava*

**Local Names:** Dariyaei dhomadi (Gujarati);  
 Periya kadal kurivi (Tamil)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, >51 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Sea coast and large lakes

**Breeding Period:** May to June

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** India: Sea coast and large lakes

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident Migrant

**Period in Banni:** November to February

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## River Tern or Indian River Tern

*Sterna aurantia* Gray, 1831

**Local Names:** Kenchi poonchh vabagli  
(Gujarati); Kinai (Sindh)

**Shape & Size:** House Crow, ±38–46 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Large rivers and reservoirs

**Breeding Period:** March to May

**Clutch Size:** 3



**Distribution: India:** Throughout the country

**Elsewhere:** Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

## Little Tern

*Sterna albifrons* Pallas, 1764

Synonym: *Sternula albifrons*

Local Name: Nani vabagli (Gujarati)

**Shape & Size:** Myna, ±23 cm

**Feeding Habit:** Piscivorous

**Habitat:** Rivers, marshes, and estuaries

**Breeding Period:** May and June

**Clutch Size:** 2–3



**Distribution:** India: Gujarat, coast of Maharashtra, North India

**Elsewhere:** Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**Conservation Status:**

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

**Migratory Status:** Resident

**Status in Banni Grassland:** Common

**Remarks:** Recorded in and around all water bodies.



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## **Birds of Banni Grassland**

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The Ravi Sankaran Foundation supports conservation research through its Fellowship Programme for young conservationists. The Foundation was set up in the memory of

Dr. Ravi Sankaran (Oct 4, 1963 – Jan 17, 2009), an ornithologist who dedicated his life to biodiversity conservation throughout India, as a researcher, teacher, mentor, and finally, Director of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History.

Ravi gained recognition for his pioneering research on the endangered Lesser Florican in western India in the 1980s, as a graduate student at the Bombay Natural History Society. His research provided the basic framework for conservation of this endangered species, and of other species and habitats he studied subsequently. He was a tremendous source of inspiration to colleagues and students, and a prominent figure in the field of wildlife conservation in India.

Ravi's work on the Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet on the Andaman & Nicobar islands provided crucial insights for the conservation of this species, and he was deeply involved in developing community-based conservation efforts including ranching/sustainable harvesting of these birds' nests. This approach is radically different from the dominant preservationist approach in India, and illustrates Ravi's distinct and balanced perspective on conservation.



**Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) was** established in May 1995 and registered as public trust and society with a mission to catalyse the process of ameliorating hardships to human beings in desert ecosystems of Gujarat, following sound ecological principles and carefully using scientific knowledge, imaginative technology and capital.

GUIDE's mandate is to focus on desert arid and semi-arid ecosystems of Gujarat, with special emphasis on Kachchh; develop benchmark database for ecosystems of Kachchh and thereafter undertake continuous monitoring and trend-analysis through specific research activities; identify problem areas and evolve appropriate solutions and management strategies through basic and applied research; formulate and implement relevant projects that would provide models for emulation; and disseminate ecological information and communicate action plans to suit local conditions, through extension and other programmes.





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