

# First Breeding Records of Cattle Egret, Little Cormorant and Black Crowned Night Heron from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; A Western Part of Thar Desert of India

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## Abstract

The aim of our study was to localized, described and the occurrence of the Cattle Egret, Little Cormorant and Black Crowned Night Heron. Our results show that Cattle Egret, Little Cormorant and Black Crowned Night Heron show in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; a western part of Thar Desert of India during the bird watching activity. These were seen in the monsoon season. During the breeding they were clearly localized and identified. We found very abundant information about their breeding site, and breeding grounds.

**Keywords:** Thar desert, Monsoon season, Breeding site.

## INTRODUCTION:

Thar Desert is called the Great Indian Desert. It is an arid region in the north-western parts of the Indian subcontinent and it covers an area of 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> (77,000 sq mi) in India and Pakistan. It is the world's 18th-largest desert, and the world's 9th-largest hot subtropical desert it located 85% in India, and about 15% is in Pakistan (Sinha et al. 1996). The Thar Desert is about 4.56% of the total geographical area of India. More than 60% of the desert lies in the Indian state of Rajasthan. Jaisalmer is a part of Rajasthan is located in the heart of the Thar desert. This area falls in the extreme hot, arid region of very low rainfall zone of the Rajasthan. Cattle Egret, Little Cormorant and Black Crowned Night Heron are a long established regular member of Indian avifauna. they show endemism in India. Different workers reported the breeding site of these birds from different state of India. Breeding site of little cormorant recorded in Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam by Lahkar (1999). Ramakrishna (1990) reported breeding site of little cormorant in Ethirapattu, Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. Rangunatha (1993) also found out the breeding site of little cormorant in Vettangudi Patti Ramanathapuram district in Tamilnadu beside of these worker Nagulu and Rao (1983), Naik *et al.* (1991), Tiwari (1993), Sharatchandra (1990), and Santharam & Menon (1991) are also reported the breeding sites of little cormorant from different parts of India.

Breeding sites of night heron is reported by Neginhal (1983) in Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary of Karnataka state. Naik *et al.* (1991) recorded the night heron's breeding site in Southern Gulf of Kutch of Gujrat. Subramanya (1996) also found out the breeding site of night heron from Bhitarkannika Wildlife Sanctuary, Cuttack, Orissa. Other workers like Ali (1943), Naik & Parasharya, (1988) and Rangunatha (1993) also reported breeding site of night heron from different location of India. Breeding site of Cattle Egret was reported from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, India by Hilaluddin et al. 2003. Cattle Egret, Little Cormorant and Black Crowned Night Heron are also reported the different regions of India but they do not reported in western Rajasthan of Thar Desert.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD:**

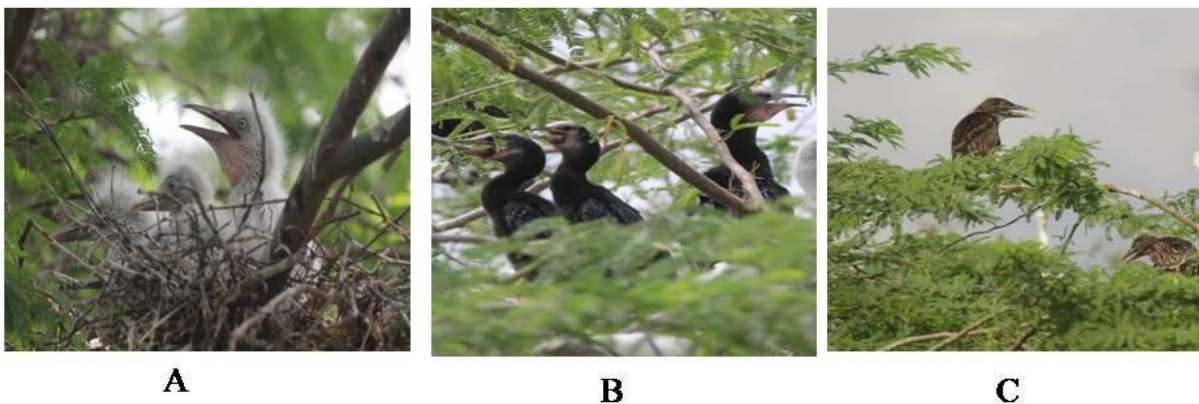
Extensive survey was done and data recorded with high resolution camera Canon 600d DSLR with canon 250 mm lens Tamron 600 mm lens.

**RESULT**

Our results shown that Cattle Egret (*Babulcus ibis*), Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) and Black Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) reported from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; A Western Part of Thar Desert of India during the Bird Watching Activity The nest were found on *Acacia nilotica* and *Prosopis cineraria* and location detected as Lat 26.904297°, Long 70.918055° (Gadisar Lake) Jaisalmer district on September 15, 2023.

**IDENTIFICATION:**

Species identification of the breeding birds was done by using the field guide (Grimmett & Inskipp, 2003) and identification was confirmed by Professor S. S. Meena Head department of Zoology, S.B.K. Government P.G. College, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India.



**Fig. 1. First Breeding Records of Cattle Egret (A), Little Cormorant(B) and Black Crowned Night Heron (C) from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**

**CONCLUSION:**

Jaisalmer is very famous for tourism and different types of cultures practices. Most of the region of this district is found in thar desert. In winter is here is very low temperature as because of sandy area and monsoon is very fluctuating some time very high rainfall and some time very low rain fall. This desert is known for the various type rich flora and fauna. During the monsoon many terrestrial birds are choose these sites because of favorable condition for feeding, shelter and reproduction.

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