

Avian fauna sighting

Thirty five species of coastal birds were identified and photographed from 10 surveys conducted in the coastal regions of Ullal, Someshwara, Mangalore Bunder, Bengre, Kudroli, Hegemadikodi, Mulki, Kaup, Uppunda, and Murudeshwar. This included the groups of Egrets, Herons, Cormorants, Kites, Shanks, Sandpipers, Lapwings and Plovers. Among seabirds, the major birds observed were the gulls, brown head *Larus brunnicephalus* and black headed *Larus ridibundus* followed by the terns. Oceanic birds Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* 4 no's were observed off Mangalore coast on 8.11.12. At Uppunda, the fishermen had caught a vagrant Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebowii*. The bird belongs

to the Order Pelecaniformes and Family Sulidae. This has not been reported from the coast of Karnataka. The natural breeding habitat of the Blue-footed Booby is tropical and subtropical islands off the Pacific Ocean especially found in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

where they are a protected species. The IUCN status of the bird is least concern. Sardine is the main food for the bird and recent studies in Galapagos Islands suggest that, there is a shortage of food for the birds hence the birds are failing to breed.

(Reported by Mangalore RC.)



Little cormorant *Microcarboniger*, Large Egret *Casmerodius albus*, Western reef Egret *Egretta tagularis*, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* and Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* observed at Bunder 21.11.12.