

# JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

## Demoiselle crane (*Grus virgo* Linnaeus, 1758) on the sand of Mahanadi at Naraj, Cuttack, Odisha

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### ARTICLE INFO

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#### Article History

Received: 18 May 2017

Received in revised form: 25 May 2017

Accepted: 10 July 2017

*Keywords:* Demoiselle crane, Naraj, First sighting

A Demoiselle crane (Figure 1) was photographed on 1st November 2016 near the Naraj barrage, Cuttack Odisha being chased away by a white-bellied sea eagle. The sighting adds a new region on its distributional areas. DC is the smallest and second most abundant crane species. It is 3 feet tall, weight 4-7 pounds, pale bluish gray in plumage. A light gray feathered area extends from the base of the bill to the nape. DC gathers in large flocks whilst on migration. When they reach their breeding grounds, they gradually become territorial, with each pair nesting on their own. The bond between two individuals is strengthening by duets and ballet dance (Ali 1993; Birasal 2014).

### REFERENCES

Ali, S. (1993). *The Book of Indian Birds*. Bombay: Bombay Natural History Society.

Birasal, N.R. (2014). Pied Avocet and Demoiselle Cranes: First Report for Heggeri Lake in Haveri District. *Journal of Biodiversity, Bioprospecting and Development*. 1(1): e102.



Figure 1: Demoiselle crane at Naraj, Cuttack