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## Morphology and taxonomic study of black-winged stilt from district Larkana

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the morphology and taxonomy of Black-winged stilt found in district Larkana. Total 18 specimens of *Himantopus himantopus* were captured. The black-winged stilt or common stilt commonly called as teeto (in Sindh). The generic name himantopus comes from the Greek meanings strap-foot. It is very long-legged wader belongs to family (Recurvirostridae). *Himantopus himantopus* is widespread and occurs across Asia, Africa, Europe and the United States. The global population is estimated to number c.450, 000-780,000 individuals (Wetlands International 2015). The classification of this species is still slightly combative. Nearly some describe as many for instance five distinct species; others consider some or all of these to be subspecies. In addition, two unconvinced subspecies are also occasionally listed, but not as independent species. In the most wide-ranging constraint, with one species and 5–7 subspecies, this bird is often called Common Stilt.

**Keywords:** Morphology and taxonomy, measurements photos graphs

### Introduction

The black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) is a widely distributed very long-legged wader in the avocet and stilt family Recurvirostridae. It has distinctive legs made up around 60% of its overall weight.

The black-winged stilt body comprises of thin long pink-colored legs, they have long, black thin bill have black upper wings and white below. The head almost white but having some black bristles on the head. Their males have a black back also with greenish gloss while the females backs have a brown hue. The juveniles are grey instead of black and somewhat sandy have on the wings. Species contains white head plumes during winter females remain less black on head and neck all year around, but their males have much black head and neck especially in summer while their head remained white in winter. The total number of collected black-wing stilts were 18 specimens. (Boyd, Bill (1987) [2].

It is now widely accepted that the scientific name *H. himantopus* which was formerly applied to a single almost multinational species and is now normally applied to the widespread form from Eurasia and Africa which was formerly regarded as the nominate subspecies of *Himantopus himantopus sensu lato*. The scientific name *Himantopus* comes from the Greek meaning "strap foot" or "thong foot". Most sources today accept 2–4 species. The taxonomy of this bird is still somewhat contentious. It is one of five distinct species, which were previously considered subspecies of *H. himantopus*. *H. himantopus sensu lato*, is made up of one species and 5–7 subspecies, and was sometimes referred to as common stilt. The name black-winged stilt refers to *H. himantopus sensu stricto*, with two subspecies *H.h. Himantopus* from the Palearctic and *H. h. meridionalis* from the Afrotropical region. The family Recurvirostridae comprises four genera, two of which are represented in Europe, by the Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta and the Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. Five subspecies of the latter are recognized, of which the nominate race occurs in the Palearctic and also breeds in Africa, India and Malaya. Black-winged Stilts have bred once in Britain: two pairs raised three young in Nottinghamshire in 1945. Benson (1950) observed copulation by a pair during a stilt invasion in Suffolk and Devon, and one overwintered in Lincolnshire in 1968/69. Given its elegance of structure and plumage, vigorous nesting territoriality, and ease of observation, the lack of detailed accounts of stilt behavior is surprising. Hamilton (1975) published a comparative study of the American Avocet R. Americana and the Nearctic race of the Black-winged Stilt known as the 'Black-necked Stilt' *H. h. mexicanus* in California, but no such information is readily available for Europe provide the most recent review of the European

literature). The present study was undertaken during the period 5th May to 22nd June 1979, in Portugal.

### Material and Methods

Equipments: Foot scale, Compass, Thread, Net, Weight machine, Glass jar, Cotton. Chloroform.

From five selected sites and Indus River Bank 18 specimens of black-winged stilts were collected by trapping nests were used and occasionally air gun was used. Binoculars and telescopes were used proper photography. The crates were raised at statures of roughly 2-4 meters and nets spaces is 2 to 3 inches for trapping birds and each nests were investigated at around three-day interims from the earliest starting point of January through to mid-October during 2016, and 2017. During 2017, the inner city area was the main region studied amongst January and October.

After these method they bought in laboratory to proper identification of morphological characters oh particular species as well as their taxonomic study and after these getting proper results about morphology and taxonomy of black winged stilt species.

### Results

All species of this family is presented with almost same morphological characters but change of color is present in their feathers tails feathers and some are changes are present in their size like body weight, length of body Hindlimbs, Forelimbs length.

S. No	Body Parameters	Values
1.	Body Length	230 mm
2.	Beak Length	67 mm
3.	Fore Limbs Length	280 mm
4.	Hind Limb Length	275 mm
5.	Tail Length	70 mm
	Body Weight	148 mm

### Taxonomic Study

Scientific Classification

kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata
class	Aves
Order	Charadriiformes
Family	Recurvirostridae
Genus	<i>Himantopus</i>
Species	<i>H. himantopus</i>

### Discussion

Larkana is one of the favorite districts in Sindh, which is home-grown to thousands of different species of birds. Wading birds are more conspicuously sighted birds in study area. Multiple diverse species which are varying in several different ways from one species to another are also found in Larkana. During study total 18 (10 females and 8 males) specimens of Black-winged stilts were captured in the months February 2017 to October 2017. After collection the samples were sorted out into males and females. Most of the females were captured from river banks and ponds. It initiative step toward the exploring Black-winged stilts from district Larkana.

The morphological study of 10 females and 8 males were examined in the Vertebrate Laboratory, Zoology department. This study first reported from the district Larkana. It provides

basic information about their morphology, taxonomy, identification key and their distribution from survey areas..

Black winged stilt is another wader that is also found in marshes, shallow lakes, and ponds. They have very long legs and an extremely large beak. This species is commonly called teeto. The black-winged stilt body comprises of thin long pink -colored legs, they have long, black thin bill have black upper wings and white below. The head almost white but having some black bristles on the head. Their males have a black back also with greenish gloss while the females backs have a brown hue. The juveniles are grey instead of black and somewhat sandy have on the wings. Species contains white head plumes during winter.. Those species that are residing in northern region may migrate over long distances to reach Southern wintering regions.

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