

## A Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* at Bahu Kalat, Sistan & Baluchestan Province - a new species for Iran

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In the middle of October 2013, I made a short trip to Bahu Kalat Protected Area, near the Pakistan border in southeastern Iran. It was at about 16:00 in the afternoon on a sunny day. A motorbike rider helped me to reach the area. As usual I was surveying insects and reptiles. Suddenly I noticed a large bird sitting in a tall mangrove tree, and I was able to take some photos at a distance of about 50 m (Fig. 1). I could take just three shots before the bird flew off. However, after staying for about two hours, the motorbike rider recommended that we left the area because of security problems.

The photograph was posted on Facebook several years ago and then in July 2019 it was posted on Instagram. On 5 April 2020, Sh. Zirakjou noticed the photo and identified the bird as a Brahminy Kite, a species that had not hitherto been recorded in Iran. E. Talebi agreed with the identification, and urged the author to



Fig. 1. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*, Bahu Kalat, mid-October 2013, A.H. Aghaei.

submit the record to A. Khaleghizadeh at the Iran Bird Records Committee (IBRC). Khaleghizadeh confirmed that this species had never been reported before in Iran (Zarudny 1911, Khaleghizadeh *et al.* 2017).

This record has been evaluated and accepted by the IBRC as the first record of the Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* in Iran (IBRC 2020).

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### References

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