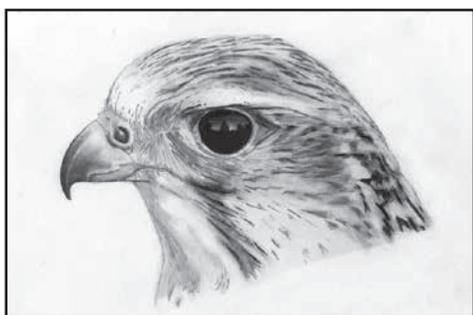


## ABSTRACTS



### **Vocal mimicry by Sykes's Lark: Jack of all calls and master of few – vocal mimicry by Sykes's Lark by Taylor Crisologo *et al.* *Avian Biology Research* 10 (3): 174-180**

The authors carried out a study on vocal mimicry by Sykes's Lark (*Galerida deva*), referred to as Tawny Lark in the paper. Flight calls of Sykes's Lark, wherein mimicry was noted, were recorded near Amreli (Gujarat) by Viral Joshi (the second author). A total of 16 recordings were collected, and it was observed that it mimicked 34 species; the most commonly mimicked species were Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix griseus*) and Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*). Sykes's Lark mimics both passerine and non-passerine, and migratory and resident, species. It is speculated that the ability to mimic more species may be related to sexual selection and male fitness could be attributed to mimetic accuracy and repertoire; mimicry may also provide hints to the avian biodiversity of the area.



### **Saker Falcon in Gujarat: Records of Saker Falcon from Gujarat by Devvratsinh Mori & Yogendra Shah. *Indian BIRDS* 13 (6): 158-159**

The authors collected records of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) from Gujarat in the last few years. The species is now listed as 'Endangered' and so the records are important. The authors attempt to provide an understanding of its current status in Gujarat. Records of the Saker Falcon from Gujarat are now only from the Greater-, and Little Rann of Kachchh. The authors conclude that the Saker Falcon is now a rare winter visitor to Gujarat and limited to these two areas, with only a few sightings each year.



### **Short-tailed Shearwater in Gujarat: Spring records of Short-tailed Shearwater from Gujarat by Trupti Shah *et al.* *Indian BIRDS* 14 (2): 50-52**

The authors give two records of the pelagic Short-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*) from Gujarat; one from Nal Sarovar and one dead bird recovered from Mahuva, Bhavnagar in April and May 2017 respectively. The individual from Nal Sarovar was seen in flight and photos and video taken. For the individual from Mahuva, it was recovered from the coast and a post mortem was conducted and some plastic material was found in its stomach. Identification of Short-tailed Shearwater is difficult and it can be confused with Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*). A detailed identification note is given on separating the two, compiled by Dipu K, Praveen J and Prasad Ganpule. The species is a vagrant to India and these records were the first for Gujarat and the species is an addition to the state checklist.



### **Ehrenberg's Redstart: Sighting of Ehrenberg's Redstart from Thol by Hardik Bhatt. *Indian BIRDS* (in press).**

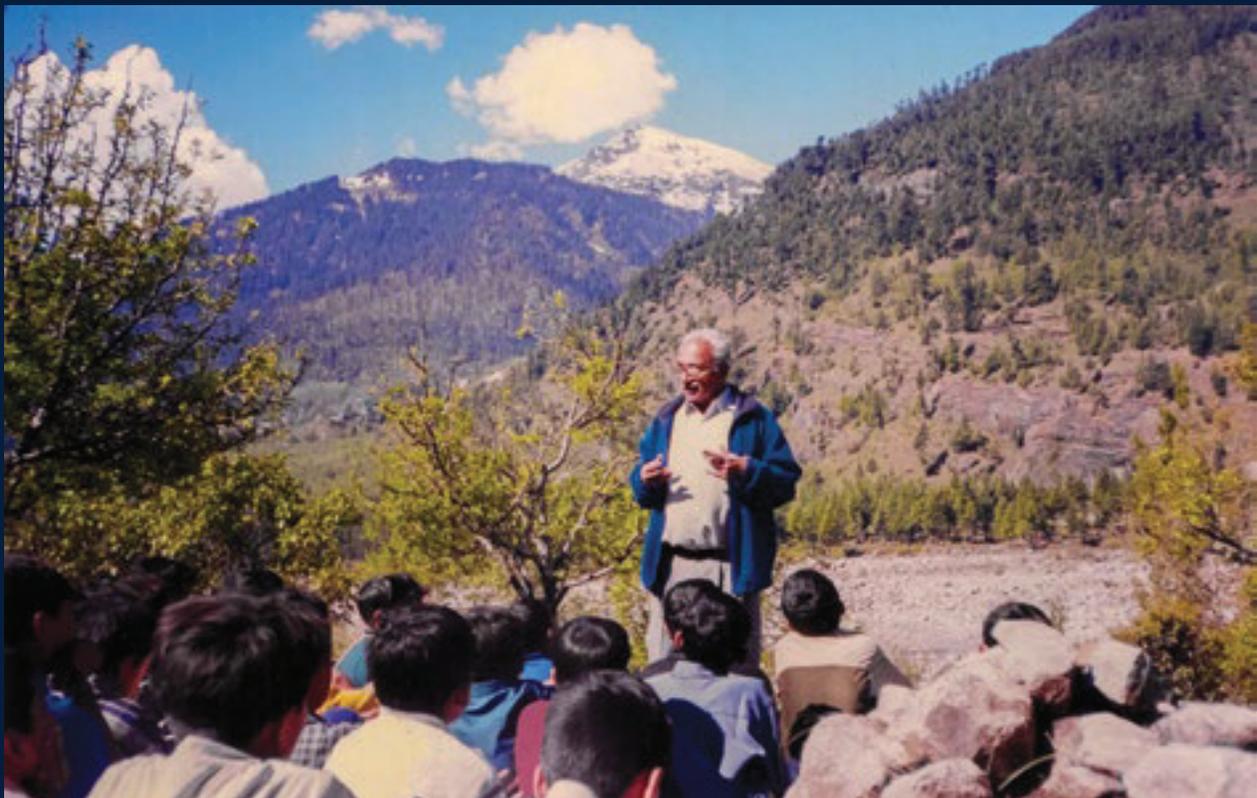
The author reports a sighting of Ehrenberg's Redstart (*Phoenicurus p. samamisticus*), a subspecies of Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), from Thol Bird Sanctuary, near Ahmedabad. The author saw and photographed this individual in February 2018. It was identified as an Ehrenberg's Redstart by the prominent white patch on the wings. This is the first record of the Ehrenberg's Redstart from the Indian Subcontinent. While the nominate Common Redstart has been noted earlier, this was the first record of the *samamisticus* subspecies from India. The Common Redstart is also an addition to the state checklist.

□

“ If the direct assault on wildlife had done considerable damage and continues to do so even today, it is a set of indirect effects which today threatens to produce an almost total collapse. What set these into motion needs to be examined if we are to prevent the extinction of most of our birds and other animals. Since most of the developments were initiated for the betterment of the general population and considerable gains have accrued, many of those wanting to halt the processes find themselves isolated. Issues tend to be separated into those involving human welfare versus those for wildlife. The same refrain was heard in the late forties by political and social activists is today carried forward by the more aggressive, more powerful ‘development’ lobby with the political leadership invariably responding to populist appeals.

Fortunately, though it has taken time, the general public has begun to realise that issues are not trees and animals against human beings, but that they involve groups aiming for highly personal gains at the cost of social benefits, and that efforts are aimed at quick short term gains, heedless of long term losses, and at highly exploitative economics contra sustainable utilisation of resources. ”

- Lavkumar Khachar



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