

ABSTRACTS



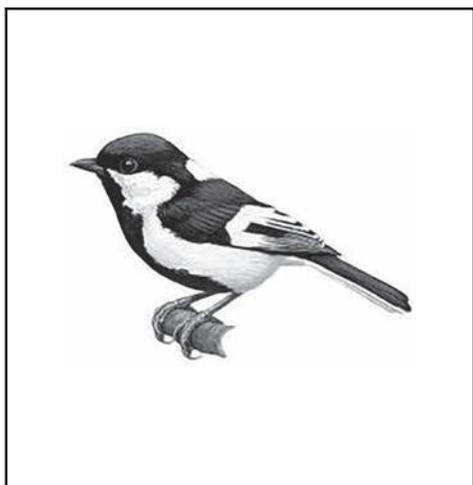
Notes on breeding of Indian Pitta by Reshma Solanki et al. *Indian BIRDS* 14 (4): 113-118. (2018)

The authors carried out a study on the breeding of the Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) in Jambhughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, near Vadodara. The nest of the Indian Pitta was monitored for 20 days and details like number of eggs, incubation period, food and feeding frequency, etc. were noted. Both the parents actively participated in feeding the chicks and earthworms were a major part of the diet recorded here. The feeding frequency and number of feeding flights were noted. The fledglings were predated by a Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) and this was a rare instance where a civet was photographed predated on the chicks of Indian Pitta.



Swinhoe's Minivet in Gujarat by Irshad Theba et al. *Indian BIRDS* 14 (5): 147-148 (2018)

The authors photographed Swinhoe's Minivets (*Pericrocotus cantonensis*) in Indroda Park, Gandhinagar, in February 2018. The Swinhoe's Minivet is similar to Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*) and the authors discuss in detail the identification of the birds seen in Gandhinagar. The identification was confirmed as Swinhoe's Minivet by studying a host of features and comparing them with Ashy Minivet. This is the first record of a Swinhoe's Minivet from Gujarat.



Behavioural observations on White-naped Tit during the breeding season by Arjun Potter & André Dhondt. *Indian BIRDS* 14 (6): 161-165 (2019)

The authors carried out a study on the behaviour of the endemic and endangered White-naped Tit (*Machlolophus nuchalis*) in a thorn forest near Phot Mahadev area, Kachchh, during its breeding season. They report the territorial behaviour and territory size, foraging, mating, and roosting behaviour of the species during breeding. Territory size was much larger than previously studied, nesting cavity was in the trunk of an *Acacia senegal* tree, foraging and mating was seen and roosting behaviour of the pair was noted. The pair roosted each night in separate cavities. The authors also studied the feeding of fledglings and the food items given. They conclude by stating that the conservation of thorn forests in Kachchh is of utmost importance for the White-naped Tit and suggest that providing nest boxes could help the species in finding roosting and nesting sites.



Range Extension of Chestnut Munia to Gujarat by Yagnesh Bhatt et al. *Indian BIRDS* 14 (6): 166-168 (2019)

The authors report sightings of Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*) from Dist: Anand, in central Gujarat. The Chestnut Munia was seen in December 2017 in flocks of Tricoloured Munia (*Lonchura malacca*) and Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*). Re-examination of earlier photographs by the authors resulted in more sightings being found from these areas from 2011. The authors discuss prevalence of hybrid specimens between Chestnut Munia and Tricoloured Munia and suggest that DNA studies can help in determining the genetic distance between these two species here in Gujarat. The editor's note at the end states that more studies are required to establish the origins of these birds in Gujarat and any conclusions/decisions drawn till then are only tentative.

□

“

It does not require great intelligence to agree that we are intrinsically embedded in nature no more isolated from our environment than globules of fat are from the emulsion they are suspended in. Our sciences are resulting from the contemplation and questioning of happenings in nature and the technologies evolved are masteries of the functions within the natural dynamics. Dynamics that have generated the substance of life and the dramatic display of life. Our personal well being depends on the harmonious interaction of various body parts within and the body as an entity with the natural world without.

”

- Lavkumar Khachar

