

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*): On 2 January 2018, at Punit Van at about 10:00 hrs, we saw flock of Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Gymnoris xanthocollis*) and Indian Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica*) feeding on the ground in a garden. But, in this flock, we saw two different birds which were bigger than the Petronias and so, we tried to approach closer towards the flock. We identified the birds as male Red-headed Buntings in non-breeding plumage. According to Noormohammad Theba, he, along with the second author, saw these birds in 1997-98 near Sabarmati riverbank and Dholeshwar Mahadev area where the river is always full with water. After almost 20 years, this species was found again in Gandhinagar. We did not see these birds after 10 January 2018 at this place.



Red-headed Bunting

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*): On 3 January 2018 in Training and Research Center of Gujarat Forest Department at about 08:30 hrs, we saw a single Black-hooded Oriole calling from a tree. This species was also seen at Indroda Park in March 2017 on a Cotton Tree (*Bombax ceibia*), foraging in its flowers. Another record is also known from the Serenity Botanical Garden and Library, near Bhat village, in 2016-17 during the winter. Though Black-hooded Oriole is given as a

resident in Gujarat (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), we consider this species as a winter migrant to Gandhinagar district as it has not been observed in this area all round the year or during the breeding season. However, more information is needed to make a correct assessment regarding its status here.



Black-hooded Oriole

All the above mentioned species are not rare or uncommon in many other parts of the state. However, during our daily bird watching and monitoring, we found that these species were not common in our area. Gandhinagar is the capital of the state and has habitats which are suitable for birds, with many areas conducive for bird watching. These are preliminary observations of five species made by us in the last few months. Though we have been observing birds here since a long time, we started gathering data more regularly since the last year. Sustained data collection done here over the next few years will be useful in knowing the correct status of these species for the district.

References

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd ed. London: Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm. □

Ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper in Jamnagar

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Ringed of birds is done by ornithologists to study migration routes, longevity, and various other biological aspects. It is a widely accepted research method to get information about birds. We report here a ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) seen and photographed by us in Jamnagar.

On 25 November 2017, between 07:00 to 09:30 hrs, we were birding around Jamnagar city. We observed a Broad-billed Sandpiper with an aluminum ring on its left tarsus. We also saw a flock of around 12-14 Broad-billed Sandpipers, along with other waders like Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*), Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Greater Sand Plover

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(*Charadrius leschenaultii*) etc. The ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper was foraging alone rather than with this group. It was also not allowing other waders to come nearby. When we saw the ring on its leg, we tried to get closer to take photos of the numbers/alphabets that were written on it. The details were not visible clearly and we had to struggle a lot of to take pictures of the ring. We also tried to see with binoculars but could not succeed. Finally, we got some photos in which the details were visible.

The photographs were sent to BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) for getting the ringing details. Following ringing details were received from BNHS.

Ring Number: AB 169297

Species: Broad-billed Sandpiper

Ringing Date: 11 February 2015

Ringed By: Tuhina Katti, Scientist-A, Wetland Programme.

Ringing Place: Panje, Uran (near Mumbai)

Ringing Coordinates: 18° 90' N, 72° 95' E

Finding Date: 25 November 2017

Province: India

Finding Place: Jamnagar, Gujarat

Finding Coordinates: 22° 48' N, 70° 06' E

Thus, this bird was ringed near Mumbai in early 2015. It was seen by us again after two years and nine months at Jamnagar in the winter and was seen at a different location from its ringing place.

The first author had earlier recovered two ringed birds which had died due to electrocution; a dead Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and a Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) were recovered in Surendranagar district. The Ruff was ringed near Nurinskiy, Kazakhstan (Mori 2017a), while the Dalmatian Pelican was ringed at the delta of Ili River, Kazakhstan (Mori 2017b).

There are recent records of sightings of ringed/tagged Lesser Sand Plover and Greater Sand Plover from Kachchh (Parekh 2017, Parekh & Parekh 2017). This sighting is another addition to the sighting of ringed waders in Gujarat.

Acknowledgments

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References

Mori, D., 2017a. <https://birdingugujarat.wordpress.com/2017/08/24/ringed-ruff-near-surendranagar-gujarat/> [Accessed on 25 February 2018].

Mori, D., 2017b. <https://birdingugujarat.wordpress.com/2017/08/13/ringed-dalmatian-pelican-near-surendranagar-gujarat/> [Accessed on 25 February 2018].

Parekh, J., 2017. Sighting of tagged Lesser Sand Plover from Kachchh. *Flamingo*. 15 (1): 16

Parekh, J., & Parekh, N. 2017. Re-sighting of tagged Greater Sand Plover at Modhava, near Mandvi, Kachchh. *Flamingo*. 15 (3): 13 □

Indian Blackbird near Mahuva, Bhavnagar district

Batuk Bhil: At Nikol, Ta: Mahuva, Dist: Bhavnagar. batukbhil@gmail.com



Batuk Bhil

Mahuva, Dist: Bhavnagar, I saw a Myna-like (*Acridotheres* sp.) bird in flight, which came towards me and perched on a Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*). After careful observation, I identified it as an Indian Blackbird (*Turdus merula simillimus*). As I did not have a camera with me at that time, I immediately called my friend Rameshbhai Makwana to bring the camera. But before he could arrive at this place, the bird flew away and could not be located again. In next two days, on 8 and 9 February 2018, I again visited the same place and was able to see it both the times and took a few record photographs.

As per my observations, the Indian Blackbird was not very shy. When undisturbed, it came as close as 7-8 feet. It used to feed on the ground, searching for insects under fallen leaves, dried twigs, small stones etc. and sometimes foraged in cattle dung. Once, I noted that it was mobbed by a Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and it in turn successfully chased an Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) for a caterpillar.

On 7 February 2018, When I was passing on the road near Nikol Bandhara wetland (21°05'31" N, 71°50'14"E) near