

Short Birding Notes



Pied Avocet near Surat

A flock of 20-25 Pied Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) were seen at Umra Ovara, Piplod, Surat on 5 June 2015 and 15 June 2015. Pied Avocet is uncommon in this part of the State and thought to be a local migrant depending on availability of water in the region.

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Red-tailed Shrike in Kachchh

An adult Red-tailed Shrike (*Lanius phoenicuroides*) was seen on 9 Sept. 2012 near Dayapar, Kachchh. It is an autumn passage migrant and small numbers are said to migrate through NW India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

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[Red-tailed Shrike (also known as Rufous Shrike) was recently split from Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) and is now considered as a separate species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Its status in Gujarat is unclear. This record is significant, as it is one of the very few documented records of Red-tailed Shrike from Gujarat - Eds]



Common Terns near Somnath

A small flock of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) was seen near Somnath, Veraval on 25 June 2015. Common Tern is a winter migrant to Gujarat coast (Grimmett *et al.* 2011) and this sighting in late June was surprising. It is possible that these individuals were either in passage or were over-wintering.

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Ultramarine Flycatcher in Kachchh

An adult Ultramarine Flycatcher (*Ficedula superciljaris*) was seen at Karimori Lake, Madhapar, Bhuj in Kachchh on 30 November 2014. It is a less common winter migrant to Kachchh, with a previous sighting by Jugal Tiwari from Pingleshwar. (Mashru 2012).

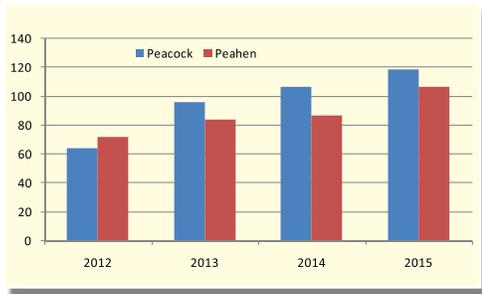
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Masked Booby at Datardi, Mahuva, Dist. Bhavnagar

A Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) was found in a farm near Datardi village, Tal. Mahuva, Dist. Bhavnagar on 10 August 2014. It was taken to a rescue centre for treatment, but the bird succumbed to its injuries the next day. There are many previous records of Masked Booby from Gujarat (Trivedi 2003, Munjpara *et al.* 2009, Tiwari 2010, Bambhaniya 2014). Storm blown Masked Booby are frequently seen in the coastal regions of Gujarat in the monsoon season.

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Indian Peafowl census in Narmadanagar, Bharuch

Bharuch Nature Conservation Society & Narmadanagar Community Science Center had jointly organized Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) census at Narmadanagar Township on 14 June 2015. They have been doing this activity since 2012. Total of 226 Indian Peafowl were recorded, up from 194 recorded in 2014. The lush green environment of Narmadanagar provides an ideal habitat for Indian Peafowl. <https://bharuchnature.wordpress.com/2015/06/19/4th-indian-peafowl-census/>



Indian Blackbird in Sasan, Gir National Park

Three Indian Blackbirds (*Turdus simillimus nigropileus*) were noted at Sasan Gir Railway Station on 24 February 2014. It was seen four more times in the same area in the next two weeks. Indian Blackbird is shown as a winter migrant to Gir area (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) but its status here is unclear. Further sightings will help in understanding its status in Gir / Girnar area.

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Eurasian Griffon Vulture scavenging on Wild Ass in Little Rann of Kachchh

A Eurasian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) was seen scavenging on an Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*) in the Sami sub-zone, near Khodda Environmental Centre, Little Rann of Kachchh on 21 December 2014. This was noted during the Wild Ass Census organized by the Forest Department. Eurasian Griffon Vulture is generally uncommon in Little Rann of Kachchh, and is rarely seen on a Wild Ass carcass.

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Scaly-breasted Munia nests in Navsari

More than 30 nests of Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) were noted at Veterinary College, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari in July 2013. The nests were at 20 different sites and were built during monsoon season. Most of the sites were at internet points, tube lights, on sides of windows and on wires. However nests on wires were not noted next year after the wiring was redone.

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