

...Rubber Band

and condoms has not been reported earlier and could present a serious and bigger health hazard to the birds. A proper method of disposal of rubber and plastic items needs to be implemented at the earliest – Eds]

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Sighting of Black-crowned Sparrow Lark in Kachchh

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has noted it twice in Kachchh, from Kuawar Bet (in 1960) and more recently (in 2003) in Naliya. Outside of Kachchh, Raol (2005) has sighted it at Vadsar, near Ahmedabad. Pandya & Vachhrajani (2010) report it from Mahi River



estuary and give it as resident, but do not list the more common Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark for the area. Parasharya et al (2004) give it as a resident species in Gujarat. Jugalkishor Tiwari informed, there is only one record when the bird was ringed in GRK at Kunwer Beyt, in 1992 by BNHS Bird-migration Team whose part he was (verbal comm.).

It is possible that it is overlooked. Readers are requested to send their sightings of Black-crowned Sparrow Lark from Gujarat so that its status here can be better known - Eds]

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On 26 December 2014, I visited Naliya grassland with Dr. Bharat Jethva, Dhavit Andhariya, Virag Vyas, Dhruvi Ghedia, Pooja Vyas and Alpa Jethva. There we saw a flock of about 15 larks foraging in the grass. We initially ignored them, considering them as Ashy-crowned Sparrow Larks (*Eremopterix griseus*), but when we rechecked, we were surprised to see that they were Black-crowned Sparrow Larks (*Eremopterix nigriceps*).

We checked the oriental bird images website for sight records from Gujarat, but most of the sightings were from Rajasthan, mainly from Jaisalmer and Tal Chhpar area. There is only one photo record of Black-crowned Sparrow Lark from little Rann of Kachchh, by Otto Pfister, in November 2002 on this website. Thus it was a very unusual and uncommon sighting of this species in Kachchh.

[There are isolated records of Black-crowned Sparrow Lark from Gujarat given in Grimmett et al. (2011), while Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) show its occurrence in the entire state. Various recently published records from Gujarat are as follows; Varu (2006)