

Sighting of Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* in Kachchh

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This sighting of Black-throated Thrush in Gujarat is very important as it has been seen for the first time in Gujarat after more than 100 years! The Black-throated Thrush was given as 'rare' in Kachchh by Stoliczka (1872) while it was listed in Butler (1879) as 'not uncommon' in Sind (Pakistan) and in Kachchh. However, Dr. Salim Ali (1945) did not come across this species during surveys in Kachchh and included this species in the birds

On 20 December 2019, the second author was visiting Kachchh for a birding tour and we were doing bird watching near Chhari-Dhandh Lake, Banni, with other fellow birdwatchers. The first author observed a different looking bird, foraging on the ground, with a flock of Rosy Starlings (*Pastor roseus*) at around 11:30 hrs. The black throat and upper breast, contrasting with white belly, was looking conspicuous in this bird. The first author, being unfamiliar with this bird, thought it could be some morph of Rosy Starling. It was constantly feeding on cattle dung in the area. The second author, who had recently visited the Himalayas, and had prior experience of watching birds there, thought that it was probably a Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*). We took several photos and after referring to the field guide (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), came to the conclusion and confirmed that this individual was a male Black-throated Thrush.

Subsequently, on reading about this sighting in the newspaper and after personal communication with the first author, senior birder Shantibhai Varu and others visited Chhari-Dhandh Lake on 22 December 2019 and saw the Black-throated Thrush foraging in the same area. He added that the bird was foraging alone, near dried cattle dung, and went into dry branches of *Acacia* spread on the ground in the area. So this individual was present in this area after three days, and could have remained there for some time this winter.

of Kachchh on the basis of records by Stoliczka (1872). Thus, this is the first record of this species from Kachchh after independence.

References

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