

Peregrine Falcon....

studies will be helpful in determining the variation in prey taken by Peregrine Falcons here.

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Sighting of Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* at Thol Bird Sanctuary, Ahmedabad

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Sejal Daniel

On 23 December 2018, in the morning, the first author visited Thol Bird Sanctuary, near Ahmedabad, for bird watching. While searching for birds, he found an unknown bird with black wings in the shadow of a tree. It was a difficult location for taking a photo as it was dark and the bird was perched in the shadow of a tree. The bird became alert and started to move around. The first author took a few pictures although the light was very poor. Later, he contacted a few birders. But, the bird was not conclusively identified at that time.

On 6 January 2019, the second author visited the same area with Vaneet Daniel in the morning. They noticed some movement of an unknown bird, which, at first, was thought to be a Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) or a Rosy Starling (*Pastor roseus*) based on its colour and size. They managed to take a few photographs but, the identity could not be confirmed. The bird was hyper active and constantly moving on top of a huge tree, making it very difficult to take good

photographs. It soon flew away and was not seen again. Later, the second author sent the images to Ashok Mashru and Prasad Ganpule for identification. They confirmed that this was a Black-winged Cuckooshrike (*Coracina melaschistos*) based on the dark grey head and body, black wings, heavy bill and white tips to tail feathers.

The second author posted the photographs on the social media and on Whatsapp groups. On seeing the photographs, the first author realized that the bird seen and photographed by him earlier in the same area was also a Black-winged Cuckooshrike. It was probably the same individual which stayed in the area for two-three weeks. The Black-winged Cuckooshrike is a vagrant to Gujarat. The first record of the species was from Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2015 and the second record was from Vansada National Park in November 2016 (Bhatt *et al.* 2015, Desai 2017). This is the third record of a Black-winged Cuckooshrike from Gujarat. It is most likely that it is a winter vagrant to our state as all the three records are from the winter months.

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