

Sighting of Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher at Porbandar: a second record for Gujarat

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Vijay/Jethva

(21° 38' 10" N 69° 38' 07" E), by the second author. He observed the bird for two consecutive days between 14:00 to 16:00 hrs, and it was active and catching insects. After the recent sighting of Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*) (*pers. observ.*) here, the sighting of Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher from Porbandar is really exciting, and it is only the second record for Gujarat.



Vijay/Jethva

The Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) is a summer visitor to the Himalayas and is resident in NE India; wintering in Eastern Himalayas and south to Bangladesh, SW India and Sri Lanka (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). The species is believed to be a vagrant to Gujarat, with only one previous record from Morbi, near Rajkot, in 2008 (Ganpule 2009).

A female Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher was seen and photographed on 5 December 2015, in the Porbandar city area

Acknowledgements:

We are thankful to Umar Khan and Nelson George for identifying the bird on 'Ask ID' of 'Indian Birds' FB Group.

References:

Ganpule, P. 2009. Sighting of Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* in Gujarat. *Indian BIRDS* 5 (1): 26.

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., and Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press. London. □

Sighting of a probable Long-tailed Skua in Amreli district

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On 23 August 2016, we were on a birding trip near Savarkundla, Amreli district. Our aim was to search for passage migrants. We saw a gull-like bird flying overhead in sky. It was brownish-black in colour, with white on primaries. It had longer and pointed wings. Its central tail feathers were pointed and extended slightly beyond the tail. The second author managed to take one record photo. We identified it as a juvenile skua (alternative name for skua is jaeger, with Arctic Skua also known as Parasitic Jaeger). We thought that it was either an Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) or a Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). However, with only a

single poor quality photograph, we could not confirm the identification. This location is almost 80 kms from the coast and it was surprising to find the skua here.

[Even though the photograph is not very clear, it can be seen that the bird in question is a juvenile skua, based on its structure, the long wings and other characteristics. It looked similar to a Long-tailed Skua, due to the longer tail (looking longer than width of arm), narrower arms and the 'hand' looking longer than the arm (Olsen & Larsson 1997).