

Sighting of Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* in South Gujarat

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On 13 September 2018, in the morning, I visited Aaliya bet for watching waders (*Calidris* sp.). Aaliya bet is a saline area adjoining Hansot village of Dist: Bharuch, located at the estuary of Narmada River and is spread over approximately 200 sq km. While returning back, I photographed a wader at location 21° 34' 11" N, 72° 43' 18" E, but did not identify it in the field. The bird was alone and foraging in shallow, brackish water. When I checked the photographs at home, I was surprised to see that it was a Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris falcinellus*). The Broad-billed Sandpiper is a winter migrant to India. Looking at the plumage of this individual, it looked like it was moulting out of breeding plumage.

There are no published records of Broad-billed Sandpiper from the coastal areas of southern Gujarat (Ganpule *et al.* 2015, Ganpule 2016). There is no photo or any published data

regarding the species from South Gujarat on popular birding websites – www.orientalbirdimages.org and www.ebird.org (accessed on 16 September 2018).

However, Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) show its distribution in the coastal regions of the entire state, including South Gujarat, while Ganpule *et al.* (2015) suggested that as there appears to be suitable habitat, there is no reason why the Broad-billed Sandpiper would not be occurring in South Gujarat. Ganpule (2016) gives it as 'rare in South Gujarat area?' This is the first photographic record from South Gujarat and confirms its occurrence in the area and hence is important. It is possible that it does occur here, but is not seen and photographed by birders because the coastal areas of South Gujarat are not easily accessible due to muddy sea shore, dense *Prosopis juliflora* in many places and a number of muddy creeks. Bird watchers are requested to search for the Broad-billed Sandpiper in suitable areas in South Gujarat.

References

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Re-sighting of Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* in Porbandar: a third record for Gujarat

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The Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) belongs to the family *Muscicapidae*. The species is a summer (breeding) visitor to the Himalayas and resident in NE India; it winters in Eastern Himalayas, south to Bangladesh, and in SW India and Sri Lanka (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). The species is vagrant to Gujarat with only two previous records - from Morbi in 2008 and Porbandar in 2015 (Ganpule 2009, 2016, and Vargiya & Jethva 2016).

The male Blue-throated Flycatcher is similar to a Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*) but, is distinguished by its blue throat (rufous-orange throat in Tickell's Blue Flycatcher) and the female is brown above, with more rufous on rump and tail, and with pale orange throat and upper breast (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).