

Sighting of Eye-browed Thrush in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

Gaurang Bagda : 22/44, Morari Nagar, Near Alpha School-2, Opp. Avanti Apartment, Laxminagar, Junagadh-362001. gaurangbagda@gmail.com

On 21 February 2013, I observed and photographed an Eye-browed Thrush in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary (21° 30' N 70° 30' E). The identification was confirmed by the white supercilium, grayish head, peach-orange flanks and white belly.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* is a migratory Thrush breeding in C & E Siberia E to Kamchatka, S to N Mongolia and Amurland and is a non-breeding migrant to NE Indian Subcontinent, E to Taiwan, S to Greater Sundas and Philippines (Collar 2005)



Photo : Vicky Chauhan

It is a vagrant to Gujarat. It has been reported earlier by Raol (1971) from Porbander and by Anwar Turk (Anonymous, 2010) from Kachchh.

This is a significant sighting for the area as it is a vagrant to Gujarat.

[Recently, another sighting (with photograph) of an adult was reported from Gandhinagar, in February 2014 by Vicky Chauhan (*pers. comm.*). - Ed.]

References:

Anonymous, 2010. Some interesting bird sightings. *Flamingo* 8(1&2): 24.

Collar, N. 2005. Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (Accessed on 21 July 2014).

Raol, L. M. 1971. A puzzling bird: a new record? *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 11(5): 2–3. □



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE (GISD)

The Aim of GISD is to increase awareness about invasive alien species and to facilitate effective prevention and management activities. The database of GISD is continually being populated with species information which are threat to native biodiversity. GISD is managed by the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) of the SSC- Species Survival Commission of the IUCN.

IUCN declares three birds among world's 100 worst invasive species, found in Indian Subcontinent: Red-vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*), Common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and Common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) is a pest in South Africa, North America, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and many Pacific islands. The species poses a serious threat to the ecosystems of Australia where it was named "The Most Important Pest/ Problem"

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), for its role in the decline of local native species and the damages to agriculture, has been included in the IUCN List of the world's 100 worst invasive species. Common starlings can eat and damage fruits in orchards such as grapes, peaches, olives, currants and tomatoes, or dig up newly sown grain and sprouting crops. They may also eat animal feed and distribute seeds through their droppings. In eastern Australia, weeds like bridal creeper, blackberry and boneseed are thought to have been spread by common starlings. Agricultural damage In the US is estimated as costing about US\$800 million annually.

Red-vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) is a noisy, gregarious bird, aggressive, and chases off other bird species. It may also help to spread the seeds of other invasive species. It is an agricultural pest, destroying fruits, flowers, beans, tomatoes and peas. It has been introduced to many Pacific Islands, where it has caused serious problems by eating fruits and vegetable crops, as well as nectar, seeds and buds.