

Sighting of Grey Hypocolius in Rajkot and its records from outside Fulay, Kachchh

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Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) is a winter migrant to Gujarat, mainly to the Banni area in Kachchh. The regular site, at which it is seen, is near Fulay village, Ta: Nakhatrana, Dist: Kachchh, where it is known to occur in the winter (Tiwari 2008).

While birdwatching at Lalpari Lake, outside Rajkot city on morning of 29 December 2015, the first author, along with Shamsher Singh Bhagat Singh and Niraj Jadav, saw and photographed a female Grey Hypocolius sitting on a branch of *Acacia* sp. It flew away after a short time. We were very

surprised to see the Grey Hypocolius in Rajkot outskirts. We visited the area again for the next few days, but could not locate the bird again.

We collected sight records outside the Fulay area - its known wintering site - from bird watchers and found that it has been noted in various places.



Sight records of Grey Hypocolius from areas other than Fulay Village, Kachchh

S.No.	Place	Date	Observers	Source
1	Chhari-Dhandh, Kachchh	28 January 1990, 14 January 2006, 12 March 2006, 28 January 2009, 01 February 2010	Shantibhai Varu & Maulik Varu	Varu (2007) & Pers. comm.
2	Lyja Creek, Mandvi; Greater Rann of Kachchh; Sindhodi Coast, Abdasa	06 February 1994 17 January 1999 02 March 1999	J. K. Tiwari Himmatsinhji Kavi Taej & Ashwin Pomal	Tiwari (2008)
3	Zezari Village, Little Rann of Kachchh	18 December 2003	Chiku Vora, Faruk Chauhan & Vishal Thoriya	Pers. Comm.
4	Dehgam Village, Little Rann of Kachchh	29 October 2005	--- as above ---	Vora et al. (2007)
5	Tundi wetland, Little Rann of Kachchh	04 January 2006	--- as above ---	Chiku Vora, Pers. Comm.
6	Royal Safari Resort Campus, Patadi, Little Rann of Kachchh	22 December 2008	--- as above ---	Chiku Vora, Pers. Comm.
7	On way from Odu to Nava Talav, Little Rann of Kachchh	14 January 2012	--- as above ---	Chiku Vora, Pers. Comm.
8	Narara, Jamnagar	26 February 2015	Kunal Munsif & Noshewan Sethna, Jaypalsinh Jadeja	Jadeja 2015
9	Near Lalpari Lake, Rajkot	29 December 2015	Rajesh Bhalodiya, Shamsher Singh and Niraj Jadav	Present sighting

Above records indicate that the Grey Hypocolius is not restricted to Fulay Village of Kachchh and occurs in other parts of the state as well. It is possible that it is overlooked. It will be interesting to see if there are more records from other parts of the state in the future.

References:

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