

## Sighting of Rosy Minivet in Vansda National Park: an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat

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I often visit Vansda National Park (henceforth VNP) (20° 45' N, 73° 33' E), in Dang district in South Gujarat, for bird watching. On 15 January 2017, I reached VNP at around 14:30 hrs. I started photographing birds in the area. I observed that a Minivet (*Pericrocotus* sp.) was perched on a branch of a tree. I took two-three photos before the bird flew away. I saw that it had a pinkish wash on the breast and belly, greyish head and a whitish throat.

After coming home, I checked the images on my computer and noted that this individual was different from the Orange

Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*), which is usually seen in the area. With the help of the reference book (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), I identified this as a male Rosy Minivet (*Pericrocotus roseus*). Since the species is not known to occur in Gujarat, I uploaded the image on various birding websites and on the social media, where the identity was confirmed as a Rosy Minivet by senior birdwatchers.

This is the first photographic record of the Rosy Minivet in Gujarat and the sighting was very exciting for me.

[The Rosy Minivet had been reported from VNP earlier in November 2008 by Adesh Shivkar (Praveen 2009). However, the bird could not be photographed. Since it was not documented properly at that time, the species was not included in the checklist of birds of Gujarat (Ganpule 2016). Hence, this is the first confirmed record of the Rosy Minivet from Gujarat and it is an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat – Eds]

### References

Ganpule, P. 2016. The Birds of Gujarat: Status and Distribution. *Flamingo* 8(3) - 12 (4): 2-40

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## Sighting of Stoliczka's Bushchat near Vadodara

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The Stoliczka's Bushchat or White-browed Bushchat (*Saxicola macrorhynchus*) has gained interest of Indian birdwatchers and

ornithologists, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan, over the last couple of decades. Being endemic to the Indian Subcontinent, historical data shows its presence only in Pakistan and India (Ripley 1982; Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is considered as extinct in Pakistan (Roberts 1992), with sightings now only from India, and it is a 'Vulnerable' species (BirdLife International 2016).

The habitat of Stoliczka's Bushchat is semi-arid, desert, semi-desert, scrubland and areas with scattered bushes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998; BirdLife International 2016). We report its presence near a wetland i.e. Timbi irrigation tank (22° 19' N, 73° 17' E), located on the outskirts of Vadodara, in central Gujarat.

On 7 March 2016, at around 11:45 hrs, an unusual bird was photographed near Timbi irrigation tank. The bird was observed on a dry stem of a plant in the shallow and drying waters of the tank. It was having a prominent white supercilium, longer black beak and feet and tail - a characteristic of the Chat family, white underparts and streaked upperparts. The white supercilium and underparts,