

Sighting of Siberian Thrush in Porbandar: an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat

Dhaval Vargiya : 36 Balaji Park Society, 'Sant Krupa', Vanthali Road, Madhuram, Junagadh-362015. dhaval.mwcc@gmail.com

Vijay Jethva : 05/59, Juna Fuvara Police line, Opp Rupali Baug, M. G. Road, Porbandar-360575. vijay.jethva@gmail.com

Karabhai Rajshakha : Post Odedar, Taluka & District: Porbandar-360575.



Dhaval Vargiya

Gujarat (Ganpule 2016). Therefore, the current sighting of Siberian Thrush in Porbandar is an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat.



Dhaval Vargiya

The Porbandar Bird Sanctuary (21° 38' 8.829" N, 69° 37' 6.348" E), is located in the middle of Porbandar, Gujarat. Spread over an area of 9 ha., this unique area, a water body surrounded by trees, was declared as a sanctuary in 1988. On 22 November 2016, while on a regular birding trip to the sanctuary, the third author observed an odd bird which he had never seen before. He immediately informed the first and second authors, who quickly went to the area. The bird was observed and it was noted that it moved on the dry leaf bed and looked for various insects. It was tentatively identified as a Thrush (*Zoothera* sp.) and photos were taken. Later, the identity was confirmed to be a female/first-winter Siberian Thrush (*Zoothera sibirica*), based on the buff supercilium, dark malar stripe, and scaling on underparts (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). The call was also matched with the one in online database (Gallardy 2014), and it was re-confirmed to be a Siberian Thrush.

The Siberian Thrush is known to breed in Russia, China, South Korea and Japan and it is a winter visitor to Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore and Malaysia; the species is strongly migratory with most of the birds migrating towards south-eastern Asia during the winter (BirdLife International 2016). In India, it is a vagrant and has been photographed twice recently in Sunderban Tiger Reserve, West Bengal, in 2013 (Manna 2013, Baidya 2013; probably the same bird). Isolated records from South Andaman (Abdulali 1965), Narcondam Island (Abdulali 1976), Maharashtra (Abdulali & Unnithan 1991) and Manipur (Choudhury 2009) have been reported.

This is the first record of Siberian Thrush in Gujarat. This species has not been included in the checklist of the birds of

References:

- Abdulali, H. 1965. The birds of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *J. Bom. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 61 (3): 483–571
- Abdulali, H. 1976. The fauna of Narcondam Island. Part 1. Birds. *J. Bom. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 71 (3): 496–505
- Abdulali, H. & Unnithan, S. 1991. A catalogue of the birds in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society-34: Muscicapidae (Turdinae). *J. Bom. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 88 (1):73–80
- Baidya, K. 2013. OBI Link: http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_Image_ID=82652& Bird_ID=2446&Bird_Family_ID&Location [Accessed on 23 November 2016].
- BirdLife International. 2016. Species factsheet: *Zoothera sibirica*. [Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 23/11/2016].
- Choudhury, A. 2009. Significant recent ornithological records from Manipur, north-east India, with an annotated checklist. *Forktail*. 25: 71–89
- Gallardy, R. 2014. XC194710. Accessible at www.xeno-canto.org/194710. Website: www.xeno-canto.org [Accessed on 23 November 2016].
- Ganpule, P. 2016. The Birds of Gujarat: Status and Distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3) – 12 (4): 2-40
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. Birds of the Indian subcontinent. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press. London.
- Manna, J. 2013. OBI Link: http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_Image_ID=114074& Bird_ID=2446&Bird_Family_ID&Location [Accessed on 23 November 2016]. □