

particularly around hilly areas. Kazmierczak (2000) and Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) have shown it as a summer visitor in most parts of Gujarat.

On a visit to Gondal, near Rajkot, on 22 August 2015, we (Manoj Finava, Prasad Ganpule and me) visited three scrub forests/grasslands in the area. We saw Small Buttonquails in two of the scrub forests and grasslands in the area, which was surprising since it is not commonly seen here. We recorded a total of four individuals. After a few days, on 30 August 2015, Ravi Ardesana saw a Small Buttonquail at Khirasara *vidi*, near Rajkot city.

### Conclusion

Though Barred Buttonquail is common around Rajkot, Small Buttonquail and Yellow-legged Buttonquail are uncommon in our area. Grasslands are their preferred habitats and looking at historical observations of their breeding in Saurashtra, a detailed survey in Rajkot district in scrub/grassland areas will help in understanding their current status here.

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## Sighting of Tickell's Leaf Warbler in Little Rann of Kachchh

**Catherine Christian:** 73 Amidhara Society, Part 2, Opp. Gram Panchayat Office, Bopal, Ahmedabad 380058. catherine.christian@gmail.com



Catherine Christian

The Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*), breeds in the Himalayas and is a widespread winter migrant in the Peninsula, wintering mainly in the Western Ghats (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). It is a vagrant to Gujarat, with only two previous records, both from Saurashtra (Akhtar & Tiwari 1994, Ganpule 2015).

On consecutive visits to the Little Rann of Kachchh on 23 and 26 December 2015, we visited Vachhraj Bet (23°24' N, 71°26' E), in the Little Rann of Kachchh. There, in the temple premises, I saw a warbler, which I initially thought was a Sulphur-bellied Warbler (*Phylloscopus griseolus*), but it seemed different. I identified it as a Tickell's Leaf Warbler, based on the following features:

- prominent yellow supercilium, of similar colour to the throat, which would be contrasting in Sulphur-bellied Warbler
- greenish brown upperparts
- greenish edges to the wing feathers
- bright yellow underparts

Both Tickell's Leaf Warbler and Sulphur-bellied Warbler can be quite variable. Though the contrast between the throat and the supercilium are said to be important for identification, the greenish edges to the wing feathers and olive-green upperparts are more conclusive (R Jaypal, *in litt.*). Hence, this individual could be identified as a Tickell's Leaf Warbler.

This was found in the temple premises and it was foraging on the ground. Though this behaviour is similar to Sulphur-bellied Warbler, it is possible that this individual, probably in migration, was foraging on the ground for insects. Hence, this was not very unusual.

The sighting of Tickell's Leaf Warbler in the middle of the Rann is quite odd as both the previous records from Gujarat are from Saurashtra, and not from desert areas. This is the third sighting of the species from Gujarat.

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