

Crake and Rail....

al. 2011, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) for our state. Both the species were seen for more than two weeks in the same area and were seen frequently by many birders here.

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Some recent uncommon bird sightings from Gandhinagar

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We have been observing birds in Gandhinagar very regularly. Based on the data gathered by us, we present here recent (since May 2017) records of five species which are uncommon in this area.

Jerdon's Leafbird (*Chloropsis jerdoni*): On 8 May 2017, we saw a female Jerdon's Leafbird in Gandhinagar Riverfront area, which was being mobbed by an Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) and a Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*), and we observed that the Leafbird was calling. On the next day at the same place, a male Jerdon's Leafbird was also observed along with the female. This was our first photographic record of Jerdon's Leafbird in Gandhinagar.



Jerdon's Leafbird

Great Tit (*Parus major*): On 14 September 2017, at Punit Van, we saw one Great Tit foraging/feeding on fruits of a Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) along with Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) and Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palapebrosus*). The Great Tit was seen in a flock of Oriental

White-eyes. It was seen till 25 September 2017, after which we could not locate it again.



Great Tit

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*): On 21 October 2017, at 15:50 hrs, we saw two Pale-billed Flowerpeckers at Gandhinagar Riverfront, feeding on nectar of flowers with Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*), Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*) and Oriental White-eye. We observed these birds till 11 November 2017. This was our first sighting of Pale-billed Flowerpecker from Gandhinagar.



Pale-billed Flowerpecker

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*): On 2 January 2018, at Punit Van at about 10:00 hrs, we saw flock of Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Gymnoris xanthocollis*) and Indian Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica*) feeding on the ground in a garden. But, in this flock, we saw two different birds which were bigger than the Petronias and so, we tried to approach closer towards the flock. We identified the birds as male Red-headed Buntings in non-breeding plumage. According to Noormohammad Theba, he, along with the second author, saw these birds in 1997-98 near Sabarmati riverbank and Dholeshwar Mahadev area where the river is always full with water. After almost 20 years, this species was found again in Gandhinagar. We did not see these birds after 10 January 2018 at this place.



Red-headed Bunting

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*): On 3 January 2018 in Training and Research Center of Gujarat Forest Department at about 08:30 hrs, we saw a single Black-hooded Oriole calling from a tree. This species was also seen at Indroda Park in March 2017 on a Cotton Tree (*Bombax ceibia*), foraging in its flowers. Another record is also known from the Serenity Botanical Garden and Library, near Bhat village, in 2016-17 during the winter. Though Black-hooded Oriole is given as a

resident in Gujarat (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), we consider this species as a winter migrant to Gandhinagar district as it has not been observed in this area all round the year or during the breeding season. However, more information is needed to make a correct assessment regarding its status here.



Black-hooded Oriole

All the above mentioned species are not rare or uncommon in many other parts of the state. However, during our daily bird watching and monitoring, we found that these species were not common in our area. Gandhinagar is the capital of the state and has habitats which are suitable for birds, with many areas conducive for bird watching. These are preliminary observations of five species made by us in the last few months. Though we have been observing birds here since a long time, we started gathering data more regularly since the last year. Sustained data collection done here over the next few years will be useful in knowing the correct status of these species for the district.

References

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Ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper in Jamnagar

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Ringing of birds is done by ornithologists to study migration routes, longevity, and various other biological aspects. It is a widely accepted research method to get information about birds. We report here a ringed Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) seen and photographed by us in Jamnagar.

On 25 November 2017, between 07:00 to 09:30 hrs, we were birding around Jamnagar city. We observed a Broad-billed Sandpiper with an aluminum ring on its left tarsus. We also saw a flock of around 12-14 Broad-billed Sandpipers, along with other waders like Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*), Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Greater Sand Plover