

## Sighting of Brown Noddy near Mundra Port, Gulf of Kachchh

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Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) is a pelagic bird, occurring as a winter migrant in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, and breeds in Lakshadweep and Maldives (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

On 15 July 2015, our ship was stationed at the outer anchorage point of Mundra Port, near Mundra, in the Gulf of Kachchh. The outer anchorage point is around 12-14 Nm off the coast (approximately 20 km from Mundra Port). A Brownish bird with a whitish forehead was seen on the ship. I photographed the bird and posted it for identification on the 'Birdwatchers of Kerala' Facebook page. It was identified as a Brown Noddy.

Though there is a record shown for Pakistan coast, there are no records shown for Gujarat in Grimmett *et al.* (2011). This record is from Mekran Coast, Pakistan. It is normally said to occur well offshore (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Hence this sighting is significant and worth reporting.



### Acknowledgements:

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### References:

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## Successful nesting of Indian Robin in a Scooter

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An Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicatus*) had built its nest in the front side of a Honda Activa scooter in a housing society near Agricultural University campus at Navsari. In this model of scooter, there is a gap below the steering bar in which a small bird like the Indian Robin can enter the front part of the vehicle. During the period 12 to 30 May 2015, the family owning the vehicle was out of station and the vehicle was lying idle. When the family came back, they saw an Indian Robin going inside the vehicle. When they brought the vehicle out, the bird got agitated and was seen moving around the parking space restlessly. On investigation, we observed a nest built inside the body of the scooter and found two chicks. It was not possible to photograph the nest with the chicks inside due to its odd location.

Indian Robin usually nests in holes in walls, down open wells, earth banks or trees, under boulders or in rock crevices, and occasionally inside buildings in a variety of situations like shelves, etc. or sometimes in derelict tin cans or earthen water pots (Ali & Ripley 2001). Nesting inside fuse boxes in buildings (Naik 1963) and even under wind turbines has been reported

(Kumar *et al.* 2014). But this nest inside a scooter was unusual and worth reporting.

[This nesting inside a scooter affirms the adaptation of Indian Robin to its urban surroundings. We welcome more observations of birds nesting in unusual locations in urban areas – Eds]

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