

## Thick-billed Green Pigeon in Junagadh district

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On 24 November 2017, my colleague, Arvind Parmar, called me and sent photos of a Green Pigeon (*Treron* sp.) on my mobile and told me that this bird was injured in his farm near Mangrol (21° 07' N, 70° 07' E), Junagadh district. Mangrol is a coastal city and located about 40 kms from Veraval.

I went to his farm, saw the bird and took some photos. At first sight, I thought it was a Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicopterus*), but the red base to bill, greenish orbital skin around the eye, red coloured legs and stripes on wings were different. With the help of a field guide (Grimmett *et al.* 2011), I identified it as a Thick-billed Green Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*). I confirmed the identification by sending the images to senior birders Dr. Gaurang Bagda and Irshad Theba, who agreed that it was this species.



Mital Moradiya

The bird looked very sick. I examined it and saw that it was wounded and had injuries near the beak, neck and on the head. According to my colleague, it had collided with a pole in his farm, after which it fell down on the ground. It also looked very tired. After the identification was confirmed, I checked the diet of this species. I read that it was exclusively frugivorous. After washing the wounds with water, we observed that it slept for 3-4 hours. We tried to give fruits and found that it ate only Sapodilla (*Manilkara zapota*), which is locally known as *chickoo*. At that time, it had no energy to even open its beak and take the fruit from our hands. So we had to open its beak and feed it. After 4-5 days, its health improved but the wound was not healed. On the seventh day, it was easily walking on the ground and also flew up to about 1.5 to 2 meters, and further up to about 4 meters after some days. It also called a few times but I could not record its call. Unfortunately, it died after two weeks of rescue.

The Thick-billed Green Pigeon is not known to occur in Gujarat; it is resident in NE India, with isolated records from Odisha (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). There is a recent record from Vizag (Andhra Pradesh), which was reported on some newspapers online. However, there are no records from Gujarat and it is not listed in the checklist of birds of Gujarat (Ganpule 2016), or in the first update to the Gujarat checklist (Ganpule 2017). Thus, experts were surprised to note its occurrence in Junagadh district. Could it be a captive bird which escaped? Or



Mital Moradiya

## Thick-billed Green Pigeon....

can it be that it was a vagrant and reached here? We can make assumptions but it is difficult to be sure in this case.

[It can be seen from the photos that it is indeed the Thick-billed Green Pigeon and there is no doubt regarding its identification. As stated by the observer, it is not known to occur in Gujarat. In fact, there are no records from western India. Hence, it is really surprising that this species was seen here. It is most probable that this was an escapee from the pet bird trade. We tried to search whether this species is kept as a cage bird in Gujarat but could not find any details for this species and it seems it is not kept as a pet here. Also, since it was seen in a coastal area, it could be a bird which was released or escaped from a ship or arrived here by ship assistance. There could be many reasons for its occurrence here and though chances are very less, it is also probable that it could be a wild vagrant. However, in view of the fact that it is way out of its range and has not been noted in western India before, this species is not

included in the Gujarat checklist at present. A decision can be taken later by a committee regarding its inclusion or exclusion in the state checklist – Eds]

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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## Black-legged Kittiwake in Kachchh: an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat

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On 24 December 2017, I visited Mandvi coastal area in Kachchh with my friends for bird watching. At around 07:10 hrs, we saw a flock of gulls (*Larus* sp.) and approached nearer to take photos. While taking photos, I saw a gull which seemed quite different from the other gulls there. It was perched alone besides the flock. I managed to take some good photographs of this bird and shared the photos with my friends. It was

identified as a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). There are no previous records of this species in Gujarat. Hence, this sighting is an addition to avifauna of Gujarat.

[As can be seen from the two photos taken by the observer, the characteristic features like the small, thin, all yellow bill, large eye, very pale grey mantle, the diagnostic all black 'dipped in ink' extreme wing tip, grey neck and darker grey ear-spot, reaching onto hind-

