

White-browed Bulbul in Rajkot: A first record for Saurashtra

Bhargav Bhatt : 401, Natraj flat, Shramjivi Society-9/4, Near Gopal Temple, Dhebar Road, Rajkot. bhargav_8104@ymail.com

Bhavesh Trivedi : "Shree" 42, Malviya Nagar, Gondal Road, Rajkot. bhaveshatrivedi100@gmail.com

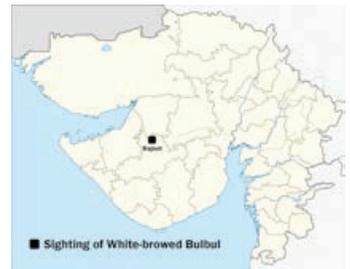


Bhavesh Trivedi

On 4 March 2016, we saw and photographed three White-browed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) in the premises of Rajkot Zoological Park, also known as Pradyuman Park Zoo, Rajkot. This place is on the outskirts of Rajkot city and is a well wooded area surrounded by Randarda and Lalpari Lakes. We saw three birds at a time. All the three birds were foraging and perching on branches of trees like Neem, Peepal, etc. Since the initial sighting in the first week of March, these birds are regularly seen in the area. The last sighting was on 29 August 2016, at around 09:00 hrs, when one of the birds was calling from a branch of a tree at a very low height of around 3 feet. All the three birds are frequently seen very near to the visitor's path in the zoo.

According to Ali & Ripley (2001), the species is known to occur in peninsular India, south of 23° N, from Ahmedabad to Midnapur (West Bengal). The White-browed Bulbul is known to occur in South and Central Gujarat and a specimen was collected from Vaghjipur in Mehsana District, but is given as 'not noted in Saurashtra and absent in Kachchh' (Ali 1955). Though recorded in Central Gujarat, there is

no previous record of this species from Saurashtra (Dharmakumarsinhji 1955, Raol 1998). The recent field guides, like Grimmett *et al.* (2011), show its occurrence for South and Central Gujarat but do not show its distribution in Saurashtra or Kachchh. Hence this is a significant record for Saurashtra. Though the number of birds seen is less, it is now known that they are being seen in the area for more than three months and are still present.



It is not possible to discuss whether this represents a range extension of this species based on these few observations; further sightings from more areas in Saurashtra could be useful to see if this is the case.



Bhavesh Trivedi

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