

## Short Birding Notes



### **Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* in Madhavpur, near Porbandar**

On 30 November 2020, as a part of my daily routine, I was filling up the water pots for birds in and around Osho Ashram, Madhavpur (Ghed), near Porbandar. It was around 13:00 hrs when I saw an unusual bird which I felt I had never seen before. So, I sat there for some time to observe and photograph it. Upon seeing and photographing the bird, I sent the images to my friend Dhaivat Hathi, and he felt it was some thrush species (*Turdus* sp.) but he could not identify it and so advised to share the images with Dhaval Vargiya and Prasad Ganpule. They identified the bird to be a probable first winter Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*), which was quite an unusual sighting for this region. The bird was seen there from 30 November 2020 to 3 December 2020. Since there only photos showing the front parts for scrutiny, the features like dark bill, dark breast markings with dark streaked malar stripe, and streaked flanks all pointed to the identification as first-winter Black-throated Thrush. Upperparts were not visible in the photo but were pale greyish-brown. The Black-throated Thrush is vagrant to Gujarat (historically sighted twice in the state) but, an adult male was photographed in the winter of 2019 in Kachchh (Kapdi & Kulkarni 2020). This is the first time it has been sighted outside Kachchh.

I am thankful to Dhaivat Haathi and Dhaval Vargiya for helping me to draft this note.

**Manish R. Kargatiya:** Madhavpur (Ghed). manishrk31@gmail.com



### **Sighting of Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* in Rajkot City**

On 1 April 2021, in the morning at around 10.15 hrs, at a garden near Shastri Nagar, Nana Mauva Road, Rajkot, I observed that an unfamiliar bird was hopping in the grass. Curious regarding the identity of this bird, I took some photos, because its plumage was looking different from the common birds seen here. After taking some photos and videos, I shared the photos with senior birders here. Ashok Mashru confirmed the identification of this bird as a Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*) and also informed me that this was the first sighting and photographic record of Tickell's Thrush from Rajkot District. I visited the garden again on 4 April with fellow birdwatchers Pinkesh Tanna, Priyank Dhami and Jayson Dholariya, and observed the Tickell's Thrush foraging under a *peepal* tree, eating fallen fruits. The bird stayed here for 10 days. It is possible that it may have come to Rajkot during its return migration. The Tickell's Thrush has been reported from Girnar WLS and nearby areas but this is an important record for Rajkot.

**Jaymin Panchasara:** Rajkot. jaymin17288@gmail.com



### **Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* near Mahuva, Bhavnagar**

On 18 February 2021, we were returning back after photographing the Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) near Mahuva. At about 17:00 hrs, near Malan Bandhara Wetland, we saw around 20 Rosy Starlings (*Pastor roseus*) feeding on a piloo tree (*Salvadora persica*). We saw a different bird in this group and on observing with binoculars, confirmed that a female Grey hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*) was feeding on the ripened fruits of the tree. We took some photographs. The bird was going inside the tree and coming out after a few minutes and it was quite shy. We looked around for the male but did not find any other hypocolius. This individual stayed here for three days and was not seen after that. We were elated with this sighting since the first author [BB] had been searching for this species for the past three years in habitats with *Salvadora persica* trees in this area. Bhalodia & Mashru (2016) listed records of the Grey Hypocolius outside Fulay but do not give any record for Bhavnagar District. This is the first photographic record of the Grey Hypocolius for this area.

**Batuk Bhil:** At – Nikol, Mahuva. batukbhil@gmail.com

**A. R. Chudasama:** At – Sartanpar, Talaja. asha2141996@gmail.com