



Sightings of Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* in Dadra & Nagar Haveli

On 10 December 2020, we saw and photographed a first winter (immature male) Ultramarine Flycatcher (*Ficedula superciliaris*) in Dadra & Nagar Haveli. After a few days, we visited a different forest patch and discovered around ten individuals present together. There were two adult males in these birds and we observed them having territorial disputes by making low, shrill calls repeatedly. The Ultramarine Flycatcher is an uncommon to rare winter migrant to Gujarat, with scattered sightings from different parts of the state (Ganpule 2016). There are records of this species from South Gujarat on 'eBird' but it is generally uncommon here. The sighting of ten birds in a forested patch in Dadra & Nagar Haveli suggests that the Ultramarine Flycatcher could be a regular winter migrant in this area and present in good numbers.

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Unusual behaviour by Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

On 11 July 2021, early in the morning, I was exploring the area around Vejagam Village, near Rajkot, with my birder friend Pritesh Zala. I heard a hammering sound of woodpeckers. After searching for 5-10 minutes, I saw two Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*) on a cement pole. Soon, a third bird also perched there. Later, I noticed strange behaviour by these individuals as they were continuously hammering on the cement pole although the area is well surrounded by trees. Initially, I thought they were looking for some spiders or insects on the pole but I saw this behaviour for about 20 minutes. The hammering continued but we moved on further. Later on, I informed about this behaviour to senior bird watcher Ashok Mashru and he said that he had photographed this species of woodpecker perching on a cement pole last year. The reason behind such odd behaviour is not known but the continuous hammering on a cement pole by three individuals is interesting. Further study is required to ascertain the reason for this behaviour.

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Sighting of Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* at Nalsarovar

On 4 September 2021, I visited Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary for birding. There, I saw and photographed a Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*). It was easily identified as it was seen well and photographed. The bird was found foraging in a *Prosopis juliflora* tree and was occasionally coming to the ground, possibly in search of food. This species is an autumn passage migrant in Gujarat, especially in Kachchh. However, records from Saurashtra are few when compared to Kachchh and it is somewhat uncommon in our region. It is likely that it is overlooked and could be visiting suitable habitats in Saurashtra. More sightings will help in understanding its current distribution in Saurashtra.

Kamruddin Alvani: Nalsarovar.



Unusual nesting site of Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* at Rajkot

On 17 June 2021, the first author stayed at Regency Lagoon Resort at Rajkot. He observed active nests of Baya Weavers (*Ploceus philippinus*) near the reception area, in Palm trees. He noted, with surprise, active nest construction by some Baya Weavers on the decorative wooden fascia of the sloping roof of the building adjoining the Palm tree. The weavers were busy with nest construction and carrying nesting material. On intimation to the second author, he went to the place on 18 June 2021 for taking photographs and video of the nests. He observed that some nests were almost completed while active construction was going on in other nests. The Baya Weaver uses Palm, Acacia and other trees over a well or a water source but using this artificial place for nesting is uncommon. Speaking about this with other bird watchers, Rajdeep Jhala informed that he had seen Baya Weaver nests on an electric wire earlier.

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