

caught its tail and tried very hard to pull it out from the ground. The tail of the lizard broke off and the treepie got only a small piece of its broken tail in its bill. When the other treepie saw this, it tried to snatch this piece but the first treepie swallowed the piece of tail immediately. After that, both the birds tried to dig out the lizard from the hole but could not succeed. The lizard thus escaped from the cooperative hunting of the treepies.

I tried to get further details of this behavior by the Rufous Treepie pair and searched online to see if such behaviour had been reported earlier. But, I could not find any references for

such behaviour where treepies were observed hunting a Garden Lizard. It is well known that Rufous Treepies are often part of mixed hunting parties (or bird 'waves') in forests and take advantage of hunting with other birds (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). However, it is possible that pairs often hunt together and cooperate when attacking prey which is large for a single bird.

References

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Sighting of Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* in Bhuj, Kachchh

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The Hume's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*) is a very agile, old world leaf warbler. It is a small warbler, which can be confused with Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*), Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) and Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*). The Hume's Leaf Warbler has greyish-olive upperparts, with whitish supercilium, ear-coverts and greater-covert wing bar; the median-covert wing bar is usually poorly defined while the tertials have whitish edges (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). Its call is diagnostic, a sparrow-like *chwee*, which helps in separating it from other similar warblers.

It is usually found in medium to high trees, feeding between leaves. I saw and photographed a Hume's Leaf Warbler near my home in Bhuj, Kachchh, on 18 November 2020. Since I was able to see it well, I noted all its features and also confirmed the identification by its call. The bird kept changing its perch very quickly and was feeding on very small insects from stems and leaves of trees. I kept a track of this individual and

photographed it many times near my home. It was last seen in the first week of March 2021. It stayed here for more than four months and wintered here.

There is only one previously published record of Hume's Leaf Warbler from Kachchh; a bird was seen at Chadva *Rakhal*, near Bhuj (Bhopale 2010). Dr. Salim Ali did not find this species during his many visits to Kachchh. The Hume's Leaf Warbler has been given as 'common winter visitor in South Gujarat and Saurashtra; probably widespread but overlooked' by Ganpule (2016). Thus, it is possible that the Hume's Leaf Warbler may be more widespread than what the records suggest. Identification of warblers is challenging and it may be missed among the Greenish Warblers and Green Warblers occurring here. Its status in Kachchh is not well known. I saw this individual during the winter and it stayed in the same area over a long period. There are other similar well wooded areas in Kachchh and it is likely that the Hume's Leaf Warbler may be occurring in such places in the winter. Bird watchers are requested to lookout for this species in Kachchh so that we can get a better idea of its distribution here in Kachchh.

References

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