



Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* in Jamnagar

On 31 October 2018, we were birding at Ranjit Sagar dam, about 10 kms from Jamnagar. There we saw and photographed a bird of prey perched on a tree. It was identified as a Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*). Another sighting of a Long-legged Buzzard was reported from Jamnagar city by Dr. Maulik Varu on 1 December 2018 (*pers. comm.*, verbally). Though the Long-legged Buzzard is a regular winter visitor in Gujarat and also seen in Jamnagar district frequently, it is uncommonly seen near/in Jamnagar city with only a few previous records. These records suggest that the species is also seen in urban areas of Jamnagar.

We thank Dr. Gaurang Bagda and Dr. Maulik Varu for confirming the identification.

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Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* of rufous morph at Thol Bird Sanctuary

On 23 December 2018, I was bird watching at Thol Bird Sanctuary, near Ahmedabad, when I heard the sound of wing-flapping and a small bird landed a little far away from me. While approaching, I realized that it was some small owl species (*Otus* sp.) and looked quite similar to an Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*), which I had seen earlier in Indroda Park, Gandhinagar. On a closer look, I saw that it was indeed an Oriental Scops Owl of the rufous morph. The bird perched for a few minutes and then flew away. Later, I visited the same place a few more times, but did not find it again. Though I had seen it earlier in Gandhinagar, which is near to Thol, this was my first sighting of an Oriental Scops Owl from this area.

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Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* in Kachchh

On 18 October 2018, I visited Dhosa Mahadev Temple, Ta: Bhuj. The area has a freshwater lake and is surrounded by scrub and rocks. There, I saw and photographed five Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*). This was the first sighting of this species for the winter of 2018-2019. The Trumpeter Finch is a rare winter migrant to Kachchh with recent sightings from Banni area and from near Bhuj (Parekh 2016). However, this is the first time this species was seen in Dhosa Mahadev area. This record indicates that it is possible that the Trumpeter Finch could be visiting other suitable habitats in Kachchh.

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Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* in Jamnagar

On 13 January 2018, we visited the saltpans and marshy areas near INS Valsura, on the outskirts of Jamnagar. We saw four snipes (*Gallinago* sp.) there. Three snipes were identified as Common Snipes (*Gallinago gallinago*). However, one snipe was different from the others. It had a short bill, short legs, a bulging supercilium in front of eye, narrow and poorly defined stripes in front of eye. We took a few photographs. It was identified as a Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*). Although Pin-tailed Snipe is an uncommon but regular winter visitor to Gujarat (Ganpule 2016), it is quite likely that it is overlooked and hence, there are only a few recent records from the state. A Pin-tailed Snipe was seen in Ranjitsagar Dam, near Jamnagar, by Ashwin Trivedi in January 2019 (*pers comm.*, verbally).

[The field identification and separation of Pin-tailed Snipe from Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*) is considered impossible unless the spread tail is seen well or photographed. The identification here as Pin-tailed Snipe is based mainly on the locality. Birders are urged to photograph the spread tail in such snipes – Eds]

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