



Western-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus occipitalis* in Kachchh

There had been good rains in Kachchh since the last two years and so the birdlife is good. We were on a birding trip on 25 October 2020 near and around Mandvi area. This area was very rich in *khair* and *desi babul* trees and so there was lot of activity of small birds. We stopped near one *khair* tree where activity of warblers was good. We spotted a warbler which we thought was a Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) and took photographs of it. Later, on seeing the photographs on the computer, we saw that this warbler had whitish crown stripe and darker sides of crown. The supercilium was whitish and the upperparts had greyish tinge. We identified it as a Western-crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*), which was later confirmed by experts. In Kachchh, the first sighting of this warbler was by Veer Vaibhav Mishra in September 2019. This is a second record of the species from this region.

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Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* in eastern Banni, Kachchh

In October 2020, during part of nocturnal field work and survey in Banni region in Kachchh, we went to south-eastern part of Banni, near Lonthia town, in the morning. We saw a prinia perched on a *Prosopis juliflora*. It was moving very quickly from one perch to another. I was unable to identify it at that time. We were looking for European Nightjars (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) which were seen in flight the previous night in this area. After coming back, I shared the photographs of the prinia with senior birders Maulik Varu and Shantilal Varu; they identified it as an Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) and informed that this was the first record of Ashy Prinia from mainland Kachchh. The Ashy Prinia was seen in a patch with vegetation, nearby a seasonal river. I was accompanied in the field by my friends Vatsal Chedda and Pratik Shah during this trip to Banni.

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Removal of dead chick from nest by Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum*

A pair of Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) had started nesting in a hole above an electric meter, situated in the building just opposite my home, in month of April 2020. It had started feeding insects to the chicks. In the morning on 30 June 2020, I saw a Brahminy Starling coming out from the nest with something big in its beak. I came out of my house and on searching, I found the Brahminy Starling sitting on a wire above my house but without any thing in its bill. I found a well grown dead chick, on the street exactly below the wire where the bird was perched. I understood that the Brahminy Starling had removed the dead chick from its nest. The chick was without any sign of injury but there were some threads wrapped on one leg. Earlier, I observed a similar incident during the study of breeding Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*), wherein dead chicks were removed from the nest by the adult barbet (Mashru 2018). It is likely that if the chick dies, then the parent birds remove it to keep the nest clean.

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Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca* in Kachchh

While birding at Anjar Taluka on 8 December 2019, we saw one Black-headed Munia (*Lonchura malacca*) with a flock of Black-headed Buntings (*Emberiza melanocephala*) and Red-headed Buntings (*Emberiza bruniceps*). The birds had flocked together to feed on *Jowar* grain in a nearby field. We took some photographs and confirmed the identification. The Black-headed Munia is rare in Kachchh. It was not reported to occur in Kachchh by Ali (1945). I had seen this bird for the first time at Khari River, near Bhuj, in September 1980. Subsequently, I had again seen this species at Chhataradi Tank with Navin Bapat. Thereafter, it was not recorded in Kachchh and this sighting in December 2019 was another record of the Black-headed Munia for Kachchh. I was accompanied by fellow bird watchers Jaysinh Parmar, Mahesh Parmar, Ibrahim Darvadiya, Manoj Tank and Mahendra Tank during my visit to Anjar Taluka.

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