



Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata* feeding on a bat

On 2 April 2019, we visited the outskirts of Rajpipla, in Narmada District. It was around midnight when we heard a very faint call, a *whoo-wuk*, a couple of times, and after searching, the call became very clear, but the bird was not visible. After trying to locate the bird, it suddenly flew away, disappeared for a few seconds, came back and perched on a branch of a tree. It was readily identified as a Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata*). After taking a few photographs, we were surprised to see that the owl had made a fresh bat kill. After waiting for about 5 to 10 minutes, the owl started to feed on the bat. We could not identify the species of the bat it had caught. The owl tore off small pieces and would take a bite or two, look around, and repeat it. The Brown Hawk Owl feeds mainly on insects, but also takes frogs, lizards, small birds and mammals, including bats (Olsen *et al.* 2019). There are very few photographs of it feeding on a bat.

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White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* at Rajkot

We visited Randarda Lake on the morning of 20 April 2019 for participating in a cleaning program by Wild Saurashtra Group. We saw an unusual and different type of tern amongst a flock of Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*) and River Terns (*Sterna aurantia*) coming to feed on *ganthiya* (a fried snack) offered by local people. We identified it as a White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) in full breeding plumage. We saw a total of three White-winged Terns here. Afterwards, Ashok Mashru also saw a single White-winged Tern at Nyari-I Dam on 24 April 2019, and again on the morning of 29 April 2019. Earlier, Raju Karia had seen a White-winged Tern at Nyari-I Dam on 16 April 2014 (Karia 2015). This shows that there is a possibility of it visiting more wetlands in Rajkot area but is overlooked due to similarity with Whiskered Tern in the winter and is noted in early summer due to its conspicuous plumage.

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Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* near Anand

On 10 November 2015, I was travelling between Tarapur and Pariej, near Anand. I saw and photographed a Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) perched on the side of the road. On a closer approach, the bird flew away and perched on the banks of a small river nearby. I was able to take good photographs, which confirmed the identification. The Black-capped Kingfisher is uncommon or rare, but widely distributed in Gujarat, with sightings from coastal as well as inland areas in almost the entire state (Rank & Parasharya 2004, Ganpule 2016). Very few records from Anand District are known.

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Further observations on breeding of Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

I had described, in detail, the breeding of Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*) earlier in Rajkot (Mashru 2018). I would like to add an observation and a change for this year i.e. 2019, compared to the earlier years breeding observations (2014-2018). I had stated in 'nesting hole' in Mashru (2018) that 'it never uses the same hole in the next season'. In the month of October 2018, the birds started digging a nest hole at two different places but stopped after a few days. In the first week of March, I saw the adult go in the nest hole made in 2018. Then, around 10 March 2019, looking at the behaviour of the pair, I presumed that incubation had started. On 30 March 2019, I saw the bird go in to feed the chicks for the first time. Further, the same nest hole was used for the second brood, which was also successful. So, the Coppersmith Barbet used the same nest hole made in the previous year. The exact reasons for using the nest hole from the previous season remain unclear.

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