



Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* in Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary

On 2 February 2019, we went to Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, near Jamnagar. When we were moving on a road in part II of the sanctuary, a bird flew in and perched on a branch of a *Salvadora* sp. tree, which caught our attention. After watching through binoculars and taking photos, we identified it as a female Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*). There were many *Salvadora* trees on this road, and so we were hopeful of seeing more birds as the Grey Hypocolius likes to feed on the fruits of this tree. On moving further along the road, we found and photographed two males. The Grey Hypocolius is a regular winter visitor to Banni area of Kachchh but is rare in Jamnagar with previous records from Narara (Jadeja 2015) and Khijadiya (Buch 2018, Kunal Joshi, *pers. comm.*). Hence, the present sighting suggests that this species might be a rare but regular winter visitor to suitable habitats in Jamnagar District.

Maulik Varu & Shantilal Varu: Jamnagar. drmaulikvaru@yahoo.com



Unusual feeding behaviour of Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

I visited Chhari-Dhand, in Greater Rann of Kachchh, on 7 December 2018, for watching raptors in the area. I saw and stopped to photograph a Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) which was perched on the ground. The bird was preening its feathers and I started to photograph it. The bird preened some of its back feathers and pulled out small white feathers from its back. I was amazed to see that the Long-legged Buzzard then ate these feathers. It also picked up some small white feathers which had fallen on the ground and ate them. On sharing this observation with experts, Hans Peeters suggested that this bird was eating its moulting down, which would perhaps help in formation of a pellet of indigestible prey remains, which would soon be ejected. This was something new for me and I had never seen any bird of prey eating its own down feathers. I thank Hans Peeters for explaining this behaviour of the Long-legged Buzzard.

Jaysukh Parekh 'Suman': Bhuj, Kachchh. nisusuman@gmail.com



Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* in Kachchh

On 9 December 2018, we went to explore a hilly and rocky area on the Bhuj - Mundra Road, near Bharapar Village. After some time, we saw a warbler (*Phylloscopus* sp.) which was continuously flying from one rock to another, moving and foraging. We thought that it was something new, and so we waited there to get some photographs. We managed to get a few photographs from a distance. We identified it as a Sulphur-bellied Warbler (*Phylloscopus griseolus*). We waited for some time, but then it disappeared. We shared the photographs with experts, and the identification was confirmed by them. The Sulphur-bellied Warbler is a rare winter migrant to Kachchh, with recent records from Phot Mahadev and Bhuj in Kachchh (Tiwari 2016). Thus, this sighting adds to the records of this species from Kachchh.

Ullash K. Rathod & Sharvil J. Vora: Bhuj, Kachchh. sharvilvora96@gmail.com



White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* near Navsari

On 19 September 2018, we went to Sultanpur Wetland near Navsari. After watching flamingos (*Phoenicopterus* sp.), we came on to the main road and suddenly, we saw a group of 20 to 25 terns (*Sterna* and *Chlidonias* sp.) flying around the wetland. I observed, from the moving car, a tern with black underwing coverts and black belly, which looked different from the remaining terns. So, we immediately photographed it. For identification, we contacted Anil Bhatt and it was identified as White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). It seemed to be moulting out of breeding plumage. Anil Bhatt further told us that though the White-winged Tern is a widespread winter migrant to Gujarat, this might be the first photographic record of a White-winged Tern from southern Gujarat.

Pravin C. Patel: Surat. pravin93navyug@yahoo.com,

Dipak Patel: Amalsad, **Abhijit Dey:** Kolkata.