



Forest Owlet *Heteroglaux blewitti* in Dadra & Nagar Haveli

On 7 January 2021, a Thursday, we decided to explore the jungles of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. We were with Bhoya Divyesh and Aniket Patel. At around 14:30 hrs, we were exploring a new area and hence, the second author was not carrying a camera. We went almost seven km inside the forest and we saw one Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) in flight and then we began tracking it. The second author stopped and listened to a call and informed me that it was the call of a Forest Owlet (*Heteroglaux blewitti*). We waited for more than two hours. We saw the Forest Owlet and got good photographs. While the Forest Owlet has been reported from the Dang Forest area, it was our dream to find it here in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and we were very happy that we could get it here. The habitat here is not different from other habitats seen in Dangs and its occurrence here is not unusual, but, this is the first confirmed record from this area.

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Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* at Bhavnagar coastal area

On 25 December 2020, at 14:30 hrs, I was with my friend Raj Vala and we went for birding at Hathab coastal area, Bhavnagar. After watching many common waders, I saw one different bird in a group of Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) and Common Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*). I photographed it and identified it as a Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*). We saw two individuals in this area. Earlier, I had seen two individuals at Gopnath Beach, near Bhavnagar, in 2019, with my parents. Though seen in Gulf of Kachchh area fairly regularly, the Great Knot is not very common around Bhavnagar area.

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Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* in Nalsarovar

On 16 December 2020, we were birding in Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. At around 12:05 hrs, we were watching flocks of Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) and other ducks. In this flock, we saw two different geese, which were in the middle of the flock. We took some photographs and noted that they had orange legs, lacked pale grey forewing of Greylag Goose and had dark markings on underparts. Based on these features, we identified these birds as Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Over the next one to two months, more than six to seven birds were seen in the area. The Greater White-fronted Goose is a vagrant to Gujarat, with sightings from Little Rann of Kachchh and Thol Bird Sanctuary (Ganpule 2016). It was the first time we had seen this species here in Nalsarovar.

Latif Alvani & Kamruddin: Nalsarovar.



Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* in Navsari

On 1 December 2020, in the morning at 08:00 hrs, I was at Sultanpur Wetland, Navsari, for bird photography. I saw a few River Terns (*Sterna aurantia*), perched just 20 ft nearby. In this flock of River Terns, one bird was looking quite different, with black plumage. But, its head was tucked in its body and it was difficult to identify it. After ten minutes, it changed its position and I was surprised and elated to see that it was an Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*). After that, I took some photos and called my friend Dipak Patel. We spent more than three hours with the skimmer, taking good photos. We saw a total of three Indian Skimmers here over the next three or four days. According to Ganpule (2016), the Indian Skimmer is an uncommon to rare migrant, seen in the late monsoon and winter months – it is more frequently seen in Jamnagar and Nalsarovar, with scattered records from other parts of Saurashtra. It is rare in South Gujarat and hence, this is an important sighting for our area.

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