



White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* preying on Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

On 16 January 2021, I went to Nalsarovar outskirts area along with my photographer friends Chirag Palkar, Dhananjay Joshi and local guide Shabbir Belim. At around 10:00 hrs, we noticed a White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) with kill, and decided to have a closer look. With surprise, we observed that the kill was a Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*), which is not the usual food of a White-breasted Kingfisher. Though this species is known to prey on chicks and adults of different birds, this observation of the Common Stonechat being the prey of the White-throated Kingfisher is unusual.

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Lutino Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* near Nalsarovar

While birding near Ranagadh Village, in the Nalsarovar area, on 13 January 2021, we were observing birds in a *Salvadora persica* tree, locally known as *piludi* or *pilu* tree. We observed a colour aberrant Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*). The bird was lemon-yellow in colour. The beak appeared lighter red and some green was visible on primary coverts. In flight, we saw that there was some green present in the wings. We identified it as a lutino Rose-ringed Parakeet. Birds with this aberration are popular in the pet trade and it is possible that this was an escapee. However, the behaviour of this bird was like that of a wild bird, its plumage was good, it did not have any lost feathers and it was feeding on a *Salvadora persica*. Further, this sighting was far from a city area. This led us to believe that it could be a colour aberrant wild bird. There is a recent sighting of a lutino Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cynocephala*) from Corbett National Park (Shroff 2016). This was the first time we had seen such a bird here.

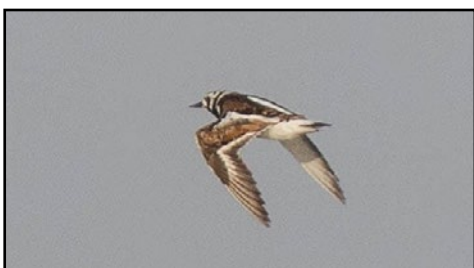
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A male Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* at Nalsarovar

On 15 January 2021, it was the second day of *Uttarayan* and instead of flying kites, my friend Nandini Mehta and I headed to Nalsarovar to get a glimpse of the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) which was seen there. We reached Nalsarovar just before sunrise. We waited for flocks of geese and cranes to settle down in the fields. But that day, we could hardly see any flocks of geese flying around. Thinking it was a bit early, we headed to the other side in Ranchhodpura. We took an unknown road, with our eyes on the field. Just a few meters onto a lane, a grey, slender bird with a long, pointed tail caught my attention. It looked like a dove and had black feathers on its face, throat and breast. I identified it as a male Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*). It was perched on a bush just about one foot above the ground. It was sitting calmly and was lethargic as the sun was just coming up and it was quite cold. I took a few photos from the car itself. There are recent records of Namaqua Dove from Nalsarovar and near Bhavnagar (Belim & Multani 2020, Bhil & Bhil 2020). The earlier sighting from Nalsarovar was of a female/juvenile and this was the first time a male had been seen here.

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Sighting of Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* at Nyari-I Dam, Rajkot

On 19 May 2020, we visited Nyari-I Dam in the evening just to relax from the lockdown. We heard some different call and presumed it to be of some different wader since we had heard the call before in our coastal birding trips. The first author was trying to record the call with his mobile phone when the wader appeared in flight. We managed to see it well and took photos. It was a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). We were surprised to see this coastal bird in an inland fresh water reservoir and that too this late (in May). We assumed that it may have landed while in return migration. The second author had observed two Eurasian Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) years back, at same place, on 29 March 1998. It seems this large freshwater reservoir attracts waders during migration.

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