



Common Shelduck in Rajkot

On 24 November 2018, while bird watching in the outskirts of Rajkot, a duck was seen flying. We noticed the blackish neck and larger size, and after some time, it came above us and tried to perch on the ground in front of us. We took some photos of it in flight and identified it as a Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*). We then tried to search for it but we saw it only once and then it flew away. On enquiring with some experts and senior birders from Rajkot, we got to know that the species has not been noted in Rajkot before and this was the first photographic record from this area.

Divyesh Ghervada, Prakash Jani, Jaydevsinh Nakum: Rajkot. divyeshghervada@yahoo.com



Striolated Bunting in Navsari

On 22 September 2018, Jay Desai and I visited Navsari outskirts area for regular bird watching. We reached a wetland at approximately 08:00 hrs. We did birding for about 4 hours in that particular area. While returning back, we were lucky to see and photograph a Striolated Bunting (*Emberiza striolata*). We initially thought that it was a lark sp. (*Mirafra* sp.). We then confirmed that it was indeed a Striolated Bunting and managed to take some photographs too. The Striolated Bunting is rare in Navsari area.

Minal Patel: Navsari. minalpatel_forestry@yahoo.in



Brown-breasted Flycatcher at Thol Bird Sanctuary, Ahmedabad

On the morning of 19 February 2017, at Thol Bird Sanctuary, near Ahmedabad, my search for an uncommon winter visitor to Gujarat was finally successful. I got my first glimpse of a Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*), and the identification was confirmed by its typical plumage and pale legs. This was probably the first recorded sighting at Thol. My gut feeling about the bird being present at Thol proved to be correct. There have been many sightings of this species since 2007 but these sightings have been mostly from Kachchh and Saurashtra (Ganpule 2016). Also, an individual was recently ringed by BNHS at Nal Sarovar, which was confirmed by Shri Uday Vora (*pers. comm.*) and there is a recent sighting from Jessore in Banaskantha (Varde 2018). I saw the bird at Thol from 19 February till 20 March 2017, on every Sunday and on a few Saturdays. On 13 March 2017, a team from BNHS to was there along with me, and we saw it again in the area.

I thank Jignesh Gondaliya for taking the time to explain the habitat where he had seen the bird in Girnar. He was very meticulous in his explanation and that helped a lot in my search for this beautiful species at Thol.

Vipul Trivedi: Ahmedabad. vedi.solutions@gmail.com



Ultramarine Flycatcher in the outskirts of Ahmedabad

It was a pleasant morning on 10 December 2017 and as usual, I was roaming in my weekend destination i.e. Serenity Library and Botanical Garden. While I was observing and taking photographs of birds, a small flycatcher (*Ficedula* sp.) came on a perch quite close to me. I took a few photographs and after post processing, I referred to the field guide (Grimmett *et al.* 2011) and also consulted my birding friend Darshanbhai Parikh. The bird was identified as a first winter male Ultramarine Flycatcher (*Ficedula superciliaris*). This was a first record from this area and later on, I informed my birding friend Umang Dutt, who also took photographs of this bird.

Samir Brahmbhatt: Ahmedabad. c2samir@yahoo.co.in