



Winter sighting of Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus* at Khijadiya, near Jamnagar

On 8 February 2019, we were birding at Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, near Jamnagar, early in the morning. We saw two species of cuckoos; a Eurasian Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) and the other was a different cuckoo. We took a few photographs and it was identified as a male Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*Cacomantis passerinus*) with grey underparts, darkish upperparts and white vent and undertail-coverts. The Grey-bellied Cuckoo is mainly a monsoon visitor to the well forested areas of Saurashtra and it was surprising to see it in the winter in this area. Bagda *et al.* (2015) show records of this species from Gir National Park and surrounding areas and a winter record from Positra, near Dwarka, in January 2014, is mentioned. This record from Khijadiya in the winter is interesting and suggests that the species may wander to suitable habitats in Saurashtra in the non-breeding season.

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Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* in Gosabara, near Porbandar

I visited Gosabara wetland, also known as Mokarsagar, with Manoj Finava, Ashwin Trivedi and Prasad Ganpule on 29 December 2018. In the evening at around 17:30 hrs, we saw and photographed 3-4 Streaked Weavers (*Ploceus manyar*) in the reeds near one of the ponds. The birds were identified by their heavily streaked breast and flanks, and were in non-breeding plumage, with a yellow supercilium and blackish streaked head. For Gujarat, the Streaked Weaver is known to be resident in Kachchh and northern Gujarat only (Ganpule 2016). There are no records known from Saurashtra. However, Dhaval Vargiya, who has extensively birded in this area, informed that he had seen the Streaked Weaver earlier in this area but could not photograph it. This sighting of the Streaked Weaver near Porbandar is interesting and it is possible that this species is overlooked and could be occurring in other parts of the state.

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Further sightings of Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* in Dadra & Nagar Haveli

A first sighting of the Slaty-legged Crake (*Rallina eurizonoides*) from the forest near Madhuban dam, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, was reported in August 2017, when an adult with a juvenile were seen and photographed (Mishra 2017). This was the first sighting of the species for Gujarat. A second sighting was in December 2017, when a juvenile Slaty-legged Crake was observed again in a different area of the Madhuban dam forest. Further observations in the monsoon season of 2018 confirmed that the Slaty-legged Crake was seen regularly and breeding in this area. Hence, this species is probably resident here in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and is highly active in the breeding season.

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Little Crake *Porzana parva* in Kheda District

In the month of December 2018, we were on a visit to Limbasi, in Dist: Kheda. At around 17:00 hrs in the evening, there was a continuous call of a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) from the road-side reeds. Hence, we stopped to try and photograph it. We waited for an hour but did not see the bird. We saw some movement in the reeds at around 18:00 hrs, almost at sunset. To our surprise, we saw an adult male Little Crake (*Porzana parva*), walking on the edge of the water and feeding. The bird was very bold and it kept on walking towards us, without any hesitation. We could take good photographs and confirmed the identification by the red base to bill and the longer primary projection. The Little Crake is thought to be a vagrant to Gujarat but there have been recent records from Jamnagar, Nal Sarovar and also near Kheda (photos on the 'Oriental Bird Images' website). Thus, this is another sighting of the Little Crake from Gujarat.

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