



Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* near Junagadh

On 20 January 2019, while bird watching in a lake besides Vadla Village, which is approximately 8 kms from Junagadh, I saw and photographed a Ruddy-breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*). It was easily identified by its plumage and the red legs. I could take some good photographs. The area is full of reeds and the habitat is suitable for crakes and other waterbirds. The Ruddy-breasted Crake is widely distributed in central and south Gujarat and records are shown up to Nal Sarovar area by Parasharya *et al.* (2016). There are recent records from Rajkot too (Moteria 2018). Hence, this sighting from Junagadh is not unexpected but this is probably the first confirmed winter sighting from this district.

Nirav Raval: Rajkot. ninad.niravraval@gmail.com



Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* in Rajkot

On 18 October 2019, I was on a visit to the outskirts of Rajkot with Neel Sureja, during the night, in search of nocturnal wildlife activity around city. I live in Gandhidham, but was on official work to Rajkot and so thought of exploring areas outside the city, in the night, for birds. On the way from Vagudad to Khirasara *vidi*, we saw a small-sized owl (*Otus* sp.) perched on the fence. Using a torch, I identified it as a Pallid Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) based on its plumage and took some photographs, which further confirmed the identification. After sometime, it went towards a neem tree and then flew away. The Pallid Scops Owl is a rare or uncommon winter migrant to Gujarat, with many sightings from Saurashtra (Ganpule 2016). It has been noted in Rajkot earlier, but it is generally rare here.

Pratik Joshi: Gandhidham. pratikjoshi123@gmail.com



Unusual feeding behaviour of Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* in Rajkot

On 20 June 2019, at around 18:30 hrs in the evening, I was with my nephew Harshvardhansinh and we visited the lake outside Pradyumna Park Zoo, Rajkot. We saw a few birds feeding at the edge of the lake and took photographs. After coming home and checking the photos, I was surprised to see that the few Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) were feeding on *gathiya*, a deep fried snack made from chickpea flour, which is very commonly fed to birds here. Since this was the first time I had seen this, I shared the photos with Bhavesh Trivedi and others, and confirmed that the flamingos were indeed feeding on this snack. Dr. Bakul Trivedi further confirmed with Dhaval Vargiya that the flamingos feed on this snack in Gujarat. Flamingos are filter feeders, feeding on brine shrimp, small insects, crustaceans and algae. Thus, seeing the flamingos feeding on *gathiya* in Rajkot was quite amazing and also distressing. The effects, if any, of these birds feeding on *gathiya* are not known but this is not their natural food. People should be made aware that *gathiya* is not the natural food of birds and the feeding of *gathiya* to birds should not be encouraged.

Namrata Jadeja: Rajkot.



Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* near Rajkot

On 8 October 2019, we were birding around Bhootnath, Halanda Village, near Rajkot. At around 09:30 hrs, I saw some bird movement in the bushes from a distance. As I got closer and took photographs, I realised that it was a male Blue-capped Rock Thrush (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*). It perched in the tree for a few seconds and then flew away but we could get a good look and also take some record photographs. This species is an uncommon winter migrant to Gujarat, with sightings from well forested areas of the state; in Saurashtra, it is seen regularly in Gir NP area (Vaghashiya & Bagda 2017). However, this may be one of the first photographic records from Rajkot area as we could not find any earlier record of this species for Rajkot.

Jignesh Rathod & Pilu Sitapara: Rajkot. surfer13jignesh@gmail.com