



Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* near Surat

On September 2019, a Sunday, we (Gajendra Mandora and I) were on our routine birding near Tena Village, which is one of the hot spots for birders around Surat. On the edge of Tena Lake, we spotted some waders with binoculars. On a closer look, we found some birds with different plumage, which were looking brownish from far. With curiosity, we moved forward towards these birds and found that these were Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis fulva*). We took some good photographs and saw that these birds were moulting out of breeding plumage. This species is rare around Surat and this was the first time that we had noted the Pacific Golden Plovers here.

Bhavesh Shah: Surat. bhaveshshah101075@gmail.com



Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* at Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

On 9 November 2019, we (Sejal Shah Daniel, Tushar Tripathi and I) visited Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary to photograph the Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) and Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis fulva*), which were seen there. While photographing the Small Pratincole, I observed two Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) close by. I took a few images of one bird immediately, while the other was searching for food in the green grass. After returning home and while discussing the sighting with my fellow birders, I realized that this species was not so common at Nal Sarovar. In general, the Ruddy Turnstone is a coastal species and there are very few inland records. It was recently seen in Dhari, near Amreli (Joshi 2018). This is another inland sighting of the Ruddy Turnstone for our state.

Rajendra Kasi: Ahmedabad. raaz80@gmail.com



Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* in Vadodara

On 6 November 2018, we were birding at the Timbi Lake, situated in the outskirts of Vadodara. At around 08:30 hrs in the morning, we were passing by a large bed of reeds and suddenly, our attention was caught by a large heron-like bird flying towards us. As it was coming from the direction of sun we could not identify it at first but when sunlight fell on it, we finally identified it as a Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). I took a few photographs of it in flight and so re-confirmed the identification. It then landed in a reed bed and it was impossible to see it in the dense reeds. The Great Bittern is a rare winter migrant to Gujarat (Ganpule 2016), with sightings from many parts of the state. This record from Timbi Lake is important and adds to the sightings of this species in Gujarat.

Vikrant Vyas & Smita Vyas: Vadodara. vyasvikrant698@gmail.com



Flock of Sulphur-bellied Warblers *Phylloscopus griseolus* in Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

On 21 September 2015, I was in Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. Near the entrance gate of the sanctuary, I saw and photographed a small flock of Sulphur-bellied Warblers (*Phylloscopus griseolus*) at around 10:00 hrs. A total of five birds were perched and seen feeding nearby each other in trees and scrub, and also on the ground. The identification was confirmed by taking a few photographs and noting the brownish-grey upperparts, yellow supercilium in front of eye and whitish edges to wing feathers. It was surprising to see this species in a flock as mostly, only single individuals are noted. The Sulphur-bellied Warbler is given as a common winter visitor in Saurashtra (Ganpule 2016). This sighting was in September, which is a little early for this winter migrant. Thus, this sighting of Sulphur-bellied Warbler in a flock, and that too in September, is quite surprising.

Rajnikant Trivedi: Ahmedabad. rajnitivedi1950@gmail.com