



### Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* near Bhuj, Kachchh

On 9 December 2018, we went for morning birding to a hilly and rocky area on Bhuj - Mundra Road, near Bharapar Village. There, we found a little water pool by the roadside, where we saw a few Striolated Buntings (*Emberiza striolata*) and Grey-necked Buntings (*Emberiza buchanani*). When we were photographing the buntings, a bird came and perched near the buntings. We immediately identified it as a Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*). We took a few photographs but the Trumpeter Finch got disturbed by a few goats and flew away. We waited for some time but did not see it again. A second visit in the afternoon was unsuccessful. While the Trumpeter Finch is seen in Kachchh, this was a new location in which it was noted. It is uncommon here in Kachchh, but was seen good numbers in the winter of 2018-2019 in Banni.

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### Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in Kachchh

On 26 November 2018, we visited Jakhau Salt Pans, near Naliya, Kachchh. Due to less rain in the monsoon of 2018, most of the lakes and ponds were dry and so water birds were attracted to these salt pans and we saw a good number of birds here. While birding in the area, we saw 35 Common Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) in two flocks. We managed to photograph 27 birds in one frame. It was difficult to locate and count these birds as the area is very large. The birds stayed here till 15 January 2019, after which we could not visit the area. The Common Shelduck is a rare winter migrant to Gujarat, with scattered sightings from Kachchh and other parts of the state (Ganpule 2016). The first author had seen 20 Common Shelducks in *Shervo-Dhand*, in Kachchh, in January 2017. There have been reports of even larger flocks from salt pans in Kachchh (posted on the social media). Thus, these sightings of Common Shelduck are noteworthy as this species is not usually seen in large flocks here.

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### Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* near Junagadh

On 20 January 2019, a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) was seen and photographed in a lake besides Vadla Village, about 8 kms from Junagadh. All its characteristic features like the long down-curved red bill, olive-brown underparts, black and white barred flanks and pinkish legs were seen and photographed. The Water Rail is winter migrant in Saurashtra and there are records from many districts like Rajkot, Bhavnagar, and Gir-Somnath (Mashru 2018, Patel 2018). However, as far as I am aware, there are no records from Junagadh and this is probably a first photographic record from this area. It is likely that it is overlooked and could be occurring in other similar habitats around Junagadh and needs to be looked out for.

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