

Trumpeter Finch....

here. At that time, we had around 5 liters of drinking water with us and we decided to fill that small puddle. After adding water to that puddle, we waited there for around an hour and recorded the behaviour of the Trumpeter Finch and took many photographs.

While the Trumpeter Finch is known to occur in Kachchh, and flocks of up to 25 birds have been recorded previously (Parekh 2016), this was the first time that more than 50 birds had

been seen together. It is likely that due to the unavailability of water at other places, the birds had congregated here from surrounding areas.

References

Parekh, J., 2016. Trumpeter Finch in Kachchh. *Flamingo* 14 (3): 1-3 □

Sighting of Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* and Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* in Kevdi Forest, near Mandvi, Surat

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A program on inculcating scientific approach towards bird watching was held at Kevdi Eco Campsite, near Mandvi, in Surat District, on 24 and 25 February 2018. It was organized by BCSG in association with Nature Club Surat, and saw the participation of bird watchers from all over the state.

As a part of the program, we went for bird watching with Pratik Parmar on a route on the morning of 25 February 2018. Another birdwatcher friend met us while we were returning to the campsite. Near the campsite, we saw two birds flying overhead. The second author immediately identified the birds as Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) from the typical triangular white patch which is seen from below in flight in this species. It seemed like the birds were immature as the bill was brownish and legs were pale yellowish (both are red in adults). We took some photographs and confirmed the identification.

In another sighting on 25 February 2018, at around 08:45 hrs, the second author, with another group of bird watchers comprising of Kaushal Modi, Kiran Shah and Mallikarjun, sighted a Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) near a small valley. The bird was perched on a tree and could be seen clearly. We could observe it for some time and took some good photographs.

Both these species are uncommon in this area. While the Black Stork is an uncommon to rare winter migrant to Gujarat (Ganpule 2016), it is quite rare in southern Gujarat. There are very few documented sightings of Black Stork from this region. The Black-capped Kingfisher is also an uncommon to rare resident and local migrant in Gujarat (Ganpule 2016). Hence, the sighting of the Black-capped Kingfisher from Kevdi area in late winter is surprising. In general, this area is not visited frequently by birders. These two sightings indicate that the area could be a promising place for bird watching.

References

Ganpule, P., 2016. The Birds of Gujarat: Status and Distribution. *Flamingo* 8(3) - 12(4): 2-40 □