



### European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary

On 22 September 2021, I was birding with Ramzan Kasam in Green Park area in the outskirts of Nalsarovar. While searching for warblers, I saw a nightjar sitting on a branch of a neem tree. After taking record photographs, I called Ramzan and accompanying guests. Mehmood and Kamruddin also joined us. All of us carefully saw it and took many photographs. After sharing photos with experts, it was identified as a European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). This species is an autumn passage migrant in Kachchh and there are only a few records of it outside of Kachchh. This is probably the first photographic record of this species from Nalsarovar.

**Kasam Sidani:** At – Nalsarovar.



### Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* at Hazira, near Surat

On 20 February 2021, Dr. Anand Patel, Viren Bachu Desai and I went for birding. This was our scheduled outing to try and see the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in Surat Hazira area as it was seen there for the last three days. As we located the owl near a babool tree, we started taking photographs. But, suddenly near to that tree, we found that a crow was mobbing one large-sized bird. I saw the bird on my camera and we were surprised to see that it was an India Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*). All of us were glad that we had observed a hornbill in our area and took a few photographs. Due to mobbing by the crow, it flew away and perched around 0.5 km away; we followed it. There, it again rested on a tree and we took videos/photos which we shared with other bird watchers. This was the first time we had observed the Indian Grey Hornbill in Surat Hazira area.

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### Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* preying on Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

On 14 November 2021, we were on a visit to Timbi Lake, Vadodara. At around 08:15 hrs, near the lake, we saw a shrike killing a bee-eater. A Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) was perched on a branch of a tree when we saw a Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) suddenly flying head-on into the bee-eater. Stunned, the bee-eater fell down from the branch. The shrike then started pecking on the bee-eater. We were not sure whether the head-butt or the pecking killed the bee-eater. Soon, the shrike flew on to a branch and landed there with its prey. It is known that shrikes impale their prey on barbed fences, or thorns, and then feed on the prey by tearing it into smaller pieces. Here, the prey was a Green Bee-eater and we were surprised to see the shrike killing it and feeding on it. While shrikes are opportunistic hunters and are known to prey on insects, reptiles, small mammals and even small birds, we had never seen a Long-tailed Shrike preying on a Green Bee-eater. This is an addition to the diet of this shrike.

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### Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* in western part of Little Rann of Kachchh

On 25 October 2019, I was birding in the western parts of the Little Rann of Kachchh, near the village of Venasar. At around 16:30 hrs, I was observing birds near a lake when I saw a pair of Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) there. I saw these birds well and took some photographs. This was a surprise sighting for me in this area. I have been birding here, in all seasons, since last many years but this was the first time I had seen a pair of these storks here. Though fairly widespread in Gujarat, the Woolly-necked Stork is quite uncommon in this part of the Little Rann of Kachchh.

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