



Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* in Pariej, near Kheda

I went to Pariej, Kheda, on 14 November 2021 for routine bird watching and photography. I photographed many common birds there. While doing so, I came across a male Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*). I immediately identified it since I had seen it around a year ago in Nal Sarovar. Hence, I took a few photographs of this bird. On speaking with senior bird watchers, they informed me that this is the fourth location from which the Namaqua Dove has been noted in Gujarat so far. It was initially seen in Khijadia (near Jamnagar), and is known to occur in Nal Sarovar. There is a record from Mahuva too. The sighting of the Namaqua Dove in Pariej is interesting and this is the first record of the species from this district. It is possible that the Namaqua Dove will be seen in more areas of Gujarat in the future.

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