



Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* pair in Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary

On 9 February 2021, I was with Akbar Alvani in the peripheral part of Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. While observing birds in the area, we saw a pair of Namaqua Doves (*Oena capensis*) perched together on a tree. We have been observing the Namaqua Dove in this area for the past few years but this is the first time that a pair was seen here. Most of the time, a single bird is seen foraging or perched. We were surprised to see a pair together. The Namaqua Dove is now a regular visitor to the Nalsarovar area in the winter.

Mehmud Multani: At – Nalsarovar.



Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* in Gandhinagar

On 9 June 2021, at around 17:30 hrs, in Indroda Nature Park, Gandhinagar, we saw an Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) near a small ravine. It was hopping on the ground, lifting fallen dry leaves and foraging on small worms and insects. The bird was a little shy and took a small flight when it felt insecure. It was seen for one week in a 500 meter radius from the site of the first sighting. As per our knowledge, it is probably the first photographic record in Gandhinagar. The Orange-headed Thrush is a rare resident in South Gujarat forests, with scattered records from other parts of the state (Ganpule 2016). In 'eBird', there are records of this species from different parts of Gujarat but there is no record from Gandhinagar. This sighting adds to the records of this species from the state.

Irshad N. Theba & Naushad N. Theba: Gandhinagar. irshadtheba@gmail.com



Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* near Rajkot

On day 25 February 2021, I was with fellow bird watchers Jaymin Panchasara, Bhavin Patel and Parth Bhatt. We were moving around Khambhala rural area, near Rajkot. We saw a male Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) on a flowering 'flame of the forest' tree. It was a really beautiful sight to see as we were seeing this species in Rajkot for the first time. We went there the next day, on 26 February 2021. Fortunately, we saw both, the male and the female parakeets but unfortunately, we could not take pictures as it was late evening time. We again visited the site on the third consecutive day and saw these birds again. They were feeding on the flowers of the tree. Looking at the plumage and the behaviour of these birds, we felt that they were wild birds and not escapees. There have been previous records of this species from Rajkot but it is rare here.

Pinkesh Tanna: Rajkot. pinkeshanna99999@gmail.com

References

Ganpule, P., 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3) – 12 (4): 2-40.

Ghervada, D., Kotecha, D., & Jani, P. 2018. Nesting of Black-headed Munia near Rajkot. *Flamingo Gujarat* 1 (1-3): 20.

Mashru, A., 2005. Breeding of Black-headed Munia: First record from Saurashtra. *Flamingo* 3 (1): 6-7.

Orta, J., Boesman, P. F. D., Marks, J. S., Garcia, E. F. J. & Kirwan, G. M. 2020. Eurasian Marsh-Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.wemhar1.01>

Sodha, V., Sighting of Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* in Kachchh. *Flamingo Gujarat* 4 (3 & 4): 9.

Vargia, D., 2017. <https://ebird.org/india/checklist/S37733526> [Accessed on 25 July 2021]

□