

## Short Birding Notes



### Probable Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* at Nalsarovar

At around 08:30 hrs in the morning of 26 April 2022, I was around Ranagadh, in Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. I saw an unidentified bird in the lake waters. When I approached closer, the bird allowed us to about 30-40 feet near, but I could not take photos because I did not have a camera at the time. I managed to get closer and took a few photos and a video with my mobile phone. I could not identify this bird and so forwarded the photos and the video to experts. It was identified as a probable Short-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*). This bird was seen moving around my boat from around 15:00 hrs till late evening but was not seen on the next day. This bird did not fit Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneiceps*) and the tail was not long like seen in Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*P. pacificus*). The separation of the Short-tailed Shearwater from Sooty Shearwater (*A. grisea*) is difficult but the bill size and shape, and the 'cute' looking face, fits Short-tailed Shearwater more. There have been records of Short-tailed Shearwater from Gujarat, including from Nalsarovar (Shah *et al.* 2018), but this species is vagrant here.

[We thank Dipu K. for helping with the identification – Eds].

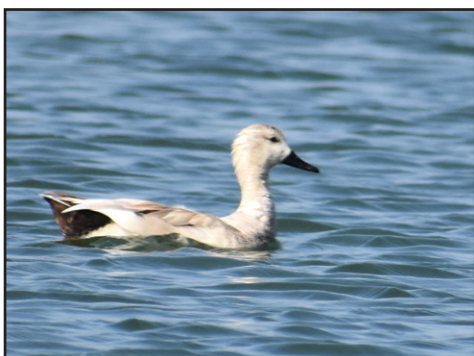
**Ramzan Kasam Sama:** At – Nalsarovar.



### Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* at Devisar Lake near Bilimora, Dist: Navsari

Since the first week of May, I was observing the nesting of Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*), Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) and fantails (*Rhipidura* sp.) at Devisar Lake, near Bilimora. I also saw Eurasian Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*), Grey-bellied Cuckoo (*Cacomantis passerinus*) and Pied Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*). In this area, I saw an adult Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) in the last week of May but was not able to take photos. After four days, on 30 May 2022 in the afternoon, I saw a bird perched in an *Acacia* sp. tree. It was a young Emerald Dove. I approached nearer and was able to take good photos and a video. It then flew away but I was able to see it for 2-3 minutes. This species is seen in Vansada National Park area and in other well wooded areas of South Gujarat (Joshi & Vyas 2021) but this is the first time I had seen it near Bilimora.

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### Colour aberrant Gadwall *Anas strepera* near Botad

One unusual duck was seen in a water-body of Botad District. In the month of February 2021, we saw one colour aberrant Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) in a lake in Botad District. The bird was observed for 25 days and then was not seen in the area. It used to forage alone and was often seen away from other ducks. When it tried to approach other ducks and Gadwalls in the lake, the other normal plumaged Gadwalls stayed away from it. It was observed that for a few days, a normal plumaged female Gadwall was often seen foraging with this individual. It was surprising to see this colour aberrant Gadwall here. I could not identify the mutation in this individual.

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### Sighting of Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* near Valsad

On 5 April 2022, I was in my farm near the city of Valsad in South Gujarat. My farm is near the city and has vegetation around it. I saw and photographed a Slaty-breasted Rail (*Gallirallus striatus*) near my farm. I could get good photographs which confirmed the identification. The Slaty-breasted Rail is given as a rare monsoon migrant in Gujarat, and said to be regular in South Gujarat (Ganpule 2016). However, it is not very common in our area and this was the first time I had seen it near my farm. It is possible that due to its shy nature, it is overlooked.

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