



Sighting of Stoliczka's Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus* at Saladi Pond, Amreli

On 7 November 2022, we were bird watching at Saladi Pond, near Amreli. We were observing murmurations of Rosy Starlings (*Pastor roseus*). While we were watching this display, we saw that a Rosy Starling, which had only one leg, came and tried to perch on a dry bush. We went closer to take a photo but it flew away and a Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) and interestingly, a Stoliczka's Bushchat (*Saxicola macrorhynchus*) came and perched on the bush. The Stoliczka's Bushchat then went near the road side and perched there. We were able to take photographs and confirmed the identification. It was surprising to see the Stoliczka's Bushchat at this location. Though there are sporadic records of this species from Saurashtra, it is quite rare in Amreli District.

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Besra *Accipiter virgatus* at Padam Dungri Forest, Vyara

On 24 September 2022, our group was on a trek of Chunivad region of Padam Dungri Forest, in Vyara Division, participating in a nature program organised by Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat and the Forest Department. While on this trek, I saw a bird similar to a Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) perched on an upper branch of a large tree and took some photographs. I shared the photographs with experts and it was identified as a Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*) by Nirav Bhatt. This raptor, which prefers forests, is quite rare in Gujarat. There are recent records from Vansada National Park (Patel 2017) and Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (Shah 2022). It is likely that due to its similarity to Shikra, it is often overlooked. This is an important sighting for Vyara area and confirms the occurrence of this species here. I thank Nirav Bhatt for helping with the identification.

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Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* in Jamnagar District

On 5 September 2021, we were on a birding trip on Jamnagar-Samana Road. Near Vadpanchasa Village, we stopped for a while. The area is hilly with scrub forest. We saw a shrike and followed it. After watching it with binoculars, we confirmed that it was a Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*). We managed to get a few record photographs. This species is an autumn passage migrant in Gujarat, with good numbers recorded regularly in Kachchh (Ganpule 2016). This is for the first time that we saw this species near Jamnagar. It is likely that a small number of Red-backed Shrikes may be passing through Jamnagar District during the passage migration season.

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Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary

On 16 August 2022, we were on a bird watching / boating trip, starting from the picnic area of Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. We went to Bor Island inside the sanctuary. To our surprise, we saw and photographed a Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) on Bor Island. It was surprising to observe this coastal bird in this inland lake. This was the first time we had seen this species at Nalsarovar. The sighting of coastal bird at Nalsarovar in August is certainly unusual and seems to be a record of a bird on migration. It is well known that species which prefer coastal areas in the winter are often seen in inland water bodies during migration. This record of a Terek Sandpiper at Nalsarovar is likely to be of a migrant resting here and going further south to its wintering grounds.

Kamrudin Alwani & Anwar: At – Nalsarovar.