



### **Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* near Ahmedabad**

I go to Pharmez on Sarkhej – Bavla Highway, near Ahmedabad, every day to drop my sister at work and on my way back, I stop at various water bodies along the highway for bird watching. On the morning of 15 October 2022, I stopped at one such water body as on that day, many birds were quite close to the highway. I was walking along observing the birds and in a while, I noticed a raptor perched atop an electric pole. I could see the white head, neck and breast, light yellowish bill and dark wings but since it was against the light, I could not observe it properly. I rushed back to my car to get my mobile to get a photo for identification. As I was about to take a photo, it started flying around and along with the earlier described plumage features, the chestnut wings with black tips were clearly visible and I was very sure it was Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*). It was a lifer for me and I was very excited. Still, to be very sure about the identification, I checked it with an experienced friend and it was from him that I came to know that it was a rarity for this bird to be found here and even 'eBird' marked the bird as rare in this area. Hence, I began a quest to locate it again and get a good photo. On same evening, I revisited the spot with a camera but the bird was not seen and I had to return back with disappointment. However, it was seen on 17 and 18 October 2022 and I managed to get good photographs. The Brahminy Kite is uncommon in this area.

**Ami Bhatt:** At – Ahmedabad.



### **White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary**

On 31 October 2022, at around 17:30 hrs, we went to the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary for photographing the Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) which was seen in a particular area. On the way, we stopped when a bird flew from the ground and perched on a tree. At first, we thought it was a Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) but it looked different. We took some photographs and shared the photos with Sunil Kini and Dhyey Shah. It was identified as a female White-capped Bunting (*Emberiza stewarti*). The White-capped Bunting is a rare winter migrant to Gujarat with a few records from the state from Saurashtra and Kachchh; there is one previous record of this species from Nalsarovar (Ganpule 2016) and this is the second record for this area. We thank Sunil Kini and Dhyey Shah for their help in the identification of this bird.

**Kamrudin Alvani & Latif Alvani:** At – Nalsarovar.



### **White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* feeding on a bat *Chiroptera* species**

I routinely go for bird watching on Vagudad Road, near Rajkot. On 13 November 2022, I was birding in the area. I saw a White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) with something in its beak. I realized that it was a kill in its beak. I went closer and took some photographs. I was surprised to see that it was holding a small bat (*Chiroptera* sp.) in its beak. I could not identify the species of the bat it had killed. This was something new for me as I had never seen a White-throated Kingfisher with a bat kill as this species usually feeds on insects, reptiles, small mammals and other small birds. I searched the literature (Woodall & Kirwan 2020) for the diet of the White-throated Kingfisher; though a wide variety of prey items are listed, I did not find any instance of this kingfisher feeding on a bat and this is unusual prey for the White-throated Kingfisher. The bat is an addition to the already varied diet of this kingfisher.

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### **Sighting of Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea* at Samba Village in Surat District**

On 14 May 2022, I went to meet my friend Snehal Patel at Samba Village in Surat District. At around 09:00 hrs, we went to his farmhouse. We were roaming around in the agricultural fields when we observed a Red Spurfowl (*Galloperdix spadicea*) there. We were excited to see this bird there as it is quite uncommon in this area. I took some photographs and confirmed the identification. The Red Spurfowl is seen in forest areas of South Gujarat but this sighting from Samba Village is unusual.

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