

Sighting of Green-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus burkii* in Kachchh: a first record for Gujarat

Manoj Tank: At – Bhuj, Kachchh. mjtank1967@gmail.com

Mahesh Parmar: At – Bhuj, Kachchh. mhp4561@gmail.com

Mahendra Tank: At – Bhuj, Kachchh. tankmahendra8@gmail.com



Photo: Manoj Tank

While bird watching at Chaduva-rakhal, which a scrub forest, near Bhuj, in Kachchh, on 10 December 2022, we saw one warbler with a yellow belly. The head pattern was especially striking, with dark lateral crown stripes, a prominent eye-ring broken at the rear, a greenish supercilium, whitish crown stripe, pale legs and dark patch on the ear-coverts. We could take a few photographs but could not identify the bird in the field. So after coming home, the first author shared the photos on the social media. There were many expert bird watchers who replied back that this was a Green-crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus burkii*). This warbler is similar to Whistler's Warbler (*P. whistleri*), White-spectacled Warbler (*P. affinis*) and few other species. It is separated from these by the finer, whitish broken eye-ring, broad and prominent lateral crown stripes, weak or absent wing-bar, longer and thicker bill, which was seen here.

The Green-crowned Warbler breeds in the Himalayas and winters in the plains; winter records from Bihar and Bastar (Chattisgarh) are known (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). There are records, with photographs, from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, on 'eBird'. Hence, this warbler is known to occur in Central India as a vagrant. However, the Green-crowned Warbler has not been noted in Gujarat before (Ganpule 2016, 2020) and this was a surprise sighting for us. This is the first

record of a Green-crowned Warbler for Gujarat and it is an addition to the avifauna of the state.



Photo: Manoj Tank



Photo: Manoj Tank

References

- Ganpule, P., 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3) -12 (4): 2-40
- Ganpule, P., 2020. A checklist of the birds of Gujarat. Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat. Ahmedabad, India.
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2012. *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*. 2 nd Ed. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona. □