

## Interesting Bird sighting of Danta Forest Range, Banaskantha

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During one of the treks around the Danta Range on June 24, 2022, we noted some interesting birds in just 1 sq. km of the patch (Table). Some of the birds were not reported earlier from the range. The Mt. Abu range is the closest reporting location for all the birds listed below. The Indian Blackbird (*Turdus simillimus*) has been reported for the first time from Danta range, while the Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokichla citrina*) has been reported from the Jessore Sloth Bear

Sanctuary (Jani, 2017). Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) is a monsoon visitor in north Gujarat's forest region (Ganpule *et al.*, 2022). Most of the birds listed prefer forest areas with high tree densities.

Danta forest range belonging to Banaskantha District is part of the Aravalli biogeographic region (Rodgers & Panwar 1988), geographically sharing proximity with the Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary and the Balam Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary. The Aravalli region of Gujarat, bordering Rajasthan, includes vegetation of dry deciduous, semi-deciduous and evergreen species (Champion & Seth 1968). The majority of the tree species in the observation area included Jamun tree *Syzygium cumini*, Banyan tree *Ficus benghalensis*, Peepal tree *Ficus religiosa*, Mahua *Madhuca longifolia*, Bamboo *Poaceae* sp., Palash *Buteo monosperma*, and Neem *Azadirachta indica*.

### List of birds recorded at Danta forest, Banaskantha, Gujarat.

Species	Count
Indian Blackbird <i>Turdus simillimus</i>	2
Black-hooded Oriole <i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	10
Indian Pitta <i>Pitta brachyura</i>	20+
Orange-headed Thrush <i>Geokichla citrina</i>	2
Black-naped Monarch <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	2
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker <i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>	1
Indian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	6
Indian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	2
Indian Gray Hornbill <i>Ocyrocus birostris</i>	2
Brown-headed Barbet <i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>	5

### References

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