



Sightings of Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) in Bhavnagar.

On 18th February, 2023, I along with Meghna, Himanshu and Dhayey went on birding at Malnath hills, Bhavnagar. We stopped at one point near a water body and we saw two pipits on land both were busy feeding, I photographed both and it was looking different from tree pipits, and with their black and white ear coverts, less streaking on upperparts and greenish olive in colours we identified them as an Olive-backed Pipits (*Anthus hodgsoni*) in the past on October 2019, I saw two individuals with Vivek Upadhyay at same mountain range but an at a different location.

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Rain Quail (*Coturnix coramandelica*) in Hazira, Surat

Generally, I go bird watching in Hazira Area in the morning and photograph all day. On 28 May 2021, near the paddy field of Damka Area, I saw a water cock and did some photography. During this I heard a *tweet tweet...* sound and was slightly excited and it felt like I had listened to that sound of a bird before also. So immediately, I sat near a tree and started observing the sound from where it was coming. After almost 30-40 minutes, I bird caught my eye. After identifying the bird, I was really happy and was bit surprised as this bird was observed for the first time in Hazira area., It was a Rain Quail (*Coturnix coramandelica*). I got a chance to click a few photographs and shoot some videos, which I am sharing with you.

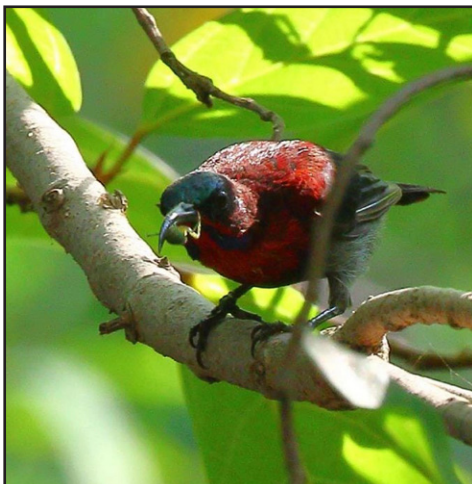
Dharmesh Kanthariya: Village Mora, Surat.



Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike (*Lalage Melanoptera*), Bharuch

On 17-Apr-2022, Darshan Chauhan and I went birdwatching in nearby areas to Bharuch. My eyes set on a bird on Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*), which looked like a white morph India Paradise Flycatcher from far and flew away quickly. But the bird was not having a long tail and the size was a little large. Its size was similar to Brahminy Myna. After observing a few other birds like Yellow-Wattled Lapwings (*Vanellus malabaricus*), Yellow Crowned Woodpecker (*Leiopicus mahrattensis*), White-browed Fantail (*Rhipidura aureola*), etc, the same bird was seen again. This time Darshan could take a couple of photos. It was identified as Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike (*Lalage Melanoptera*). While discussing with him, he recalled that he also spotted it on 21-Feb-2021 in nearby places. Meanwhile, the bird was moving around us for more than half an hour. There are two previous photographic records on eBird. (1) By Dr. Sandip Modi on 1st Feb-2020. By Darshan Chauhan on 21-Feb-2021. Due to a smaller number of birders in the Bharuch area, many species might have been less/not reported from the area. Apart from this, Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*) was also seen. Another Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*) was found dead on the road, maybe a road kill.

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Vigor's Sunbird (*Aethopyga vigorsii*) Sightings around Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary

Vigor's Sunbird (*Aethopyga vigorsii*) sightings are very common in south Gujarat including Narmada district, there are hardly any recorded sighting beyond Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. I am not sure about its sighting even in Jambugodha Wildlife Sanctuary & Reserve Forests of Pavagadh area as well, however, there are chances of rare reporting in that area. Recently while on a birding trip to explore Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary in the month of October and November 2020, I could capture a male Vigor's sunbird near Kanjeta, Ratanmahal. Probably this is first ever photographic record of this species beyond its northern most tip of distribution range. Exactly after a year, November 2021 Ayaz Mansuri, Dr Nahid Ansari and Myself Tushar Tripathi visited Kevdi Eco Campsite, here again we had a glimpse of these species. In same month, Dr Nahid again visited Kevdi Eco Campsite and got very good sightings. Later in last week of November, Ayaz Mansuri and Dr Nahid recorded the species again at Kevdi Eco Campsite.

Ayaz Mansuri, Tushar Tripathi and Dr. Nahid Ansari