



### Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) in GNFC Township, Bharuch

I was at my home in the evening of 31 May 2022 when I heard a call that was familiar to me but had never heard in this area in more than 10 years. The sound was coming from the GNFC township just behind my home. As it was late evening, I decided to visit the area the next morning. I visited the area the next day, on 1 June 2022, in the area from where the voice was heard. After waiting around 20-25 minutes, I heard the magic voice. I was sure it was Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), only. I could see it on Arjun Tree (*Terminalia arjuna*) from a distance. I took a couple of photographs from far for record purposes and let it enjoy its new habitat. There was only one bird I could see or hear that day. After 4-5 days, I was listening to the same voice at my home. This time the voice was from quite close to my home. And I could hear the voice of two birds, one was a little closer, and the other sound was from far, the voice was of low volume. These birds were seen/heard for 20-22 days. Now, they cannot be heard in the area. I assume that it was a passage halt for them. Or they might have dropped the idea of nesting there because of other reasons like safety or unsuitable surroundings. Although widespread common sightings in SW Gujarat, hardly an actual record in the Bharuch city area, hence the sightings are important.

**Hiren Majithiya:** Bharuch, Gujarat.



### Sighting of Leucistic Indian Robin (*Copsychus fulicatus*) at Vayana, Thol

I was going for routine bird photography on 19th August 2022, around 7.00 am. I entered Vayana village, near Thol Bird Sanctuary. I was searching for something through my car window and to my surprise I found something unusual bird on a tree by the roadside a few hundred meters away from the village gate, I observed that bird and it was a leucistic Indian Robin (*Copsychus fulicatus*) female who was jumping from the branch to another and also coming down to the ground for routine feeding activity, I took some record photographs for further confirmation, and sent it to few experts and the information was found true regarding bird.

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### Sightings of Rudy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) at Nalsarovar

On 8th August 2022, I was on a Birdwatching boating trip from Ranagadh, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. To my surprise, I have sighted and photographed two numbers of Rudy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) on Gadhevad Island. Last year in August 2021, I sighted a single Rudy Turnstone on Dhrabla Island of the tourism zone near the main entry point. It is surprising to observe this coastal bird in this inland sweetwater lake. The sighting of a coastal bird at Nalsarovar in August looks early for arriving migration. Referring to earlier inland sightings come to know that Rajubhai Karia and Ashokbhai Mashru have sighted Rudy Turnstone at Nyari-1 dam, Rajkot, on 19 May 2020, a note of which was also published in Flamingo Gujarat.

**Kamrudin Alwani:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Gujarat.



### Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*) in Shoolpaneshwar WLS

I was at Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary with Viren Desai, Abhay Naik, and Dr. Pragnesh Patel, on 27 January 2018. We had a good morning session where we photographed many good species. We took a lunch break at Sagai Campsite. At around 14:30 hrs, we decided to go towards Ninayi Waterfalls. At about 16:00 hrs, one km before the fall, we stopped and Abhay Naik saw a group of birds, which looked like Indian Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). We took some photos and later, when processing the photos, realized that this was not a blackbird but a Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*) based on the greyish upper parts, whitish belly, and vent and pale legs. I sent the photos to Chintu Panchal, who confirmed this was a Tickell's Thrush. Tickell's Thrush has been noted in Ratanmahal, Vansada National Park, and Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary (Deomurari 2012, Trivedi 2015, Bagda 2016). This sighting from Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary suggests that this species is probably more widely distributed in the forest areas of Gujarat.

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