



Sighting of Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) at Kumbharwada, Bhavnagar

On 24th January 2023, our team was birding at Kumbharwada wetland at noon. We were watching Long-billed Dowitcher. Jigar and I decided to go to by grassland and explore some new areas. Near 5.30 pm, we observed 2 different types of Pipits together. Both pipits were busy finding food. So, we clicked some good pictures of both pipits, and one pipit was identified as a Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*) on the field, and the second one was not clearly identified. After at night, I sent some pics of Pipit to experts. And one pipit was identified as a Blyth's Pipit and the second was identified as a Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*). Richard's pipit is a large, robust, and thrush-like pipit. It has a big bill and a long and pale eyebrow. The face is strongly marked with pale lores and supercilium. On 7th December I saw this bird. But clearly not identified because of the record shot. But this time, it was clearly identified, and this is probably the first record in Bhavnagar. Referring to its distribution, rare winter visitors, and isolated records from Gujarat (Ganpule et al 2022). An earlier published record in Gujarat is from Mendarda, Gir (Bagda 2017). On searching in eBird there are six other (Excluding this) records at Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Junagadh Surendrangar, Bharuch and Mandavi Kachchh districts.

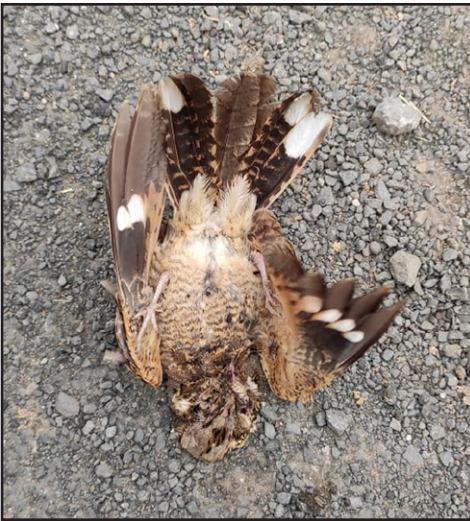
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Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) preying on Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

On 3rd February 2022, I searched for a Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) with Akbar and Abdul in Nalsarovar's outskirts. Akbar saw me a Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), busy feeding on a dried branch of *Prosopis juliflora*. After watching through binoculars and checking photos, we learned that it was a Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) in its prey. We observed it for the next few minutes. Black Drongo started feeding Wagtail's head, followed by other body parts. We left the place while it was still busy with its prey. This is a very unusual feeding and noteworthy habit of the Black Drongo.

Kamruddin Alvani: Nalsarovar.



Road Kill Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

On 17 April 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, including Yellow-Wattled Lapwings (*Vanellus malabaricus*), Yellow-fronted Pied 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*). Meanwhile, the bird was moving around us for more than half an hour. There are two previous photographic records on eBird. By Dr. Sandip Modi on 1 February 020. By Darshan Chauhan on 21 February 2021. Due to less number of birders in 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 was found dead on the road, maybe it is victimized by speedy vehicles.

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