

Orange-headed Thrush....

The throat was not distinctly white as in *G. c. cyanotus*. Hence, the identification was confirmed as a male *G. c. citrina* (Photo 3). Then, after a gap of about 16 days, the thrush was spotted again, very briefly, on April 9, 2023, at around 17:30 hrs. Punit Lalbhai, Sunil Kini, Ruchita Soni, and I were birding and saw it well. It was seen briefly, and after this sighting, it was not seen again. We tried to find it again at the same location but were unsuccessful.



Photo: Ishaan Lalbhai

Discussion

As per Ganpule *et al.* (2022), only *G. c. cyanotus* occurs in Gujarat; this subspecies is widespread in peninsular India,

mainly south of Gujarat and southern India. Rasmussen & Anderton (2012) mentioned the range of *G. c. citrina* as a summer visitor to the Himalayas and winter visitor to the northern plains (with some individuals remaining at the base of hills), Ganges Delta, NE Peninsula, straggling further south, with a few reaching Sri Lanka'. As per data from 'eBird', there are no records of this subspecies from western India, and most records are from the Himalayas and the adjoining plains. There are records from the Eastern Ghats and South India. However, there is no record of this subspecies from Gujarat on 'eBird'.

The sightings from Ahmedabad were from March and April, which is indicative of a bird seen during spring migration. It is possible that a few individuals could be passing through Gujarat when going towards the Himalayas for breeding. This is the first record of the Orange-headed Thrush of the nominate *G. c. citrina* subspecies for Gujarat and is an important sighting for the state.

References

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Second sighting records of Green-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus burkii* at Ratanmahal Sanctuary, Gujarat

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Photo: Murtuza Zabuawala

During the camp organised by BCSG and Nature Club, Dahod, on the morning of 25th February 2023, I was birding in and around the Campsites of Naldha, Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary. I saw the bright yellow colour of a small bird moving fast among patches of bamboo. The bird was often seen moving from one trunk to another, which means the bird did not sit calmly for a long time in one place. I managed to click the bird in my camera. The bird was new to me and I could not identify it. I have contacted Mr. Ashok Mashru, a Senior birdwatcher who had been there in camp. He told me, instantly seeing the picture, that you have clicked Green-crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus burkii*), a very important second record of Gujarat.

The Green-crowned Warbler breeds in the Himalayas and winters in the plains; winter records from Bihar and Bastar (Chhattisgarh) 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. This species was first sighted in the scrub forest of Chadua Rakhil, Kutch (Tank et al. 2022; Ganpule 2022). The present sighting of a Green-crowned Warbler from Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary is not only the second record from the Gujarat State, but it shows species also wintering in this part of Gujarat.

References

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Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* at Dantiwada, Banaskantha

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I went to Dantiwada Dam on the evening of 2nd April 2023. I enjoyed the evening birding at the dam site, and while returning, I saw a tractor stuck on the narrow way, which forced me to wait for some more time around the wheat fields, ready to harvest and under harvesting. It was 6.22 pm, the sun was setting down; the golden light was turning darker, and suddenly, a small flock of seven birds similar to yellow wagtails flew in and perched on a shrub within a wheat field. I took a photograph of these birds against the reducing golden light. The captured image revealed red-headed bunting. The three males and four females were identified based on morphology. The male has a red-brown head and upper breast, yellowish-olive most underparts, and distinct wing bars, while females are plain, less streaked with yellowish rump and underparts (Ganpule et al. 2022). The Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*), passerine birds, are long-distance (48 days each way: up & down) latitudinal migrants representing the Palearctic Indian migratory system (Ali & Ripley 1974; Kumar et al. 2021) wintering in India (Patel et al. 2022). They winter in the autumn (late July and early August) and return to