



Photo: Murruga Zabuwala



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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.

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

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Photo: Tarun Sutaria

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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



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breeding grounds in late March and early April. Thus, they migrate twice a year between breeding and wintering grounds, i.e., autumn and spring migration (Kumar et al. 2021). They breed in open scrubby areas, including agricultural land, and lay three to five eggs in a nest built in a tree or bush. Food habits include millets/cereals/plant seeds and insects (Patel 2010; Patel et al. 2022; Ganpule et al. 2022). Total 868 observations of red-headed buntings are on E-Bird recorded from Gujarat, five from Mehsana, 11 from Kachchh, and two from Patan. Despite these extensive records from Gujarat and nearby districts, there is no E-Bird record of sightings from Banaskantha and Sabarkantha. However, it has been recorded from Mount Abu on E-Bird. After discussing with fellow birders, I learned they observed these beautiful birds around Ranitook village near Dantiwada Dam a few years ago. However, this is the first sighting of red-headed bunting from Dantiwada, Banaskantha, being recorded on E-Bird.

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## The thrill of sighting Indian Shaheen *Falco peregrinus peregrinator* with its mating and Indian Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus* breeding at Pavagadh, Vadodara

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