

## Observation of roosting behaviors of Eurasian wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Amreli, Gujarat

**Viral Joshi:** Saladi, Liliya Mota, District: Amreli, Gujarat. Email: virjoshi892@gmail.com



Photos: Viral Joshi

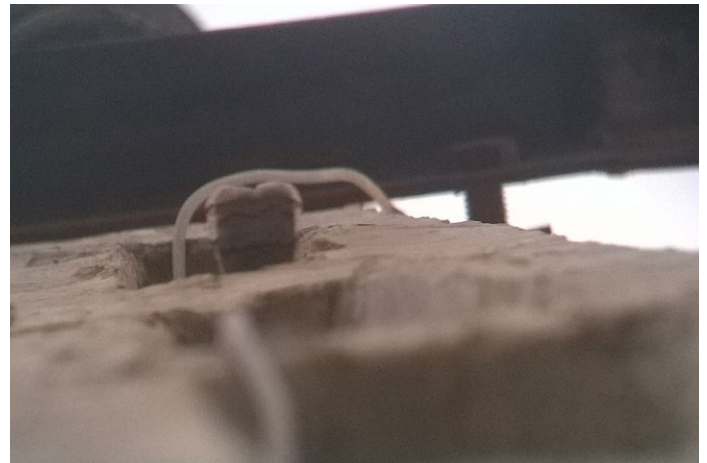
Visible tail of Eurasian wryneck in Electric poll

### Observation

Eurasian wryneck *Jynx torquilla* is a migratory species belonging to the woodpecker family (Grimmett et al. 2016). Breed in temperate habitats of Europe and West Asia. One race, *Jynx torquilla himalayan*, breeds in the western part of the Himalayas, Winter in Africa, parts of southern Asia and the Indian subcontinent (Ali 1996). It's bred in secondary cavities made by other species of woodpecker. Ali (1996) mentions using natural cavity willow, chenar and mulberry trees or old nests of Brown fronted woodpeckers. In Italy, it is known to accept the next box and Pipe for a nest in a vineyard-dominated agroecosystem (Assandri et al. 2018). Population accelerated decline is likely attributed to the extensive utilization of pesticides and herbicides on a large scale (Winker et al. 2020).

On October 7, 2014, while birding at Saladi, Amreli, Gujarat, I observed one Eurasian wryneck perched on top of an electric pole, seemingly feeding on something. However, after a few minutes, it settled into the crevices on the electric pole's top. I waited a bit longer to understand the situation, but the fading light hindered my visibility. Despite not wanting to disturb it, I managed to take a blurry picture of the Wryneck in the crevices. A similar incident occurred on September 25, 2020, when I spotted a Wryneck with small crevices near an electric pole. Intrigued, I decided to investigate further. I selected a habitat stretch with electric poles adjacent to a road in a degraded scrub habitat near agricultural fields. Covering a 5km stretch, I observed approximately 3 days around 200+ electric poles. As a result, I noticed a total of three Wryneck individuals using the top shelf of the electric poles specifically as roosting sites. Previous studies have shown that Wrynecks utilise

artificial nest boxes and pipelines for breeding in vineyards, but observing this behaviour of using concrete electric poles as roosting sites in winter was particularly fascinating, as there is limited information on the species' roosting behaviour in the literature. This fascinating behavior, where birds utilise man-made structures for roosting, is highly intriguing. It demonstrates their intelligence in finding safe havens to survive during winter ground and migration in different parts of the world.



View from Bottom Rooting Eurasian wryneck on electric poll

### Reference

- Ali, S. (1996). *The Book of Indian Birds*. 12th revised and enlarged centenary edition. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, India.
- Assandri, G., Bernardi, A., Schmoliner, A. et al. (2018). A matter of pipes: Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* habitat selection and breeding performance in an intensive agroecosystem. *J Ornithol* 159, 103–114 (2018).
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (2016). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1st ed.). Bloomsbury Publishing. Retrieved from
- Winkler, H., Christie, D.A. & Kirwan, G.M. (2020). Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. □