

Brown Crake's *Zapornia akool* diet menu includes Wafer: A opportunistic feeder

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Photo: Ashok Mashru



Photo: Dipen Tratia

On 1 July 2021, I was birding at Hanumandhara temple near Nyari 2 dam with co-birder Jignesh Rathod. I observed two Brown Crakes on the causeway made over the stream, of which one was foraging. Carrying the food in the bill, it went off the causeway down the stream. I had clicked few photographs and found that it has picked up potato chips. This area, being a picnic spot, is visited by many people and thus someone might have thrown the packet of chips on the road.

The diet of Brown Crake usually includes "Worms, Molluscs, adult and larval insects and seeds of marsh plants" (Taylor 2020). On further discussing this observation I came to know that a birder friend Mr. Dipen Tratia has recently observed and photographed Brown Crake eating Ganthiya at the same place. On 20th February 2012, I observed 5 Brown Crakes together collecting shells and feeding on residual meat in shells opened and discarded by an open-billed stork (Mashru 2013). Thus, it proves that Brown Crake is prone to adopt opportunistic feeding.

Reference

Mashru, Ashok 2013. Opportunistic feeding adaptation of Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*. Indian BIRDS. 8: (4) 111.

Taylor, B. (2020). Brown Crake (*Zapornia akool*), 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. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.brocra1.01>. □

Sighting of Red-throated pipits *Anthus cervinus* near Bhavnagar city

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Photo: Kandarp Andharia

On the 26th of February 2021 afternoon the first author went birding at Avaniya Lake, about 10 km from Bhavnagar city.

He observed some common birds along with three Jack snipes. He also came across one pipit near the reed beds on the muddy area of the lake. The pipit was heavily streaked on the breasts till the flanks. It clearly looked different from tree pipit. After reaching home he forwarded the record shots of the pipit taken on the field to Mr. Prasad Ganpule. He confirmed it as a Red-throated Pipit. It was the first record of red-throated pipit in the Bhavnagar area. Later in the same season on date 12th April 2021, Dr P. P. Dodiya, Vishal Makwana and Aamir Matli recorded a single Red-throated Pipit at a different location at city pond Bortalav (Gaurishankar Lake).

On the morning of 28th January 2024, the second author and Jigar Vakani went for routine birdwatching at city pond Bortalav. They saw an unusual pipit foraging near Lake. He