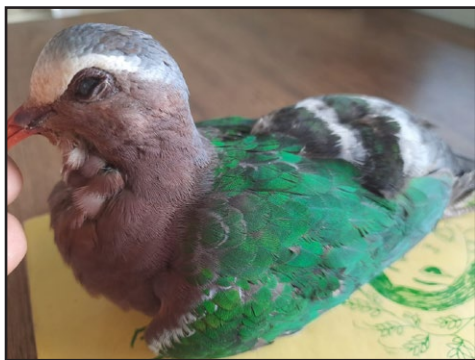


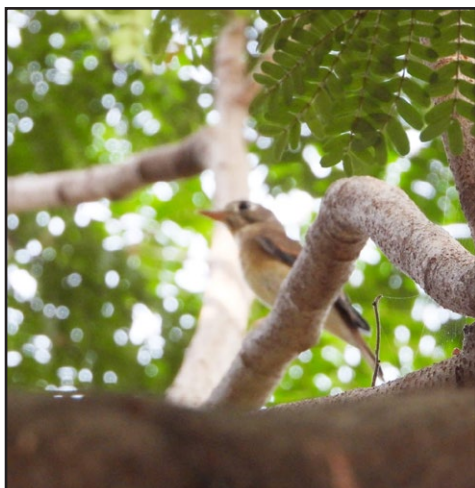
## Short Birding Notes



### Injured Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* Found in the Hilly Terrain of South Gujarat

On 15 February 2024, I was with my students at Gunjan Kanya Vidyalaya, Girnara, (Ta. Kaprada, in Valsad). This place is near the Gujarat-Maharashtra border. We found a dead specimen of a coloured bird. Initially, I thought of Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*, but after carefully watching it and also sharing the photos to Dr Bakul Trivedi and Dr Samiksa Trivedi, it was confirmed as an Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*. Further investigation revealed that the bird had collided with a windowpane, resulting in fatal injuries, as reported by my students. The sighting of this species in the hilly terrain of Girnara, which features a mosaic of agricultural land and forest patches, is particularly noteworthy. This incident highlights the importance of monitoring avian species in varied habitats, especially those on the periphery of their known distributions.

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### Sighting of Brown-breasted Flycatcher or Layard's Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* at Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

On October 19th, 2023, around 7:00 am, I sighted a bird at the check-point area of Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. During my observation, I it actively moving between perches and catching insects in mid-air. I captured a few long shots of the bird as it was quiet far and promptly forwarded it to ornithologist Devvratsinh Mori for identification. He confirmed it as a Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*. The following morning, I revisited the exact location to find the flycatcher again, but unfortunately, I could not find it again. Could its absence be considered as to the bird's brief stop-over during migration? In Gujarat, the Brown-breasted Flycatcher is considered an uncommon winter visitor observed in select regions (Ganpule, 2022). This sighting is significant as it adds to the flycatcher checklist of Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.

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### Sighting of Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* at Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

While birdwatching at the Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary on November 3rd, 2023, at 14:37 hours, searching for the Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*, we saw a small blue-coloured flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* flitting from branch to branch on a Neem tree *Azadirachta indica*. Capturing beautiful shots, we initially identified it as a Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*. Later, we sent these pictures to senior birdwatchers Sunil Kini and Kunan Naik for confirmation. They promptly responded, identifying it as a Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoide*. This sighting was particularly noteworthy as such a tiny and beautiful flycatcher had never been observed in this area before. It is likely to be the first recorded sighting of this species in the Nal Sarovar area.

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