

suitability and resource availability increases the chances of the sightings of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon in this region.

The first photographic sighting of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon was from Gir National Park (Dave 2020). According to the Checklist of Birds of Gujarat (Ganpule 2020) one sighting of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon is shown as 'Vagrant' to Gujarat. A Fieldguide to the Birds of Gujarat (Ganpule 2022) has shown a solitary record of the species in Gir (Gujarat). In the Checklist of Birds of Surat-Dangs (Jambu and Patel 2021), this bird is not listed. Therefore, this sighting marks the second record of the species in Gujarat.

I was fortunate to spot the bird by positioning myself right under the tree, which provided a clear view. The leaves of the tree displayed shades of yellow, orange, and green, which likely made it difficult to spot the bird due to its excellent camouflage. This camouflage is perhaps why the bird had not been sighted previously in densely canopied forest areas like in Dang.

#### Acknowledgements

I extend my gratitude to my seniors, Rhidham Dave and Priyesh Kumar, for their invaluable guidance throughout

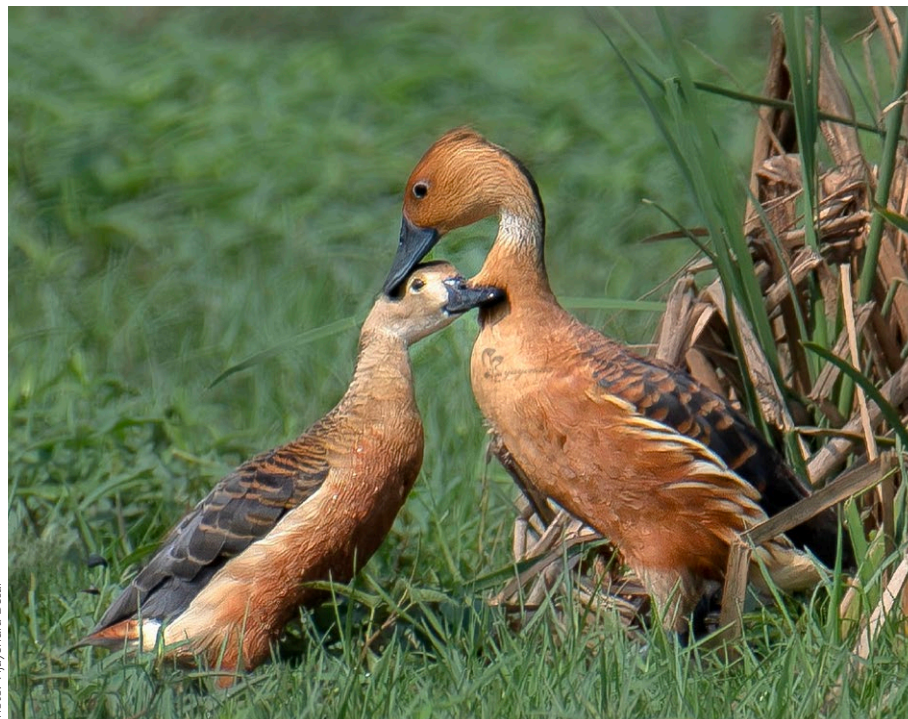
the process of writing this paper. I also express my sincere appreciation to the authors and fellow birders whose information and data greatly contributed to my research and facilitated the writing of this paper. Lastly, I express my profound gratitude to nature for continually offering opportunities to discover and learn something new.

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## Sighting of the Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* in Surat

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With my friends, Dr Neha and Kashyap Jariwala, I went for bird photography in the surrounding area of Damka village near Surat, on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2024. During this outing, I identified a different kind of duck, which was recognized as the Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*.

Fulvous Whistling Duck is a rich caramel coloured duck with a long neck and legs. It has blue-grey legs and bill and prominent pale/white stripes in the flanks. In flight, it has all dark wings and is usually found in flocks in marshes, marshy ponds and flooded rice fields. The species is active day and night and frequently gives whistled calls (eBird 2024). This sighting is notable for several reasons. Fulvous Whistling Duck is a vagrant to Gujarat (Ganpule 2016).

Photo: Vijayendra Desai

## Whistling Duck....

Salim Ali did not record the species in Gujarat but included it based on Palin's sighting from Kachchh (Ali 1954). The first photographic record of the species from Gujarat was from Timbi Lake, Vadodara, in April 2019 (Naria et al. 2019). Besides this, no more sightings have been observed from Gujarat on the eBird platform (eBird 2024). Geographically, the nearest sighting with photographic evidence is from Pedda Cheruvu, Rudrur, Nizamabad County, Telangana, from January 2022 (eBird 2022).

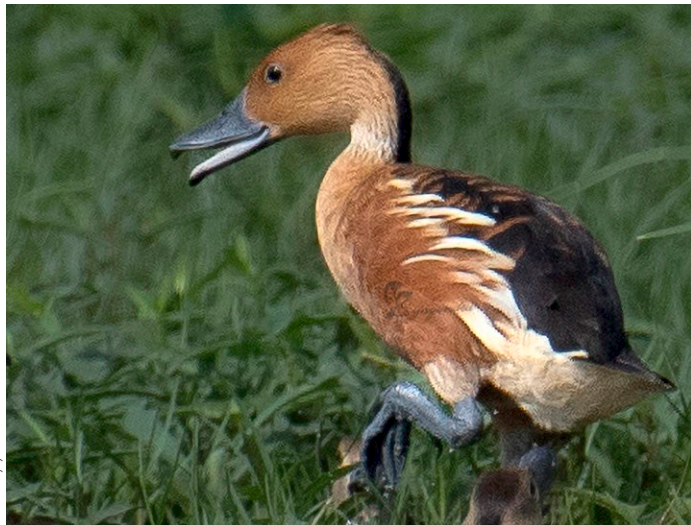


Photo: Vijayendra Desai

This species migrates long distances for suitable habitat (Naria et al. 2019). Its appearance for the untrained

eyes may resemble that of the Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*, which also occurs in a similar habitat. We request birders to look for this species in the flocks of Lesser Whistling Ducks. The current sighting of Fulvous Whistling Duck is the second photographic record from Gujarat; hence, it is worth reporting. [On May 26th 2024, Devvratsinh Mori visited the area and made a remarkable observation. To his surprise, he spotted eight individuals amidst a flock of Lesser Whistling Ducks. This is an impressive number for the region - pers. commu.]

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## Occurrence of the White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* at Thol Bird Sanctuary: A third photographic record from Gujarat

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Photo: Rohit Tibrewal

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