

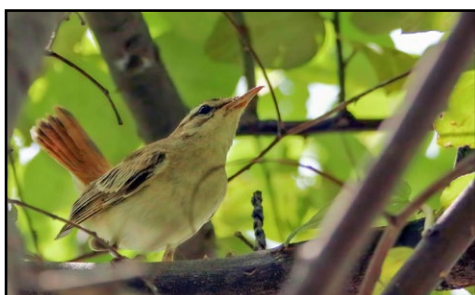
Short Birding Notes



First Nest building record of Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contopus* at Nal Sarovar

An Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contopus* was first spotted at Nal Sarovar in September 2025 and remained resident in the area throughout the year. On 24 March 2026, it built its first nest on a dry tree near the lake's edge. It subsequently constructed a second, notably larger nest on a *Prosopis Juliflora* tree at a different spot, followed by a third nest at yet another location along the lake's edge — each nest built in a distinct site. Little Cormorant and Indian Shag were also observed perching on the same dry trees used for nesting. This is the first recorded instance of the species nesting at Nal Sarovar, and of it remaining resident here through the year.

Ganibhai Rahimbhai Sama: Village - Vekariya, Nalsarovar



Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin Sighting in Vastral, Ahmedabad

On the morning of 23 August 2026, while searching for a Watercock in the Vastral area, Ahmedabad, Jay Patel, Pranav Chauhan, and Rian Patel had an unexpected and memorable sighting of a Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin.

The bird appeared beautifully among the foliage, offering us a wonderful opportunity to observe and photograph it in its natural habitat. What began as a search for a Watercock turned into a rewarding encounter with this striking and less commonly encountered bird.

Jay Patel, Pranav Chauhan & Rian Patel



Sighting of Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* at Rajkot

On 22 April 2025, we visited the river near Nyara village, Rajkot, for birdwatching. We were observing a fight between a male and female Greater Painted-Snipe when we noticed a bird resembling a Common Snipe. We photographed it, and on closer view it was clear the bill was shorter than expected for a Common Snipe. The image was sent for confirmation to senior birder Shri Ashok Mashru, who confirmed it as a Pin-tailed Snipe rather than Common Snipe.

Referring to the field guide for its status and distribution: "Uncommon winter visitor in many parts of the state" (Ganpule et al. 2022). This is the second record for the Rajkot area — the first was by Rajubhai Karia in 2018, also published in Flamingo (Karia 2018).

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Karia, R., 2018. Pin-tail Snipe in Rajkot. *Flamingo* Vol. 16-2, Apr–Jun 2018, P. 23.

