Sighting of Crested Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne coronata* in north Gujarat

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During a survey and sampling of the forests of Ambaji, Abakanta, Taranga and Vijayanagar, of the north Gujarat region, in May and June 2005, we heard a muted, shikra-like call on 18.v.2005 around 11:00 hrs. Walking towards the sound, we reached a check-dam across a small forest stream (24°18'N 72°51'E). This was in the dry deciduous forests of the southern Aravalli hills, near Pancha village, close to Ambaji (Banaskantha district) in northern Gujarat. The call led us to two Crested Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne coronata*, which were diving and drinking water, in mid-flight, from the surface of the dam. They flew off after drinking four more times.

We heard this species again, on another occasion, in the dry deciduous forests on some rocky and highly undulating hills, 
(24°18'N 72°50'E; 437 m asl), north-west of Kumbharia village, on the outskirts of Ambaji. Seven birds were gliding above the tree canopy on a hill top calling frequently and probably hawking insects. Two birds were also seen perched on a tertiary branch at the top of a 12 m tall *Lannea coromandelica* tree, growing on the sloping side of a hill.

Three more individuals of this species were sighted on two occasions. Once near Nalivada village (23°55'N 73°18'E; 295 m), and the second time at Bhayala village (24°17'N 72°44'E; 410m).

Crested Tree-Swift, is distributed practically across entire India, barring the north-west (Ali 1996). In Gujarat it has been reported from Gir forest in Saurashtra (Dharmakumarsinhji 1956), Juna Rajpipla, Songadh (Surat district) (Ali 1954) and Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary (Monga & Naoroji 1984). This species has not been reported from the forests of north Gujarat region by either Grimmett et al. (1999) or Kazmierczak (2000). Our observations extend the distribution range of this species.

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**References**


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