

2004; Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). However, an Internet search about its occurrence in Gujarat provided a pleasant surprise. The Ahmadabad edition of the *Times of India* epaper, dated 30 June 2013, reported, with photographs, the rescue of an adult Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher by Dinesh Parmar near Navrangpura, Ahmadabad (23.03°N, 72.55°E). That was, probably, the first record of the species from Gujarat. Interestingly, both the records are from June, which is its breeding season according to Ali & Ripley (1983), who state that it disperses widely during the rainy season with the advent of suitable breeding conditions, and thus it is a regular breeding visitor to many areas during the south-west monsoon (June–September). It is possible that the species moves through Gujarat in June, as it disperses northward during its breeding season, beyond its regular distribution range in the Western Ghats. An Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher was recorded at Panarwa village, of Phoolwari ki Naal Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, in April 1997 (Tehsin 1999). The distance between the current record from Vansda National Park and Panarwa village is c. 400 km. It is likely that the species occurs in between these points, at suitable sites.

Black-throated Munia *Lonchura kelaarti* in Pune District, Maharashtra

Shruti A. Dudhane

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Shruti A. Dudhane, 11, Visawa Housing Society, Taljai Road, Dhankawadi, Pune, Maharashtra, India. E-mail: shrutidudhane@gmail.com

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The Black-throated Munia *Lonchura kelaarti* is a small passerine, which is a resident in the hills of south-western India, the Eastern Ghats, and Sri Lanka (Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

On 20 August 2015, on a birding trip to Mulshi (18.50°N, 73.51°E), Pune District, I saw three munias on a tree. Initially, I thought they were White-rumped Munias *L. malacca*, but upon a closer look they seemed different. I managed to photograph them [155] before they took off, which later helped me identify them as Black-throated Munias. They moved away silently, so I couldn't trace any further activity. Black face and throat, streaked mantle



Photo: Shruti A. Dudhane

155. Black-throated Munia *Lonchura kelaarti*.

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and crown, and the lack of a clear white rump were the factors that pointed me towards this species. From the photographs, the identification of the subspecies is difficult, but referring to the descriptions and field guides, and on the basis of distributional range, these might be the Western Ghats race *jerdoni*.

A further search for previous sightings and records of this bird, on websites (www.orientalbirdimages.org; www.indianaturewatch.net; www.facebook.com), and field guides (Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) mainly pointed out the records from south-western-, and eastern India. Its status in the state of Maharashtra is unclear. Abdulali (1981) includes it as an uncommon resident in his state checklist without giving any actual records. His notes, “from Mahabaleshwar and / or Ratnagiri at the southern extremity of the state”, are interpreted by Prasad (2006) as, ‘presumably from Sindhudurg district’. Unnithan (2001) lists only a specimen from Bombay Market [=Crawford Market] for Maharashtra, but the provenance of such birds is unknown. The nearest definite records of this species from Pune are from Goa (filming nature IBC21267), while there are many photographs on most websites, which were taken in Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka. Subsequent to this record, a bird was photographed in Mahabaleshwar in 2015, and Shinde (2015) posted a hazy photograph of this bird online. Hence, these records constitute the first definite reports of the Black-throated Munia from Maharashtra, and the northern most records from the Western Ghats.

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A Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* from Banni Grasslands, Gujarat, India

Veer Vaibhav Mishra

Mishra, V. V., 2015. A Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* from Banni Grasslands, Gujarat, India. *Indian BIRDS* 10 (6): 161. Veer Vaibhav Mishra, Naturalist, Centre for Desert and Ocean (CEDO), Nakhatrana, Kachchh, Gujarat. E-mail: vvaibhavm2007@gmail.com Manuscript received on 18 May 2015.

On 16 December 2010, I was returning after a birding session with fellow-birder Nonnie Saran, from Banni Grasslands in Kachchh, Gujarat, near Nakhatrana, Kachchh. I kept an eye open for an Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* in the fields along the roadside. Suddenly I spotted an unfamiliar thrush-like bird in a field Bharapur (23.41°N, 69.27°E). We stopped, and went back to check it out. Having taken a few photographs [156], we tentatively identified it as a Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. It was feeding on an insect. I showed the photographs to Jugal Tiwari, and after referring to field-guides (Kazmierczak 2000; Grimmett *et al.* 2011), we confirmed that it was indeed a Mistle Thrush.

Mistle Thrush is not included in the Gujarat checklist (Parasharya *et al.* 2004). It is resident in the western Himalayas, and in Baluchistan, and no record from Gujarat is shown in recent

field-guides (Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). There are three known reports of Mistle Thrush from outside its main range in the Himalayas: a specimen collected in January 1903 from Lahore (Punjab, Pakistan; Kinneer 1903); a sight record in February 2002 from Sultanpur in Haryana (Harvey 2002); and another sight record in February–March 2003 from Pachmahri, Madhya Pradesh (Prince 2003).

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Photo: V. Mishra

156. Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* in Banni Grasslands, Gujarat.

