

Records of Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* from Gujarat, India

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The Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* breeds from May–September in north-eastern Afghanistan, Safed Koh and Himalayas of northern Pakistan to Bhutan (and probably Arunachal Pradesh), and in the southern Assam hills (breeding at least in Nagaland, and occurring in Meghalaya and Manipur), 1600–3500 m. The species winters in hilly country from lowland to 2100 m, primarily in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. However migrant records exist throughout peninsular India and Assam, as do scattered records in the Himalayan foothills from Nepal eastwards (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Several records exist from the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh as well, as reported by Ali & Ripley (1996).

There seem to be no records of the species from Gujarat, prior to Khacher's (1996) sighting. Dharmakumarsinhji (1955) does not include it in his work, while Parasharya *et al.* (2004) include it in theirs. Grimmett *et al.* (2011), and Kazmierczak (2000) indicate its presence in Gujarat as a summer passage migrant.

On Sunday, 27 March 2013, accompanied by Darshak Karia, Bhavna Mashru and Neeta Karia, I visited the Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, near Junagadh city, Junagadh District, Gujarat. At 1330 hrs, we visited an artificial water tank with a mill installed by the state forest department. Water brimming over had rendered the surrounding area damp, and overgrown with grass. Many winged insects were hovering over this patch. Here, I photographed a bird [195] that looked like a Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* hopping across and sipping water off the ground. Upon zooming into the image later, I found it to be a different species, with a white eyebrow and an orange-buff colour spreading from its throat to the lower underparts. With the help of field guides, the bird was identified as a male Indian Blue Robin. Gaurang Bagda saw it at the same place on 04 April 2013 (*pers. comm.*).

A handful of records of the Indian Blue Robin are presented from Gujarat (Fig. 1; Table 1). The species seems to be recorded in the state mostly as a passage migrant during the onward and return leg of its journey, between the months of October–November and March–April.



Photo: A. Mashru

195. Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.

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Table 1. Records of the Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* in Gujarat

Location	Date of sighting	Observer	Source
Hingolgaadh Forest, near Jasdan, Rajkot District	Late September, year unmentioned	Lavkumar Khacher	Khacher 1996
Malmudi, near Saputara, Dang District	25 February 2007	Rajani Trivedi	<i>Pers. comm.</i> , verbally (photo)
Mandavi Forest, near Mandavi, Surat District	March 2011	Jayant Bhojvala	Bhojvala 2011
Madhavpur, Porbandar District	November 2012	Trupti Vyas	Website (photo)
Girnar WLS, near Junagadh, Junagadh District	27 March 2013	Ashok Mashru & Darshak Karia	Author's sighting
Girnar WLS, near Junagadh, Junagadh District	04 April 2013	Gaurang Bagda	<i>Pers. comm.</i> , verbally (photo)

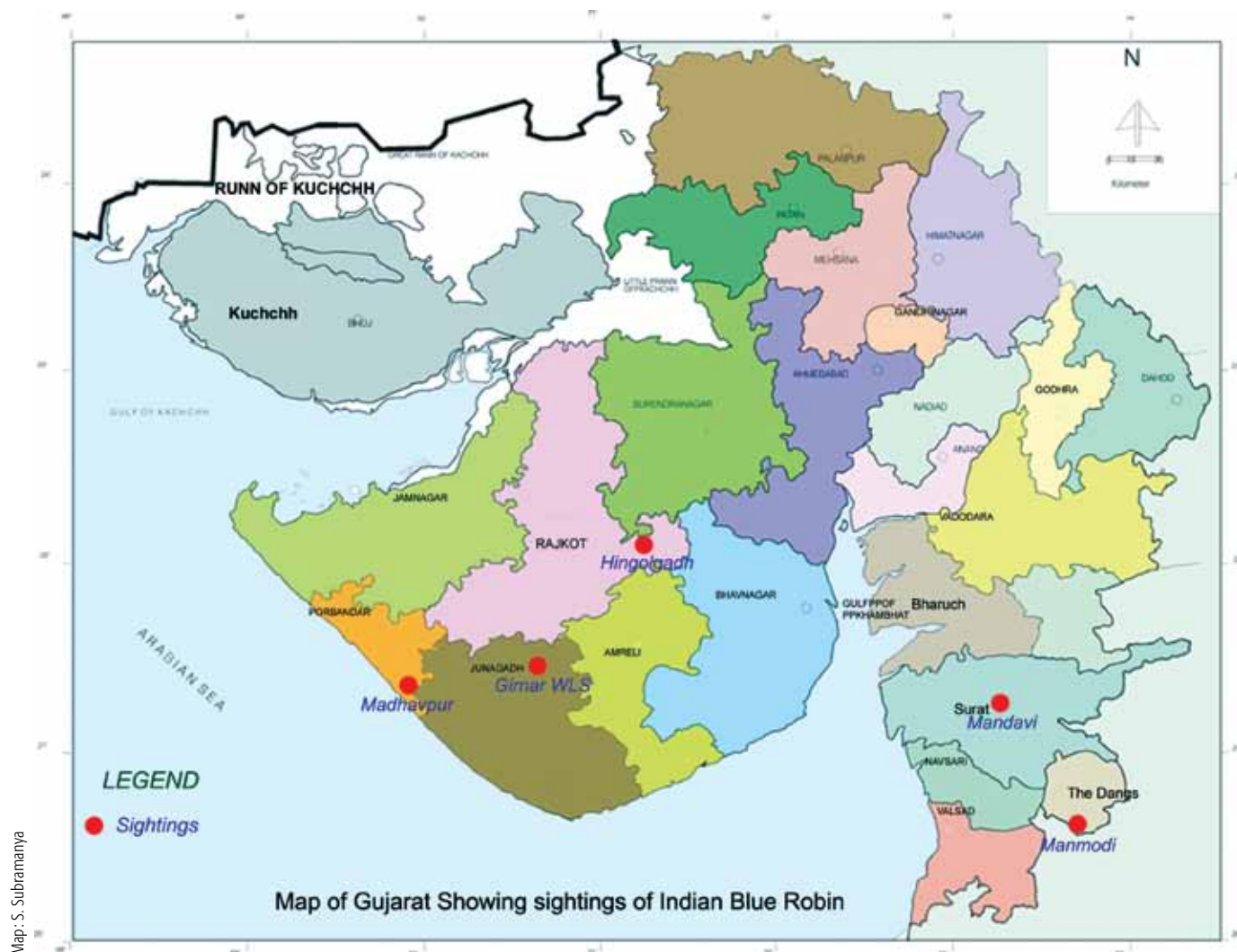


Fig. 1. Sighting locations of Indian Blue Robin *Larivora brunnea* in Gujarat, India.

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