

Snapshot sightings

Siberian Rubythroat at Gir National Park, Gujarat

Leio De Souza & Jennifer De Souza



Our bird group photographed an adult male Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* on 05 December 2013 while birding in Gir Forest National Park (21°07'N, 70°49'E), Gujarat. This seems to be the first report of this species from the state (Parasharya *et al.* 2004; Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

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Red Turtle Dove from Haripad, Kerala

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On 14 July 2014, a couple of small doves were seen in fading light at Haripad (9°15'N, 76°27'E), Alappuzha District, Kerala. We photographed them the next day along with Vipin V. Nath and they turned out to be the first Red Turtle Doves *Streptopelia tranquebarica* for Kerala (Sashikumar *et al.* 2010; Praveen & Narayanan 2014). Of the 13 birds present, eight were males; some birds are still present at the time of writing. Birds were wary, kept a distance of nearly 100 m and took to flight when disturbed. Clipped wings were not noticed, and hence the chances that these are of captive origin seem unlikely.

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Little Bittern from Virajpet, Karnataka

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An adult male Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* was photographed near Virajpet (12°11'N, 75°48'E), Kodagu District, Karnataka, on 02 July 2014. This species is a rare vagrant to southern India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011) and the only prior report is from Bengaluru (Krishna *et al.* 2004). However, the actual details of that record are unknown. This is also the first photograph from southern India and its presence here in mid-summer is intriguing.

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Collared Pratincole from Bengaluru, Karnataka

Alwan Sadagopan



A single Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* was recorded at Thippagondanahalli Reservoir (12°58'N, 77°20'E), Bengaluru on 01 February 2014. Identification was confirmed from its tail length (longer than tips of folded wings) and the

presence of 'slit' nostrils. The bird was not observed a week later, and hence might have been on migration. This is the first record for the Bengaluru area (Krishna *et al.* 2004). Though the western coast of India is indicated as its range (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), this may be the first documented record for Karnataka (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

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