

## Wintering and Breeding Records of Black Browed-Reed Warbler at Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

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There are 13 race of Reed Warbler from Acrocephalidae family are accures in India [1]. Ten race from *Acrocephalus* Genius, two races from Iduna Genius, and one from *Phragamaticola* Genius [2]. Among eight race accure in Gujarat. The race clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus* Stantorecus is local migratory birds and breeding also in Gujarat [3]. Black-browed Reed Warbler is new race for Gujarat. It belongs to Acrocephalidae family, order - Passerifomes, Genius - *Pyrocephalus*.

### Breed

Siberia East, Ussuciland, Sakhalin, China central, North - East and East. North Korea and Japan North [4]. Winter, north - East India, South and near Kolkata area, Bangladesh south and North-east, Andaman Island in 2012 [5]. One juvenile bird was trapped and ringed at Tikse (Ladakh) on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1980, some records are available from Nepal, 1980, 1982 and 1983 [5].

Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary (22.82°N, 72.06°E) is located 65 km west from Ahmedabad city, spreaded over 120 km is natural shallow lake and muddy lagoon with more than 300 islands and its surroundings where thousands of migratory birds arrive for wintering from central Asia, Europe, and Siberia and it has been identified as a potential Ramsar site.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007 birding at Vekaria village wetland spreaded about 1.5 km, along Viramgam-Bagodra road covered by aquatic vegetation. Shoot some images of the bird like Warbler, perched in Reed, then after checking in reference book and consult with authentic literature of Warbler. Photographed bird was not Paddyfield *Acrocephalus* Agricola, or not a Mustached Warbler *Acrocephalus* melanopogon, but it was very similar with Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus* bistrigiceps, it has created confusion and question about distributed range of Black-browed Reed Warbler, does not covered North-West, Central, South-East, and South-West India. So, observations extend for long time collect more wintering data.

### Methods

I extend under my observation Mani village, Vekaria village, Kaila village, Nanikatechi Dharabla island and central road of Sanctuary Reed bed. It is very rich site for Passerine bird like Warbler and other. All site are roughly spreaded about 1 - 3 sq. km. It has I. carnea comprised, Typhaangustata, cyperussp are main immigrant vegetation and also inter spreaded thorns of *p. juliflora*.

All the observation showed in photograph with sight.



**Figure 2:** (II) 2/1/2007. Vekariya village (NSBS) (21.3151°N, 70.9131°E). Square-ended buff white supercilium, black eye-stripe, lateral crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale tip black.



**Figure 1:** (I) 27/1/2007. Vekariya village (NSBS) (21.3151°N, 70.9131°E). Square-ended buff white supercilium, Blackeye-stripe, lateral crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible horned, lower pale.



**Figure 5:** (V) 12/11/2007. Dhoraji NSBS(21.7398°N,70.4491°E). White throat, buff below, long bill, brownish legs, eye-stripe, lateral crown stripe, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip dark.



**Figure 6:** (VI) 5/12/2008. Dharala Island NSBS (23.4306°N, 87.4827°E). Long bill, white throat, buff below, cooked tail, longer primary projection, black eye-stripe, and crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale tip dark.



**Figure 3:** (III) 12/1/2009(22.9093°N, 71.9401°E). Malika NSBS (Dist. – Surendranagar). White throat, buff below, brownish legs, cooked tail, buff supercilium, black eye-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale.



**Figure 7:** (VII) 18/1/2009 (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). Kayla village near cultivation field NSBS long bill, eye-stripe, lateral crown-stripe, square-ended buff supercilium, brownish legs, upper mandible black, lower pale.



**Figure 4:** (IV) 4/12/2009(22.9093°N, 71.9401°E). Malika NSBS (Dist. – Surendranagar). White throat, cooked tail, long primary projection, buff square-ended supercilium, lateral crown-stripe, black eye-stripe, long bill with upper mandible black, lower pale.



**Figure 8:** (VIII) 26/2/2010(22.8510°N, 71.9816°E). Nanikatechi village NSBS (Probably) cooked tail, longer primary projection, long bill, white throat, upper parts brown, brownish legs, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip dark. lower pale.



**Figure 13:** (XIII) 8/2/2011. Kayla Village NSBS (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). Square-ended supercilium, cooked tail, primary projection, long bill, eye-stripe, black lateral crown-stripe, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip dark.



**Figure 9:** (IX) 14/12/2011. Vekariya village NSBS (21.3151°N, 70.9131°E). Square-ended supercilium, white throat, Upper parts brown, greyer legs, black eye-stripe, lateral crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip dark.



**Figure 11:** (XI) 15/2/2012. Kayla village NSBS (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). White throat, buff below, brownish legs, longer primary projection, upper parts brown, eye-stripe, lateral crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip dark.



**Figure 10:** (X)6/11/2012. Vekariya village NSBS (21.3151°N, 70.9131°E) supercilium, white throat, brownish legs, upper parts brown, long bill, lateral crown-stripe, eye-stripe, upper mandible black, lower mandible pale, tip dark.



**Figure 12:** (XII) 12/2/2013. Central Road Reed bed NSBS brownish legs, buff supercilium, buff black eye-stripe, upper parts brown, buff black lateral crown-stripe, buff.



**Figure 14:** (XIV) 11/11/2013. Dhoraji village NSBS (21.7398°N,70.4491°E) white throat, buff below, cooked tail, brownish legs, square-ended supercilium, black eye-stripe, black lateral crown-stripe, upper mandible black, lower pale.



**Figure 16:** (XVI) 27/12/2014. Cross road NSBS (Probably) white throat, upper parts brown, brownish legs, square ended-supercilium, black eye-stripe and crown-stripe, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale tip dark.



**Figure 15:** (XV) 24/12/2015. Vekariya village NSBS (21.3151°N, 70.9131°E). Buff supercilium, eye-stripe, lateral, crown-stripe, cooked tail, longer primary projection, white throat, buff below, long bill, upper mandible lower pale.



**Figure 17:** (XVII) 10/2/2016. Dharala Island NSBS (23.4306°N, 87.4827°E). Cooked tail, brownish legs, white throat, square-ended white supercilium, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale, lateral crown-stripe, eye-stripe, black, upper parts brown.



**Figure 20:** (XX) 9/12/2016. Kayala village (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). White throat, buff below, brownish legs, square-ended supercilium, cooked tail, primary projection, upper brown parts, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip black.



**Figure 19:** (XIX) 1/2/2017. Kayla village (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). Upper brown parts, brownish legs, white throat, buff below, cooked tail, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale, tip black.



**Figure 18:** (XVIII) 15/12/2017(28.7560°N, 76.2609°E). Kayla village NSBS (Probably). White throat, buff below, long bill, upper mandible black, lower pale tip black, buff square-ended supercilium, brownish upper parts, buff eye-stripe and crown stripe.

### Observation of juvenile (fresh)



**Figure A**



On 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 2018 birding near Kayla village (28.7560°N, 76.2609°E) dam, roughly 1 km North-East from Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, along cultivation field. At 1239 hrs came across bird perched on Sorghum bicolor plant leaves. Shot some images. During photography, bird was disturbed by house crow, cluch in bill and took off. All images show that photographed bird was juvenile of Black-browed Reed Warbler and it was fresh about roughly 25 - 30 days old, not more than come out from egg cell.

Juvenile has browner upper parts, cooked tail, broad square ended white supercilium, long bill with horned black coloured upper mandible, tip black, pink legs.

### Discussion

All the record described above show that bird is regular winter visitor, but it is over looked and similarity with Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus Agricola*.

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