

## Probably Breeding Record of Rufous-Tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* at Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary on Identification of Two Juvenile

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### Abstract

The race Rufous tailed scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* belongs to muscipidae family, Order: Passeriformes, Class Aves, Genus *Cercotrichas*, is split in two separate races, due to differences in some plumage and name *Cercotrichas syriacus* and *Cercotrichas galactotes*.

**Keywords:** *Cercotrichas syriacus*; *Cercotrichas galactotes*

### Introduction

The race *cocyriacus* is bred sparsely in South Europe open dryer bushes habitat. The Eastern Rufous tailed scrub Robin *C. galactotes* is very widely distributed race Svensson [1]. Vagrant North-West Pakistan, but not included North-West India, Krys K., 2012 [2]. Passage migrant through Pakistan, South world and North-West India, Grimett., *et al.* 2011 [3]. Summer visitor and breed in Afghanistan, Baluchistan through North-West Pakistan, passage migrant September to October in Pakistan and North-West India (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat) Rasmussen 2012 [4]. Shantilal Varu has recently (in 2014) published 26 years observation records on Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin in Kachchh (From 27-9-1981 to 28-8-2004) published in bulletin of Newsletters for Birdwatcher vol. 54, March - April 2014 [5]. Normally it occurs in Saurashtra (Dharmakumarsinhji 1955, Niak., *et al.* 1990), but it has been reported earlier from Dwarka and Jasdhan (Ali and Ripley 2001). And it has not been recently reported from Jamnagar area. Some important records are available from Saurashtra. Ashwin Trivedi has observed and photographed at Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Jamnagar on 13 September, 2013, Bulletin of Flamingo, (vol. 13 Oct - Dec, 2014). Another two records from Wadhwan Dist.- Surendranagar on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 and 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 by Devvrath Singh Mori (Bulletin of Flamingo, vol. 54 Oct - Dec, 2017). Another record from North-Gujarat at Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary (Dist. - Banaskantha). Bird was sighted and photographed by Kailash Jani and Anuj Raina on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, Flamingo, Vol. 17, Jan - Mar 2019. Some records from Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.

**Breed:** South Liberia and South Africa, from South Morocco, East to Egypt, and part of Arbastan, Central Asia.

### Study area

Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary is located (22° 45' N, 72° 00' E) 65 km. West of Ahmedabad city. Along Bagodra-Viramgam road, has recently declared Ramsar sight in 2012. Has a large wide spreaded *M. azadirachta*, *E. globules*, *Labill*, *Salvadora*, *Persica*, *H. integrifdia*, *Planch*, *H. integrifoliawth* *C. decibua*, *C. sepiaria*, *A. Arabica* *P. spicigera*, *P. Juliflora*, *H. intgrifolia* thorny scrub mixed sparcely, dry deciduous forest.

### Observation

On 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015, I was on my regular birding trip of Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. On 0935 hrs, I came across bird perched on *A. Arabica*, thorny scrub tree branch. I shot some images and consult with authentic literature on birds.

Figure 1 bird was juvenile of Rofous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*. Have a grey crown, mentle back and long tail, white supercilium, long bill, upper mendable black, lower mendable pale, rofous brown wing coverts, and whitish buff below, pink legs. Bird has created confusion and question about its status due to it was sighted in October, so I wait for long time collected more autumn data of migration.



**Figure 1:** 06-10-2015.

Figure 2 on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, at 1516 hrs, I entered in Green Park along central road of sanctuary with my assiatant Kasam Sidani. We observed one bird (Figure 1), was perched on ground, we shot some images. Then after, we observed one more bird perched on thorny scrub tree branch.

Figure 2 is similar with figure 1. It has bluish grey, crown, neck and mentle back, rofous rump and cooked tail with black edge, pale rofous-white fringed wing coverts, wing feature with white wringed, pink legs, black eye-stripe, creamy white supercilium, broken white eye-ring, brown moustachial stripe, long bill, upper mendable black, lower pale.



**Figure 2:** 28-09-2017 Male.

Figure 3 it is very similar with figure 2 but it has shorter rufous tail with black tip.



**Figure 3:** 28-09-2017 Female.

Figure 4 on 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018, I was at NSBS behind interpretation center of sanctuary. Observed bird very much like juvenile of scrub robin perched on *A. arabica* tree branch. It has pale-brown upper parts, dark brown head, nape, mentle, back, dark brown wing-coverts with white fringed. Tail is dark grey, pink legs, long bill, and upper mendable black, lower pale.

Figure 5 on 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018, I sighted near main gate of Sanctuary, juvenile like bird of scrub-robin, it was feeding on ground. It has Pale brown crown mandala and neck, dark brown wing-coverts, shorter tail, base rufous and rest of dark grey, white supercilium, black eye-stripe, white throat, white below, pink legs, long bill, and upper mendable black, lower pale.



**Figure 4:** 18-02-2018 Male.



**Figure 5:** 20-02-2018 Female.

## Discussion

The Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin is autumn (During September to October) passage migrant bird (Figure 1, 4 and 5) but photographs of juvenile show that bird has breed in sanctuary, but three photographic records are not enough for its breeding status, require more photographs of nest, eggs and feeding behavior of birds.

## **Conclusion**

The bird rufous - tailed scrub Robin is passage migrant bird during autumn (September to October) in Kutch and Saurashtra, but photographs of the juvenile figure 1, 4 and 5 are so that birds were probably stay for long time and breed. This record had created confusion and questions about its status.

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