

Some Important Records of Vagrant Wheatears *Oenanthe* from Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi*

20/c Mangaldeep Apartment, Jodhpur Village Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad, India

***Corresponding Author:** Rajni Trivedi, 20/c Mangaldeep Apartment, Jodhpur Village Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad, India.

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Classification of wheatear *Oenanthe*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae

Genus: *Oenanthe*.

There are six race of wheatear *Oenanthe* are accrues during winter. *O. isabelline*, *O. D. deserti*, *O.P picata*, *O. 'opistholeuca'* *O. oenanthe*, *O. P 'capistrata'* *O. albonigra* and *O. chrysopygia* are recorded as a vagrant in Gujarat, Flamingo VIII 3- XII 4, year - 2016 [1].

Records of Hume's wheatear *O. albonigra*

Gujarati name: Hume's no Kabropiddo.

The hume's wheatear *O. albonigra* accrues South-west Desert of Asia, Arabia, North-west Iraq, East Iraq, South Iran, South Afghanistan, South-west Pakistan- H. shirihai and L. Svensson-2018 [2]. Some records from Gilgit (Baltistan), ladakh and kachchh - Gujarat (India), Rasmussen [3], Grimmett [4], Kry's [5].

On 1st January to 12th January 2010, I toured Kachchh. On 2nd January I visited Kaladungar hills (23.9345° N, 69.8145° E), Taluka Khavda, 19 km North-West from Khavda, 90 km North-West from Bhuj, 14 km from Dhrobana. At 0930 hrs, I came across bird like wheatear perched on electric greed wire, along Dobara-Kaladungar road. I shot only one image, bird was took off and flew away on another site of hills (Figure 1). Bird has strong heavy black bill, long black tail with white-edge, long primary projection, larger glossy head throat ear-coverts and nape. It is differ in some plumage than Blyth's wheatear *O. picata*. My observation, image and study on cheat family show that bird s Hume's wheatear *O. albonigra*.



Figure 1



Figure 2

On 5th February to 10th February 2014, I visited Kachchh again. On 6th February, I was birding between Motivirani to Sukhpar village road. At 1034 hrs, I came near Than village (23.4555° N, 69.3605° E), Dhinodhar hills. I observed Blyth's wheatear like bird perched on electric cement pole, shot some images. Photographed bird is larger in size than *O. picata*, has a long black primary coverts and long black tail with white-edge, larger glossy black head, nape and throat, ear-coverts, strong bill and legs, white breast, belly and vent and undertail coverts. After checking on reference book, it is clear that bird is Hume's wheatear.

Records of Northern wheatear *oenanthe oenanthe*

Gujarati name - Uttar no piddo.

The race Northern wheatear *oenanthe oenanthe* split in four different race (1) o.o. seebohmi (2) o.o. leatorhoa (3) o.o. leucorhoa and (4) o.o. *oenanthe*. The race 1 and 2 are widely distributed in South Central, West Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychells and Comoros [6,7]. The race o.o. leucorhoa is distributed in green land, and race o.o. *oenanthe* is accurse north central and west Europe, south to Pyrenees, France, North Balkans, East Europe, through North Ukraine to Siberia-South [2]. North East, North West and

Central Afghanistan, Vagrant North and West Pakistan also in Maldives- Rasmussen 2012 [3]. Passage migrant Pakistan and North-west Himalaya Ali and Repley 12 [8]. Confirmed record from Bhutan 2019 march Erterius and Roberson 2019. Another record from Himachal Pradesh, Chandra taal, District Lahaul and Spiti. Second record is from Chicham village d. (Lahaul and Spiti), Third record from Tungnath hills Taluka Ukhimath, District. Rudra prayag-IB Vol 15/6. Bird was observed by Damle and Team Inskipp near at Nagra vally, Ladakh on 14th May 2013-IB Vol 9/5 and 6. Two records from Gujarat, Clement Francis has observed at Bunny (Kachchh) in December 2011 [9], one more records from costal area of the Modhva, Taluka Mandvi, kachchh by Shantilal Varu on 14th April 2022-Flamingo Vol V1 [10].



Figure 3

I was on my regular birding trip of Nal Sarovar bird sanctuary. I was birding at Mani village (21.4660° N, 72.9594° E), near cultivation field (Viramgam), along Bagodara - Viramgam road by walking. At 1740 hrs, I came across bird like wheatear Perched on *P. juliflora* branch. I noted that Bird is differ in plumage than *Oenanthe isabellina*, shot some images. Bird has white brown supercilium, and broken eye ring, shorter black tail, legs, bill, eye strip and wing coverts, rufous brown on head, mentale, nape, breast, and belly. White throat and vents, bird is easily identified as a juvenile of Northern wheatear *oenanthe oenanthe*, after checking on reference book.

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