

Short Article

Volume-06|Issue-02|2026

Important Winter Vagrant Records of Brownish-Flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia Fortipes Ballida* from Jyotipura Wetland, Dist. – Surendranagar, Gujarat, India

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Article History

Received: 09.02.2026

Accepted: 26.02.2025

Published: 02.03.2026

Citation

Trivedi, R. (2026). Important Winter Vagrant Records of Brownish-Flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia Fortipes Ballida* from Jyotipura Wetland, Dist. – Surendranagar, Gujarat, India. *Indiana Journal of Agriculture and Life Sciences*, 6(2), 1-2.

Abstract: This study documents the first photographic and confirmed winter vagrant record of the Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler (*Cettia fortipes ballida*) from Jyotipura Wetland in Surendranagar, Gujarat. The bird was observed on 14 August 2014 and identified through careful examination of its physical characteristics and relevant field literature. Previously restricted mainly to the Himalayan region, this sighting represents a notable southward range extension of over 100 km and adds a new species record to the avifauna of Gujarat.

Keyword: Winter Vagrant, Brownish-Flanked, Bush-Warbler, *Cettia Fortipes Ballida*, Jyotipura Wetland

Species authority: - Hodson, 1845

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: *Cettia fortipes*

Family: Cettidae

Order: Passeriformes

Class: Aves

Phylum: Chordata

Kingdom: Animalia

Scientific name: *Cettia fortipes ballida*

Common name: Brownish-flanked Bush warbler

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INTRODUCTION

The Brownish-flanked Bush warbler is rather medium sized warbler, detached – 4 different races. 1. *C. F. robustips* – Taiwan. 2. *C. F. davidiana* – Central, South and South-East China. 3. *C. F. pallida* – With Nepal to Central Himalaya – West Himalaya - Kashmir to North – East Pakistan. 4. *C. F. fortipes* – East Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, North-East India, Myanmar, South-West China – Peter & David 10 & del hoyo 2014.



On 14-8-2014, at 9:00 AM, I visited Jyotipura wetland (22.72° N, 71.63° E), Taluka Lakhtar, Dist. Surendranagar adjusted 5 km North-West range (Bhaskarpara) of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, elongated

Surendranagar - Viramgam road and South range of Narmada canal. Spreaded over more than roughly 4000 m². Has a *S. bispinosa*, *Cappiris decidua*, *triumfetta rotundifolia*, *C. decidua*, *P. spicigera*, *C. arbore salvadora persica*, *leusca cephalotas*, *C. scppiaria*, *C. procepra*, *Acacia arabica*, *I. aquatica*, *I. carnea*, *Cyperus sp.* and *T. angustata*, with main immigrant vegetation. *P. juliflora* make it difficult to enter in wetland to shoot the images. Sites are also adjoining with cultivation field of Jyotipura village.

At 9:30 AM, I came across bird frequently foraging in thorny scrub and disappear behind reed patch. At 9:40AM, bird came out again and perched on *T. rotundi* scrub, shot some images and identified by consulting literature, it was Large- sized Brownish – flanked Bush warbler *Cettia fortipes*. Race *cettia fortipes*, has dark brown crown, nape, mentle, broad-based shorter black bill, cutting edge pale, broken pale brownish eye ring, white throat, brownish on flank, central breast white, pale legs and undertail coverts, upper tail rather rounded and brownish.

This appearance is to be the first photographic record from peninsular India, but accuracy of birds is only in Himalaya, West to East. However, this present record at Surendranagar Dist. is more than 100 km, Southward of Himalayan foothills. It is great surprising.

But **Ali** has doesn't mention in Hill birds of India, 1979, Birds of Eastern Himalayas, 1997, Handbook of birds of India and Pakistan, 2007. It has been not included in Gujarat's bird checklist - BCSG 2004, 2014 and 2020. This is first vagrant record of brownish-flanked warbler in Gujarat; it is an addition to the avifauna of Gujarat.

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