

Short Article

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Important Vagrant Record of Indian Broad-Tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola Platyrus* from Kayla Wetland/Cultivation Field, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

Rajni Trivedi

20/C Mangaldeep apartment, jodhpur gam road, satellite, Ahmedabad-380015

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Abstract: This study documents an important vagrant record of the Indian Broad-tailed Grassbird (*Schoenicola platyrus*) from Kayla wetland and nearby cultivation fields close to Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat. The bird was observed on 27 September 2016 and identified through careful field observation of its size, plumage, and other distinguishing features, supported by standard ornithological references. The species, endemic to India and listed as Near Threatened, is mainly known from the Western Ghats and parts of Maharashtra. This sighting significantly extends its known range northwestward and suggests the need for further monitoring in Gujarat.

Keyword: Vagrant Record, Indian Broad-Tailed, Grassbird, *Schoenicola Platyrus*, Kayla Wetland, Cultivation, Birds Sanctuary.

Species authority: - Jerdon, 1841

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - *Schoenicola*

Family: - Locustellidae

Order: - Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific Name: - *Schoenicola Platyrus*

Common Name: - Indian Broad-Tailed Grassbird

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INTRODUCTION

The Broad-tailed Grassbird belongs to *Schoenicola* Genus, Family Locustella, rather large sized bush warbler. Is endemic race, globally near vulnerable species, listed in – **Red list Bird Life International – 2016**. Detached in two different race, Southern and Northern – **Grimmett 2011**. Resident and Breed – It is found in Western Ghat, South of Goa (South Maharashtra to Kerala), Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The species is known to be distributed in the Western Ghats, mainly across Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu (BirdLife International 2016). The earlier records from Maharashtra include locations such as Bopdeo Ghat, Lonavla, and Rajguranagar in Pune District; Ramshej Ghat in Nashik District; Amba Ghat in Kolhapur District; and Dhule District (Prasad 2004, 2005). Except for the sites in Nashik, all these locations lie to the south of the present study area. Observers from Nashik noted that the birds were frequently vocal, sang from exposed perches, and showed bold behaviour. Although displaying birds were regularly reported, nesting activity had not been recorded in Nashik District. There are 5 records of Nelliampathy Hills, Southern Western Ghats by J. Pravin and P. O. Nameer, June 2007 – *Zoos' Print Journal*: 22(6). Recent record from Pune District, Sinhadgad fort, Maharashtra, June 2014 – *IB* 11/4. There are two

previous isolated records; one from Point Claimeie – **Hussain 1977**, Vishakhapatnam Ghats – **Prince 1979**.

On 27-9-16, I was birding at Kayla village (23.01° N, 72.34° E) cultivation field elongated Kayla wetland, adjusted Bagodra-Viramgam road, 1 km North-East from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary. At around 8:30 AM, I came across large-sized warbler like bird, perched in scrub. Identified by its large size and plumage and consulting literature.



Bird has broad based shorter black bill, lower mandible pale, broken white eye ring and throat, dark brown crown and ear coverts, brownish yellow below with dark brown streaks on flank, black legs, rufous-brown mentle and wing coverts, fainter shorter black tail tip. Bird was identified by consulting literature on Warblers and other literatures, was found out that it is Indian Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyurus*.

Only single vagrant record is extremely very important for its distribution range. It doesn't cover West, North-West Indian Peninsular, is vulnerable species and endemic to India, listed in IUCAN Red List 2016, BirdLife International. Most of birds were recorded in Pune, Lonavala, Nasik and Dhule District of Maharashtra. Present site is approximately 500 km North-West from Dhule. Might be birds are also occurring in South Gujarat, but more observation is required.

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