

Short Article

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Important Wintering Records of Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus Mendelli* from Malika Wetland, Western Range of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Dist. – Surendranagar, Gujarat, India. First Photographic Records from Western India

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Abstract: This paper documents the first photographic record of the Russet Bush Warbler (*Bradypterus mendelli*) from western India, based on an observation at Malika Wetland near the western range of Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Surendranagar District, Gujarat. The bird was observed and photographed on 28 December 2022 while perched in scrub vegetation. Identification was based on characteristic morphological features, including a black bill, prominent white supercilium, black lores, white throat, yellowish belly, brown crown and mantle, dark wings, short square-ended tail, and white vent. Previous literature indicates that the species is associated mainly with the Eastern Himalayan region. This record extends its documented distribution to western India.

Keyword: Russet Bush Warbler; *Bradypterus mendelli*; Malika Wetland; Gujarat; Western India; First Photographic Record.

Species authority: Brooks, 1875

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: *Bradypterus*

Family: Locustellidae

Order: Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific name: - *Bradypterus mendelli*

English name: Russet Bush Warbler

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INTRODUCTION

The race Russet Bush Warbler *B. mendelli* is medium sized bush warbler, detached in three different races – 1. *B. M. melanorhynchus* – Hills of South China Central Sichuan east to Fujian, South to South Guangdong and Hong Kong. 2. *B. m. idoneus* – Da Lat Plateau, South Annam, Vietnam. 3. *B. m. mandelli* – North-East Indian Himalayan foothills from Darjeeling to East Arunachal Pradesh and North Myanmar – **Peter & David 2010**. Also, North-East Himalaya – **Grimmett 2011**, Darjeeling to Arunachal, also South Assam hill with Meghalaya, winter in Bangladesh – **Rasmussen 2012**.



28-12-22
Fig. 1

On 28th December 2022, I was birding between Vadla to Malika wetland, elongated cultivation field. Has a *Capparis decidua*, *S. bispinosa*, *C. decidua*, *triumfetta rotundifolia*, *C. arborea salvadora persica*, *P. spicigera*, *C. procepra*, *leusca cephalotas*, *I. carnea*, *C. soppiaria*, *Acacia arabica*, *I. aquatica*, *Cyperus* sp. and *T. angustata*, with main immigrant vegetation. *P. juliflora* make it difficult to enter in wetland to shoot the images. It is typical lurking and sneaking species.

At 4:55 PM, observed and photographed bird like warbler was perched in scrub, as per reference book on warbler was Russet Bush Warbler *B. mendelli*. Has a black bill, white supercilium extend upto eye, black lores, white throat, yellowish belly, brownish crown and mentle, blackish brown primary, secondary and greater coverts, blackish brown square ended shorter tail, white vent.

Ali (1945, 1954, 1955) didn't came across the species in Gujarat, even doesn't mention in Birds of Eastern Himalayas, also doesn't mention in Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan. Grimmett 2011 and Kry's 2012, gave its status of residency in East Himalayas. This is first record for western India. Doesn't mention in checklist of Birds of Gujarat.

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