

Short Article

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Probably Vagrant Record of Long-Billed Bush Warbler *Bradypterus Major* from Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

Rajni Trivedi

20/C, Mangaldeep apt., Jodhpur Gam Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad – 380015, Gujarat, India.

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Species Authority: B. M. Major – Brooks, 1872, B. M. innae – Porteuco, 1955.

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Aves

Phylum: Chordata

Order: Passiformes

Family: Locustellidae

Genus: Locustella

Species: L. major

Binomial Name: Locustella major

Synonyms: Bradypterus major

Keyword: Long-billed bush warbler, *Bradypterus major*, Nal Sarovar, Bird Sanctuary, Vagrant record, Avian biodiversity

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The long-billed Bush Warbler is one of the large sized, slim, drab and fairly non-descriptive Warbler, resembles of Chinese and Spotted Bush Warbler – David. Belong to *Locustella* Genus, Family – Locustellidae. Listed in threatened birds of Asia – Red List Data Book, Cambridge, UK, 2955 pp. It is also listed in Red List of IUCN Bird Life International list of threatened bird of India, uploaded till November - 2013. Only one authentic record with two images is available from Southampton University, Ladakh Expedition 1976-82, 24 Jul 1977, Southern outskirts of Sankoo, Kargil, Ladakh, India. It is split in two different races. (1). B. M. innae is found in South-West China. (2). B. M. Major. Resident and breed in Western Himalaya – Gilgit (Pakistan), also in Kashmir – (Suru) Ladakh - K. Baker & K. Peter, P. David.



On 1st February, 2019, I toured Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary () located 65km west from Ahmedabad city is declared as a Sanctuary in April, 1969 and a Ramsar site in 2012. Site has *C. sepiaria*, *M. azadirachta*, *A. arabica*, *E. globulus*, *S. persica*, *C. gigantea*, *D. muricata*, *H. integrifolia*, *S. bispinosa*, *Labill*, *Salvador*, *Persica*, *Planch*, *A. arabica*, *P. spicigera*, *P. juliflora* thorny scrub mixed dry deciduous forest.

I was birding behind interpretation centre along central road of Sanctuary. On 0909 hrs, I came across bird perched on thorny scrub. I shot some images. My long-time observation on various genus of warbler and consulting literature by K. Baker and K. Peter and P. David, showed that photographed bird is very rare and endangered, vulnerable species of Long-billed bush warbler.

Bird has pale olive-brown head, long and pointed black bill with lower mandible pale, pale supercilium extend beyond eye, broken pale orbital ring, buff on lores, black eye-strips, olive-brown buff ear-coverts, pale olive-brown greater coverts, contrast with brown mantle, pale brown fringed secondary, median and primary coverts and olive-brown tertials, pale-fringed olive brown graduated tail, white on vent, central breast and throat. Pale legs, yellowish on flanks. Distinguish from Blyth's Warbler, and consider as a Long-billed Bush Warbler.

Records are very important for Indian Ornithology. It is listed in threatened birds of India but it was found *P. juliflora*, *C. sepiaria*, *A. arabica*, *P. Spicaigera* mixed forest described by P. David. Gujarat not mention its winter occurrence by Rasmussen, Grimmett and Krys. Also, does not mention in checklist of Birds of Gujarat (2004, 2014, 2020), published by Gujarat bird Conservation Society.

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