



## Short Article

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**Important Winter Vagrant Record of Pallas's/Rusty-Rumped Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella Certhiola Certhiola* from Chhavli Wetland, Taluka – Lakhtar, Dist. – Surendranagar, Gujarat, India**

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**Abstract:** The Pallas's/Rusty-rumped Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola certhiola* is a Palearctic migrant with rare and scattered records from western India. This paper reports an important winter vagrant record of three individuals observed and photographed at Chhavli Wetland (22.40° N, 71.55° E), Surendranagar District, Gujarat, on 16 and 18 October. Diagnostic morphological features, including bill structure, supercilium, plumage pattern, and leg coloration, confirmed species identification. Chhavli Wetland, a large freshwater marsh with diverse microhabitats, provides suitable conditions for migratory passerines. These observations represent one of the few confirmed records from Gujarat and contribute to understanding the winter distribution and vagrancy of *L. c. certhiola* in India.

**Keyword:** Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler; *Locustella certhiola certhiola*; winter vagrant; Chhavli Wetland; Gujarat; Palearctic migrant

**Species authority:** Pallas, 1811

**Domain:** Eukaryote

**Genus:** *Locustella*

**Family:** Locustellidae

**Order:** Passeriformes

**Class:** Aves

**Phylum:** Sylvinae

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Scientific name:** *Locustella certhiola certhiola*

**Common name:** Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Pallas's/Rusty-rumped Grasshopper Warbler is very widely distributed Grasshopper Warbler, belongs to *Locustella* Genus, Family – Locustellidae. Detached in five different race, 1. L. C. rubescens – Okholskc to Central Siberia (Yeniscy river), 2. L. C. minor – Certhiole East, North-East China to Siberia, South-East, 3. L. C. sparsimstriata – West Siberia (from Arthy River), East to Ob River, 4. L. C. centralasiae – North-West China, Central Mongolia, East Kazakhstan, 5. L. C. certhiola – South-East France, Sbaikalia, East Mongolia, North-Central China, South to Geansc, North Hebei. South China, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, South-East Asia, Mongolia, North China, North-West, Central, South Thailand, Malaysian peninsular, Cambodia and Indian subcontinent – **Peter & David 2010, Robson 2015**. Central Nepal to West Bengal (Surrounding Calcutta areas), Assam valley, Meghalaya, Bangladesh. During winter migration - Sri Lanka, rarely in Andaman and Nicobar – **Rasmussen, 2012**. One vagrant record available from Gujarat in Nal Sarovar Birds

Sanctuary, in 1999 by Robson – Flamingo, Vol. VIII 3 – XII 4. C. Abhinav – Pong Lake, Himachal Pradesh, 3,4 October, 2014, on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October – IB 14/3. A. Amirtharaj U. in Tamil Nadu, Dist. – Kancheepuram in Pallikarnai – IB 12/1. Another 3 records introduced in this article. First bird observed on 16<sup>th</sup> October and another two birds were observed on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Chhavli wetland (22.40° N, 71.55° E) is largest fresh waterbody muddy lagoon, spreaded over 5 km<sup>2</sup>. Open mashes covered area and other diversity micro habitat and *A. arabica*, *P. porosopis*, *S. bispinosa*, *C. decidua*, *C. Capparis* with *P. juliflora* mixed dry deciduous forest creates great attraction for every small sized feathered bird. It is located 10 km. North-West from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, 30 km. North-East from Lakhtar city, 55 km. North-East from Surendranagar and 80 km. North-West from Ahmedabad city.



**Figure 1: 16-11-25**

Bird has long black upper mandible, lower white, rufous brown streaked crown, white supercilium extend beyond eye, brownish buff ear covert, white throat, rufous brown moustachial and malar strips, white sub-moustachial strips.



**Figure: 2 (A)**

Broad based black bill, lower mandible white, rufous brown streaked crown, white supercilium extend behind eye, brownish buff ear covert, white eye ring, white throat and central breast and belly, pink legs.



**Figure: 2 (B)**

Broad based shorter bill, upper mandible black, lower white, throat white, broad white supercilium extend behind eye, brownish buff ear coverts, brown streaked crown, black spotted rufous brown mentle, white fringed black wing coverts, rufous brown white tipped shorter tail.



**Figure: 3**

Shorter broad based black bill, lower mandible white, white throat, breast and belly, narrow white supercilium extend upto eye, brownish buff ear coverts, black spotted brown mentle, white fringed black wing coverts, pink legs, shorter fainted tail, brownish on base.

## DISCUSSION

During this observation, 3 birds were sighted and photographed at Chhavli wetland, then before single bird was recorded in Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary in

2015 – **Robson**, 10 km South-East from Chhavli wetland. Recently, single bird was reported at Sthana village near Talwara town in Himachal Pradesh, also 1 vagrant bird was reported from Pallikaranai marshlands of Tamil Nadu. But distribution range doesn't cover North, North-West, West, South-West and Central India – **Grimmett 2011. Ali, Kry's, Rasmussen 2022**, doesn't mention.

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