

Short Article

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Important Winter Vagrant Records of Dark Side FlyCatcher *Muscicapa Sibirica Gulmergi* from Thol Birds Sanctuary, Dist. – Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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Abstract: This paper documents significant winter vagrant records of the Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica gulmergi* from Thol Birds Sanctuary, Gandhinagar District, Gujarat, India. Two individuals were observed on 7 December 2017 within the sanctuary's mixed dry deciduous and wetland habitat. Detailed plumage characters and field observations confirmed their identity. The species is typically distributed across the Himalayas, Northeast India, and parts of East Asia, with wintering populations in Southeast Asia. These records represent the first confirmed occurrence of this subspecies in Gujarat, extending its known winter range and contributing valuable data to regional avifaunal documentation.

Keywords: Winter Vagrant Records, FlyCatcher, *Muscicapa*, *Sibirica*, *Gulmergi*, Thol Birds, Sanctuary, Gandhinagar

Species authority: - E. C. S. Baker, 1923

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - *Muscicapa sibirica*

Subfamily: - Musicapine

Family: - Muscicapidae

Order: - Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific name: - *M. S. gulmergi*

Common name: - Dark Side Flycatcher

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INTRODUCTION

The Dark sided Flycatcher *M. sibirica* is medium sized Flycatcher, smaller than spotted and Brown-breasted Flycatcher and larger than Ferruginous Flycatcher. Detached in four different races. 1. *M. S. sibirica*, 2. *M. S. cacabata*, 3. *M. S. rothschi* and 4. *M. S. gulmergi*, found in North-East Afghanistan, North Pakistan, West Himalaya, Uttarakhand, Nepal, East, North-East India, South-East Tibet, South-West, west, North-East China, North Korea and Japan. In winter migration, found in Bangladesh, South China, Philippines, West Indonesia – Rasmussen 12 and Robson 15.

On 7th December, 2017, was birding in Thol Birds Sanctuary (23.1375° N, 72.4066° E), located 31 km North-West from Ahmedabad city and 35 km South-West from Gandhinagar city, is human-made water body with muddy lagoon and shallow wetland. Declared as a Sanctuary in 1988 and Ramsar site in 2012. Has a *melia azadirachta*, *Salvadora pesic*, *S. nigrum*, *F. bengaiensis*, *H. integrifolia*, *C. decidua*, *C. Capparidaceae*, *Acacia arabica*, *poro perosopis spicigera* thorny scrub mixed dry deciduous forest.

At 3:30 PM, I observed bird like Flycatcher near interpretation centre of the Sanctuary. Was perched on P.

pterocarpaceae tree branch. Second bird was observed at 3:45 PM, roughly 10 meters East from first bird, perched *D. nuri* branch.



Fig. 1 (A)

White throat and vent, lower belly, greyish flank and breast.



Fig. 1 (B)



Fig. 1 (C)

Olive brown crown, ear covert, pale on nape, white throat, brownish grey on upper breast, belly and vent white.



Fig. 2 (A)



Fig. 2 (B)

Rufous grey crown, nape and mentle, ear covert, white eye ring, broad based shorter bill, white throat, brownish grey on flank, white lower belly, white fringed wing coverts and shorter olive grey tail, black legs. Very similar to fig. 2 (A).

DISCUSSION

Wintering records of two birds are very important for its distribution range. Two vagrant records are available from South-West India. One from Maharashtra and another from Karnataka – **Grimmett 11 and Kry's 12**, but Rasmussen doesn't mention any record from South-West, West India. Not a single record is mentioned in Checklist of Birds of Gujarat in 2004, 2014 and 2020, published by Birds Conservation Society Gujarat.

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