



Short Article

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Important Record of Striked Grassbird *Megalurus Patustris Tokalao* from Kayla Village, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Dist. – Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. First Photographic Record from Western India

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Abstract: This paper reports the first photographic record of the Striked Grassbird *Megalurus Patustris Tokalao* from Western India, observed at Kayla village near Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, on 1 January 2009. The species was identified based on distinctive morphological features, including its broad-based bill, prominent supercilium, streaked breast, and long, rounded tail. Previously, the subspecies was known mainly from northern, eastern, and central parts of India and parts of Southeast Asia. This observation extends the known distribution of *M. p. tokalao* westward into Gujarat, providing important evidence for updating regional avifaunal records and distribution maps.

Keywords: Striked, Grassbird, *Megalurus*, *Patustris*, *Tokalao*, Kayla Village, Nal Sarovar, Birds Sanctuary.

Species authority: - Blyth, 1843

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - *Megalurus* *tokalao*

Subfamily: - *Sylviinae*

Family: - *Muscicapidae*

Order: - *Passeriformes*

Class: - *Aves*

Phylum: - *Chordata*

Kingdom: - *Animalia*

Scientific name: - *Megalurus Patustris Tokalao*

Common name: - Striked Grassbird

Gujarati name: - Dharidar Ghass futki

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INTRODUCTION

The Striked Grassbird are one of the large sized Grass warblers, belongs to *Megalurus* *talustris* *tokalao* Genus and Family *Muscicapidae*, detached in 3 different races – 1. *M. P. farbsi* – occurs in North Borneo and Philippines, 2. *M. P. palaustri* – Bali and Java and 3. *M. P. tokalao* – from North Pakistan to East Punjab, Himachal to Uttarakhand, South Nepal to Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, South Arunachal, Meghalaya, also in Bihar – **del hoyo 14**, Uttar Pradesh, Orrisa, Central India surrounding Tapi and Mahi River, South China, South-East Thailand – **Ali 12**.

On 1st January, 2009, at 3:30 PM, I tripped Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary (), located 65 kms West from Ahmedabad city and 55 kms East from Surendranagar city. At 3:45 PM, I visited Kayla village cultivation field, adjusted with dam. Has a *Capparis decidua*, *C. scippiaria*, *trifolia rotundifolia*, *S. bisspinosa*, *Acacia arabica*, *P. spicigera*, *C. arbore salvadora persica*, *Ieusca cephalotas*, *C. decidua*, *C. procepra* mixed dry deciduous forest, spreaded over more than 3 km². I observed bird like Long billed pipit perched on drier *P. juliflora* thorny scrub, but it has longer primary, longer frocked tail and bulky

appearance distinguishes from Long Billed pipit. Checking on consulting literature, was a Striked Grassbird *Megalurus patustris*.



Observed bird has broad based thick bill, upper mandible horned black, lower pale, dark on tip, pale orbital ring, rufous brown crown, brownish mentle, white fringed lesser, median, greater, secondary, primary coverts, white prominent supercilium extend upto nape, brownish buff ear-coverts, wing coverts, dark brown-streaked pale brown breast, longer Blackish-brown round-tipped frocked tail, pinkish legs.

Present record is very important for its distribution range, its extended upto Eastern range of Gujarat – **Grimmett 11, Kry's 12, Ali 12, Rasmussen 12 & del hoyo 14**. But present record is not so far from distribution range of Striked Grassbird. Ali 1954, doesn't mention in the Birds of Gujarat in part 1 & 2. Ali & Ripley S. D. 1963, doesn't mention in their work, even Dharamkumarsinhji R. S. 1955, doesn't mention in Birds of Saurashtra and Birds of Kachchh. Grimmett 11, Kry's 12, doesn't showed Gujarat in distribution range, also doesn't mention in Checklist of Birds of Gujarat 2004, 2014 and 2020.

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