

Short Article

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Winter Vagrant Records of Common Nightingale *Luscinia Megaethyches* from Black Buck National Park, Velavadar, District Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India

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Abstract: This paper documents a rare winter vagrant record of the Common Nightingale *Luscinia Megarhynchos* from Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar, Bhavnagar District, Gujarat, India. A single individual was observed and photographed on 21 October 2016 in the park's extensive grassland habitat. Identification was confirmed through distinctive morphological characters, including a broad-based bill, white eye ring, rufous crown, and rufous-brown tail. The subspecies *L. m. golzii* is normally distributed across Central Asia and parts of the Middle East, with wintering grounds mainly in East Africa. This record represents one of the very few confirmed occurrences in India and the first from western India, significantly extending its known winter range.

Keywords: Vagrant Records, Common Nightingale, *Luscinia Megaethyches*, Black Buck National Park, Velavadar.

Species authority: - L. M. golzii cabanis, 1873

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - Luscinia

Subfamily: - Turdinace

Family: - Muscicapidae

Order: - Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific name: - Luscinia megarhynchos

Common name: - Common Nightingale

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INTRODUCTION

The Common Nightingale is small sized passerine bird detached in three different races, 1. L. M. megarhynchos – North-West Africa, West and Central Europe, East to Central Turkey, Livent in Winter migration found in Africa. 2. L. M. Africana – Caucasus, Eastern Turkey through North, South, West Iran, in winter – North-East and East Africa. 3. L. M. golzii – East Iran, East Kazakhstan, South-West Mongolia, North-West China and Afghanistan in winter, East Africa. One vagrant record from Central Himalaya – Uttarakhand – Grimmert 11, Kry's 12 & Rasmussen 12.

The Black-buck National Park, Velavadar is largest grassland located 145 km South-West of Ahmedabad city, 72 km North-West of Bhavnagar city, spreaded over 35 km². Declared as Black buck National Park in July, 1976. It is largest endless and open grassland, after monsoon it turns in golden-yellow in winter season. Site is also known as breeding site of florican and other birds. Also, very important large wintering site of thousands of other raptors, passerine birds like Lark, Chat, Pipit, Wheater and Blue throat.

On 21st October, 2016, I visited Black-Buck National Park, at 3:45 PM, I observed bird like Chat or Robin, shot some images. Checking on consulting literature, it was not Chat, not Robin or not a Wheater, but it was very much like Nightingale.



Black broad based shorter bill, white eye ring and throat, orbital ring, rufous crown and ear covert, rufous grey nape, mentle, rump, white fringed lesser, median, greater, secondary, primary tertails, white fringed rufous brown tail, white on vent and lower belly, pale on breast, black legs.

Siting of Common Nightingale is very interesting and important, only single record is available from Central Himalaya. Present record is from Western India, might be bird is winter visitor, but overlooked due to problem of identification or interest in small birds.

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