

Short Article

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Important Winter Vagrant Record of Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella Luteoventris* from Chhavli Wetland, Taluka – Lakhtar, Dist. – Surendranagar, Gujarat, India

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Abstract: The Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris* is a small passerine species known to be resident and breeding mainly in the Eastern Himalayas, North-East India, and adjoining regions of South and East Asia. This paper reports an important winter vagrant record of a single individual observed and photographed on 18 November 2025 at Chhavli Wetland (22.40° N, 71.55° E), Surendranagar District, Gujarat, India. The bird was identified based on detailed field observations and diagnostic morphological characteristics, including bill structure, supercilium, plumage coloration, and tail features, supported by photographic evidence. Chhavli Wetland is a large freshwater marsh with diverse scrub and wetland vegetation, offering suitable habitat for migratory passerines. This record represents the first confirmed occurrence of *L. luteoventris* from Gujarat, significantly extending its known distribution range in India and highlighting the importance of wetland habitats for documenting rare vagrant species.

Species authority: Hodgson, 1845

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: Locustella

Family: Locustellidae

Order: Passeriformes

Class: Aves

Phylum: Sylvinae

Kingdom: Animalia

Scientific name: Locustella luteo

Common name: Brown Bush Warbler

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INTRODUCTION

The Brown Bush Warbler *L. luteoventris* is a small sized bush Warbler, belongs to *Locustella* Genus, Family – *Locustellidae*. Resident and Breed in (Eastern Himalaya – **Ali 1977, 1997**) – Lushi Hills, through Nagaland, Khasi Hills, South Assam, Arunachal, West Bengal, Darjeeling – **Rasmussen, 2012**. Central and South China, South-East Asia, West Tokin, North-West Myanmar – **Robsson, 2015**. Through East China – **K. Peter & P. David, 2010**.

On 18-11-2025, at 9 AM, I was birding at Chaavli wetland (22.40° N, 71.55° E). Site is largest mashes, spreaded over more than 5 km². It is located 10 km. North-West from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, 30 km. North-East from Lakhtar city, 55 km. North-East from Surendrangar and 80 km. North-West from Ahmedabad city. It is muddy lagoon with fresh water body. Covered by *S. bispinosa*, *C. accidentalis*, *C. tora*, *A. arabica*, *F. spicigera*, *P. corylifolia*, *C. decidua*, *C. Capparis*, *salvadora*, *persica* and *P. julilora* surrounding this lake.

I observed small sized warbler like bird, frequently farging on thorny scrub. I shot some images. Fig. 1 - Has a small bill, upper mandible black, lower white, narrow white supercilium, extend upto eye, black eye strip, dark brown crown and ear coverts, brown nape, white throat, blackish-brown mentle and rump, black tertails, greater, median, secondary and primary coverts. Bird was identified by consulting literature on warblers. Bird was Brown Bush warbler *L. luteoventris*. Fig. 2,3 - blackish-brown cooed shorter tail, brownish breast and belly, black legs.



Figure: 1



Figure: 2



Figure: 3

Figure. 2 - White throat and upper breast, yellowish on flank, white on central breast.

Figure 3 - Horned black bill, lower mandible white, white eye ring, narrow white supercilium extend upto eye, black legs, blackish brown primary extend beyond tertial.

DISCUSSION

The Brown Bush Warbler is resident and breed in East, North-East India and Bangladesh, but not a single vagrant record is available in rest of peninsula, single vagrant record is very important for its distribution range. **Grimmett 2011, Ali 2012, Kry's 2012, Rasmussen 2012**, doesn't showed Gujarat in distribution range, also doesn't mention in checklist of Birds of Gujarat 2004, 2014 and 2020. Published by Birds Conservation Society of Gujarat.

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