

## Short Article

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## Vagrant Record of Chestnut-Crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia Major Vafra* from Kamijala Wetland, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

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**Abstract:** This study reports a vagrant record of the Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler (*Cettia Major Vafra*) from Kamijala Wetland near Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. The species is generally distributed in the North-East Indian Hills, including Nagaland, South Assam, and Meghalaya, with no previous records from the Indian peninsula. On 26 February 2026, an individual was observed and photographed in thorny scrub habitat, showing distinct morphological features such as a chestnut crown, white throat, greyish flanks, and rufous-pink legs. This rare observation expands the known distribution range of the species and highlights the need for further monitoring and documentation of vagrant bird occurrences in western India.

**Keyword:** Chestnut-crowned, Bush Warbler, *Cettia Major Vafra*, Kamijala Wetland, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary

**Species authority:** - Horsfield, 1845; Koelz, 1954

**Domain:** Eukaryote

**Genus:** - *Cettia major*

**Family:** - Cettidae

**Order:** - Passeriformes

**Class:** - Aves

**Phylum:** - Chordata

**Kingdom:** - Animalia

**Scientific name:** - *Cettia major vafra*

**Common name:** - Chestnut crowned Bush warbler

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## INTRODUCTION

The Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major vafra*, belongs to *Cettia major* Genus, Family Cettidae, detached in two different races. 1. *Cettia major vafra* – found in Nagaland, South Assam, Meghalaya – North-East Indian Hills. 2. *Cettia major major* – found in Western Himalaya – Himachal, mountain of Central China.



On 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2026, I visited Kamijala wetland (22.93° N, 72.02° E), Taluka – Viramgam, Dist. – Ahmedabad. Located 5 km. North-East from Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, spreaded over more than 3 km. Sites are covered by thorny *P. juliflora*, *A. arabica* with decidua, *sobispimose*, *P. prosopis*, thorny scrub mixed dry deciduous forest.

At 4:57 PM, I observed and photographed warbler like bird, perched in scrub, near roadside. Bird has Chestnut (rufous brown) crown, nape, ear coverts, brownish wing coverts, shorter brownish tail, brownish primary extend upto one-third of the tail, white throat, central breast and belly white, greyish on flank, rufous – pink legs.

Birds are found only in Tibet – **Ali 1977**, but doesn't mention in Birds of Eastern Himalayas and Hill birds of India. Resident in Himalaya and North-East Indian Hills, **Grimmett 11**, **Kry's 12**, **Rasmussen 12**, but not a single vagrant record available from rest of Indian peninsula. Recent record is very important for its distribution range, more observation is required.

Might Be Birds Are Ringed on Right Tibia.

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