

Short Article

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Important Record of Eurasian/European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus Scirpaceus* from Kayla Wetland, Nal Sarovar Birds Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

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Abstract: This paper documents the first photographic record of the European Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) from Kayla Wetland near Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Gujarat, marking a significant addition to the avifaunal records of Western India. Based on field observations and photographic evidence collected on 31 March 2026, the study describes the species' morphological characteristics and distinguishes it from closely related reed warblers through comparative identification features. The finding highlights the ecological significance of wetland habitats as important stopover and wintering sites for migratory birds. Furthermore, the record contributes to regional biodiversity documentation and enhances ornithological knowledge of Gujarat. This observation underscores the importance of continuous field surveys and systematic monitoring for improving species inventories and supporting long-term conservation planning.

Keyword: Important record of European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* from Kayla Wetland

Species authority: Hermann, 1804

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - *Acrocephalus*

Family: - Sylviidae

Order: - Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific name: - *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

English name: - European reed warbler

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INTRODUCTION

The European Reed Warbler is medium-sized reed warbler, smaller than Great reed *A. Arundinaceus* and Indian (clamorous) reed warbler *A. brunaescens* belong to *Acrocephalus* Genus and Sylviidae Family. It is unattractive species, belong to group of the Paddy and Blyth's reed warbler. The race *A. spiroaceus* is split in 3 different races:

- *A. s. avicenniae* - Coasts of Sudan, Eritrea, South-West Saudi Arabia, North Yemen and North Somalia, associated with mangroves.
- *A. s. scirpaceus* - North-West Africa and Europe, North to the Baltic Sea, east to West Turkey and Ukraine and through Russia to the Don and Middle Volga Rivers.
- *A. s. fuscus* - Central and East Turkey, Cyprus, the Levant to Central Arabia, the South Caucasus to North and West Iran, the West and North Caspian Sea, West and South Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and North-West Xinjiang, China – Peter & David 2010.

Eurasian/ European reed Warbler



Fig. 1

On 31st March, 2026, at 10:10 AM, I was birding at Kayla wetland (23.02° N, 72.57° E), adjacent Bagodara-Viramgam road, 1 km North-East from Nal Sarovar birds Sanctuary. Has interspersed thorny *P. juliflora* with *I. carneacampresis*, *Cyperus* sp., *Typhanqustata* and *Ipomea aquatica* main immigrant vegetation. Observed and photographed small sized reed warbler frequently foraging in reed patch, resembling of

Paddy and Blyth's reed warbler. At 10:15 AM, bird came out from Thorny scrub and perched on ground, near the reed patch. Shot some images. Bird has longer black bill curved, lower mandible pink, crown, mentle, ear coverts, wing coverts pale brown, pale brownish square ended shorter tail, white breast, vent, undertail and belly. Identified on consulting literature, bird was Eurasian/European reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Eurasian, Blyth's and Paddyfield create great challenges for identification in field. Very difficult to separate them. Vocalization is very important for separation, otherwise, it depends on combination of plumage, size, structural or biometric characters are different – **Peter & David**. Eurasian has pale brownish crown, ear coverts, mentle, wing coverts and tail, black legs, shorter white supercilium extend beyond eye. Blyth has shorter white supercilium broad before eye, black bill, lower mandible white, crown, nape, mentle, wing coverts and tail greyish. Paddyfield has shorter black bill, lower mandible pink, brown or dark brown crown, ear coverts, mentle, tail, white supercilium extend upto eye. Diagnostic differences show that birds are (Fig. 1) different and separate species recognized as European/Eurasian reed Warbler.

This is new species for Indian ornithology of Western India. According to Grimmett 11, Kry's 12, Rasmussen 12, bird is winter vagrant. Bird was not listed in Checklist of Birds of Gujarat, 2004, 2014, 2020 by BCSG.

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