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Important Sighting of Chestnut/Black-Headed Munia Lonchura Atricapilla Adeignani from Kayla Village Wetland, Taluka- Viramgam, District- Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

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Abstract: This article documents the first photographic record of the Chestnut/Black-headed Munia (Lonchura atricapilla deignani) from the Western Peninsula of India. The bird was observed and photographed on 8 October 2026 at Kayla Village Wetland, Viramgam, Ahmedabad district, Gujarat. Its identification was based on distinctive plumage, bill structure and other morphological characteristics. This observation provides valuable information on the species' geographical distribution and highlights the need for further studies to understand its wintering range and habitat preferences.

Keyword: Chestnut Munia; Black-headed Munia; Lonchura atricapilla deignani; Photographic Record; Western Peninsula of India; Wetland Avifauna.

Species authority: - Vieillot, 1807
Domain: Eukaryote
Genus: - Lonchura atricapilla
Family: - Estrididae
Order: - Passeriformes
Class: - Aves
Phylum: - Chordata
Kingdom: - Animalia
Scientific name: - Lonchura atricapilla rubronigra
Common name: - Chestnut/Black-headed munia

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INTRODUCTION

Chestnut Munia L. a. deignani is small sized strong billed seed eater passerine bird. White resembling of black headed Munia – **Grimmett 11**. Detached in 8 different races – L. a. deignani, L. a. sinensis, L. a. batakana, L. a. formosana, L. a. jagori and L. a. brunneiceps – occurs in South-East Asia, Taiwan and South-East China and remaining 2 - L. a. rubronigra and L. a. atricipilla - occurs in Nepal terai, North Indian foothills, from East (Punjab) to Brahmaputra valley, South to Bihar and North Odisha, Myanmar, Bangladesh and South China. Belongs to Lonchura atricapilla Genus, Family Estrididae.

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On 8th October, 2026, I was birding at Kayla village wetland, adjusted cultivation field, also adjusted Viramgam-Bagodara road. Typha angustata, Cyperus sp., Ipomea aquatica, I. carnea and heavily interspreaded P. juliflora comprised the main emergent vegetation. At 3:30 PM, I sighted and photographed bird like Munia, foraging in reed patch, resembling of Black-headed Munia. Has a broad-based silver-grey shorter bill, hooked tip, crown, mentle, nape, ear coverts, throat, upper breast, breast, belly, vent, undertail and wing coverts chestnut brown, black legs.

It is first photographic record from Western Peninsula. Chestnust Munia was recently recognized as a different and separate species, disconnected from Tricoloured Munia L. malacca. Bird is found very close scrubby grassland, suggested by **Grimmett 2011**. However, Orissa and a hybrid zone exists between the Tamil Nadu area and Sambalpur in the Eastern peninsula, though more observation is required for its winter distribution range.

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