

## OCCURRENCE OF THE ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER *MUSCICAPA DAURICA* IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

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On 28 May 2002 I was observing birds using binoculars at my office campus at Kotra, Udaipur District, Rajasthan and the neighbouring campus of forest nursery of Aravalli Afforestation Project (AAP) wing of the Forest Department. While scanning the tree crowns, a Flycatcher, which looked like a female Red-throated Flycatcher, drew my attention. It was searching its food in a manner typical to that of flycatchers in the foliage of *Dalbergia sissoo* tree in the AAP nursery. Its underparts were dirty white in colour and darker towards the breast. Its throat was white and upper parts and tail were blackish. Its tarsi were of black colour. A white ring was present around each eye. The base of lower mandible was yellowish while, the whole upper mandible and tip of lower mandible were of black colour. Its head was roundish in shape and eyes were prominent. It was identified as Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa daurica*. I followed the bird around the nursery and took a close look at it many times. The nursery where the bird was seen has many tall and dense trees around and it looks like a grove.

Again on 3 July 2002, I observed one more *Muscicapa daurica* in the foliage of a *Santalum album* tree present in a fairly dense grove in the Forest Research Farm, Banki (Sisarma) on the outskirts of Udaipur City. Banki Farm is situated nearly 100km east of Kotra, i.e. the previous locality.

*Muscicapa daurica* breeds in the foothills of the Himalaya and hills of central and western India. It winters in central, southern and eastern India and Sri Lanka (Ali & Ripley, 1983; Grimmett *et al.*, 1999). According to Ali and Ripley (1983), migrating *Muscicapa daurica* may be seen on passage, mainly in September and October in northern India east of Punjab (Ludhiana) and Gujarat (Sasan and the Gir Forest). According to Asad R. Rahmani (pers. comm.) it breeds in Gujarat also. It breeds between April to July. Kotra a part of Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary is present very close to Gujarat border and it is quite possible for these birds to be present in southern Rajasthan from May to July.

Literature scan of Ali & Ripley (1983), Grimmett *et al.* (1999), Ewans *et al.* (1992) and Sharma and Tehsin (1994) reveal the presence of *Muscicapa daurica* in Kotra as a new addition to the avifauna of Rajasthan.

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### References

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