

15. OCCURRENCE OF REDTHROATED PIPIT *ANTHUS CERVINUS* (PALLAS) IN BHAVNAGAR

On 8 April 1973 I saw a pair of redthroated pipit *Anthus cervinus* (Pallas) feeding beside Gaurishankar Lake in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The presence of cinnamon colour on throat and breast make the identification unmistakable and separates it from the closely related *Anthus roseatus*. There was no pinkish or vinous tinge. One of the birds had a brighter throat and upper breast. Subsequently, I saw more of this species.

So far this species has been known from Gujarat only through a single record from Baroda (Sálim Ali, 1955, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 52:777) and hence the present record is of interest.

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16. REFLECTED GLOW FROM THE EYES OF THE GHARIAL

Abdulali (1957)¹ reported that the eyes of the Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) do not reflect torch-light as do the eyes of the marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*). Oliver (Abdulali 1957) states that the eyes of the Gharial do reflect light, but not in the same fashion as other crocodilians as the "colour is a much fainter glow", and that "there was only a small area in which light could be reflected".

Recently, with the help of Mr. Romulus Whitaker, I examined six Gharial in the collection of the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore, Karnataka. These included five young adults of unknown sex, and a female of one metre. During the course of the examination torch-light was shone at the eyes of the Gharial, at night, and the reflected glow was found to be of the same colour and brightness as that of other crocodilians. However it was observed that the area capable of reflecting light was much larger than in other crocodilians owing to the protruding nature of the eyes.

It was found that to perceive the reflected glow that the torch had to be held at eye level, and that the eyes would not reflect light from a distance of less than four metres. This has also been observed for other species of crocodilians.

¹ ABDULALI, HUMAYUN (1957): Reflected Glow from the Eyes of the Gharial [*Gavialis gangeticus* (Gmelin)]. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 54(3):769-770.



Dharmakumarsinhji, Raol Shri. 1976. "Occurrence of Redthroated Pipit *Anthus Cervinus* (Pallas) in Bhavnagar." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 72, 557–557.

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