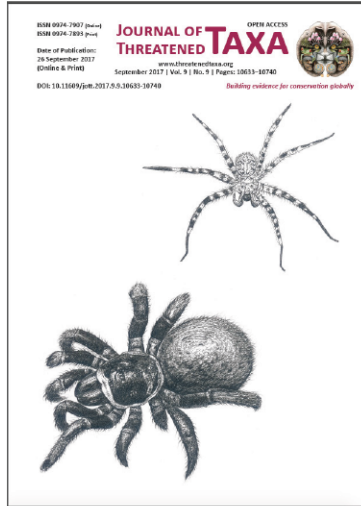


OPEN ACCESS



The Journal of Threatened Taxa is dedicated to building evidence for conservation globally by publishing peer-reviewed articles online every month at a reasonably rapid rate at www.threatenedtaxa.org. All articles published in JoTT are registered under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) unless otherwise mentioned. JoTT allows unrestricted use of articles in any medium, reproduction, and distribution by providing adequate credit to the authors and the source of publication.



Journal of Threatened Taxa

Building evidence for conservation globally

www.threatenedtaxa.org

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

NOTE

**FIRST RECORD OF RUFOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN
CERCOTRICHAS GALACTOTES (AVES: PASSERIFORMES:
MUSCICAPIDAE) FROM JAMMU & KASHMIR, INDIA**

Neeraj Sharma

26 September 2017 | Vol. 9 | No. 9 | Pp. 10726–10728

10.11609/jott.2979.9.9.10726-10728



For Focus, Scope, Aims, Policies and Guidelines visit http://threatenedtaxa.org/About_JoTT

For Article Submission Guidelines visit http://threatenedtaxa.org/Submission_Guidelines

For Policies against Scientific Misconduct visit http://threatenedtaxa.org/JoTT_Policy_against_Scientific_Misconduct

For reprints contact info@threatenedtaxa.org

Partner



Publisher/Host





ISSN 0974-7907 (Online)
ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

OPEN ACCESS



Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*, a southward passage migrant to India, has an extremely large range (Cramp & Perrins 1977–1994; Birdlife International 2004, 2016; Collar 2016) in Europe, northern and southern Africa, central Asia (Kazakhstan and China), and from the Middle East to northern

Pakistan. Of the five sub-species occurring worldwide, *C. g. familiaris*, is a rare fall (September–October) southward migrant to northwestern India (Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat), but has not so far been reported from the state of Jammu & Kashmir (Ali 2002; Ali & Ripley 2001; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Grewal et al. 2016). Sporadic sightings of the bird have been reported from Punjab (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), Rajasthan (Bhatnagar 2004; Grimmett et al. 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Saikia 2012, 2015; Mishra 2013; Bhardwaj 2014, 2015; Grewal et al. 2016), and Gujarat (Vang & Dabrowka 2005; Tiwari 2008; Balar 2009; Mishra 2009; Parekh 2009a,b; Turk 2009; Punjabi 2010; Grimmett et al. 2011; Das 2012; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Kuriakose 2013; Chudasama 2015; Grewal et al. 2016).

This pale sandy chat has a characteristic white-cornered rufous tail, pale supercilium, dark eye line and whisker-mark, rufous rump and blackish sub-terminal band on tail, and pale bill and legs (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), buffish-white under parts, paler chin, dark brown flight feathers (Grimmett et al. 2011; Grewal et al. 2016). The bird is commonly found in scrub and tamarisk clumps in semi-arid areas, especially along water courses and gardens. It is often seen on the

FIRST RECORD OF RUFIOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN *CERCOTRICHAS GALACTOTES* (AVES: PASSERIFORMES: MUSCICAPIDAE) FROM JAMMU & KASHMIR, INDIA

Neeraj Sharma

Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir 182222, India
nirazsharma@gmail.com

ground frequently spreading and jerking its tail over the back and its drooping wings. It breeds from April to July; the nest is usually concealed on the ground or below a bush (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

On 05 August 2016 around 18:30hr, while on a casual walk through the medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) garden in Bhaderwah campus (32.962 N & 75.723 E, elevation 1,665m; Fig. 1), I spotted a small bird with a rusty tail feeding on the ground. From a distance, I first misidentified it as a Rusty-tailed Flycatcher till I noticed its jerking and fanning its tail and drooping its wings. I then considered it a robin I had never seen before. The bird was observed continuously feeding on larvae and caterpillars along the bed of Clary Sage, *Salvia sclarea* in the MAP garden for about twenty minutes until it vanished in nearby *Prinsepia utilis* and *Berberis lycium* scrub. The bird could not be spotted again despite our intensive surveys, nor did it respond to the repeated call playbacks (www.xenocanto.org) conducted during the next three days in the same location and adjoining areas.

We were able to identify the species on morphological characters such as the rufous tail, drooping wings, pale supercilium, dark eye line and blackish sub-terminal

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2979.9.9.10726-10728> | ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/References/E6B9AE64-C3CB-4BC9-9235-EA549BAC9D1D>

Editor: Carol Inskipp, Bishop Auckland Co, Durham, UK.

Date of publication: 26 September 2017 (online & print)

Manuscript details: Ms # 2979 | Received 09 August 2016 | Final received 12 September 2017 | Finally accepted 14 September 2017

Citation: Sharma, N. (2017). First record of Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas Galactotes* (Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae) from Jammu & Kashmir, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 9(9): 10726–10728; <http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2979.9.9.10726-10728>

Copyright: © Sharma 2017. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. JOTT allows unrestricted use of this article in any medium, reproduction and distribution by providing adequate credit to the authors and the source of publication.

Funding: University of Jammu, Jammu and Rufford Foundation, UK (Project Id 18701-1).

Competing interests: The author declares no competing interests.

Acknowledgements: The financial assistance provided by Rufford Foundation is gratefully acknowledged. The author also acknowledges the assistance rendered by Mr. Muzaffar A. Kichloo, research scholar, Institute of Mountain Environment, University of Jammu in the identification of the species.



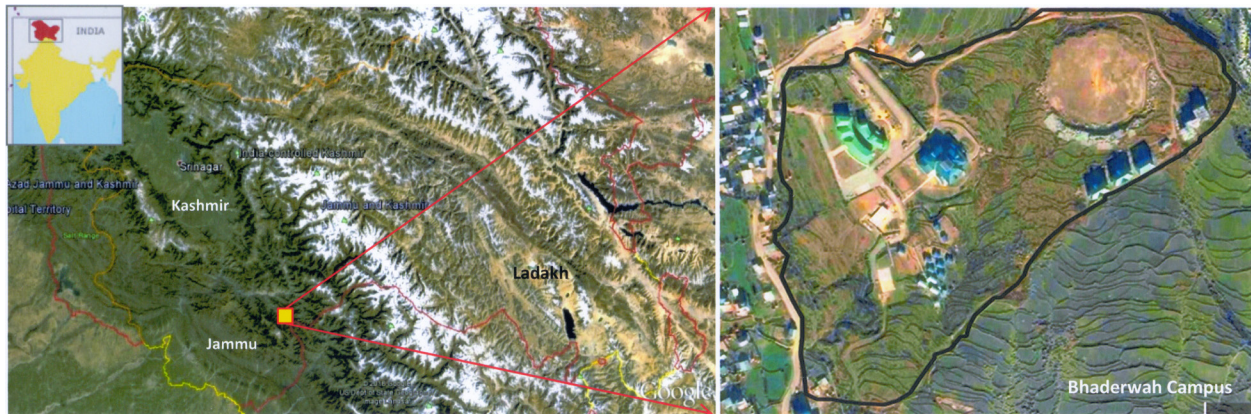


Figure 1. Location map of the bird sighting at Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir



Images 1–3. 1 - Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin with notable pale supercilium, dark eye line and rufous rump; 2 - raised tail and drooping wings; 3 - tail over back with characteristic blackish sub-terminal band.

band on the tail, which were quite conspicuous for this specimen (Images 1–3). Subsequently, I cross-checked the photographs with sharp images available on online database (Bhatnagar 2004; Vang & Dabrowka 2005; Tiwari 2008; Balar 2009; Mishra 2009; Parekh 2009a,b; Turk 2009; Punjabi 2010; Das 2012; Saikia 2012; Mishra 2013; Bhardwaj 2014; Bhardwaj 2015; Chudasama 2015; Kuriakose 2013; Saikia 2015; www.orientalbirdimages.org) with confirmation from Ali & Ripley (2001), Rasmussen & Anderton (2012), Grimmett et al. (2011), Grewal et al. (2016) to conclude that it was an adult Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, a new record for the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Since the bird is a fall migrant, the individual might have arrived in Bhaderwah from a northwestern route via Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir through Pakistan or Afghanistan towards Gujarat through Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan, suggesting a previously unknown population of the species. More surveys, therefore, need to be conducted to ascertain the status of this rare bird in this part of India and to

further establish its migratory route in the subcontinent.

References

- Ali, S. & S.D Ripley (2001). *Handbook of The Birds of India and Pakistan* - I. Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
- Ali, S. (2002). *The Book of Indian Birds*. 13th (Revised) ed. Bombay Natural History Society & Oxford University Press, Mumbai, 326pp.
- Balar, R.V. (2009). *Oriental Bird Images*. http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php? Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=110018
- Bhardwaj, D. (2014). *Oriental Bird Images*. http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php? Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=94095
- Bhardwaj, G.S. (2015). *Oriental Bird Images*. http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php? Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=108148
- Bhatnagar, G. (2004). *Oriental Bird Images*. http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php? Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=8719
- BirdLife International (2004). *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 06/08/2016.
- Birdlife International (2016). *Species Factsheet: Cercotrichas galactotes*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 06/08/2016.
- Chudasama, D. (2015). *Oriental Bird Images*. http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php? Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=116598
- Collar, N. (2016). Rufous Scrub-robin (*Erythropgia galactotes*). In: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D.A. Christie & E. de Juana (eds.). *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions,

- Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/58479> on 6 August 2016).
- Cramp, S. & C.M. Perrins (1977-1994).** *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/58479> on 6 August 2016).
- Das, S. (2012).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=64555](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=64555)
- Grewal, B., S. Sen, S. Singh, N. Devasar & G. Bhatia (2016).** *A Pictorial Field Guide to Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh*. Om Books International, 791pp.
- Grimmett, R., C. Inskipp & T. Inskipp (2011).** *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm, London, 528pp.
- Kuriakose, J. (2013).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=81460](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=81460)
- Mishra, V.V. (2009).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=51150](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=51150)
- Mishra, V.V. (2013).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=81323](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=81323)
- Parekh, J. (2009a).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=38215](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=38215)
- Parekh, N. (2009b).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=38482](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=38482)
- Punjabi, H. (2010).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=44348](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=44348)
- Rasmussen, P.C. & J.C. Anderton (2012).** *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley Guide*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. 2 vols. Pp. 1–378; 1–683.
- Saikia, P.J. (2012).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=87947](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=87947)
- Saikia, P.J. (2015).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=108295](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=108295)
- Tiwari, J. (2008).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=32570](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=32570)
- Turk, A. (2009).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=456542](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=456542)
- Vang, K. & W. Dabrowka (2005).** *Oriental Bird Images*. [http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562 & Bird_Image_ID=18214](http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?Bird_ID=2562&Bird_Image_ID=18214)





OPEN ACCESS



The Journal of Threatened Taxa is dedicated to building evidence for conservation globally by publishing peer-reviewed articles online every month at a reasonably rapid rate at www.threatenedtaxa.org. All articles published in JoTT are registered under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) unless otherwise mentioned. JoTT allows unrestricted use of articles in any medium, reproduction, and distribution by providing adequate credit to the authors and the source of publication.

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online); ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

September 2017 | Vol. 9 | No. 9 | Pages: 10633–10740

Date of Publication: 26 September 2017 (Online & Print)

DOI: 10.11609/jott.2017.9.9.10633-10740

www.threatenedtaxa.org

Articles

The ecology of Harwood's Francolin *Pternistis harwoodi* (Aves: Galliformes: Phasianidae) at Merhabete District, central highlands of Ethiopia: implications for conservation
-- Abadi Mehari Abrha & Habtu Kiros Nigus, Pp. 10633–10641

Effects of the invasive Tilapia on the Common Spiny Loach (Cypriniformes: Cobitidae: *Lepidocephalichthys thermalis*) - implications for conservation
-- Sandip D. Tapkir, Sanjay S. Kharat, Pradeep Kumkar & Sachin M. Gosavi, Pp. 10642–10648

Communications

Distribution and habitat use of the endangered Dhole *Cuon alpinus* (Pallas, 1811) (Mammalia: Canidae) in Jigme Dorji National Park, western Bhutan
-- Chhimi Namgyal & Phuntsho Thinley, Pp. 10649–10655

Winter food habits of the Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Canidae) in Patna Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, India
-- Khursid A. Khan, Jamal A. Khan & Narendra Mohan, Pp. 10656–10661

On the poorly-known White-spotted Skink *Lygosoma albopunctatum* (Gray, 1846) (Reptilia: Scincidae) with further topotypical records and notes on the type locality
-- S.R. Ganesh, Pp. 10662–10668

A study on the density, population structure and regeneration of Red Sanders *Pterocarpus santalinus* (Fabales: Fabaceae) in a protected natural habitat - Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, India
-- Chenchu Ankalaiah, Thondaladinne Mastan & Mullangi Sridhar Reddy, Pp. 10669–10674

Short Communications

First record and genetic affiliation of the Balkan Snow Vole *Dinaromys bogdanovi* (Rodentia: Cricetidae) in Albania
-- Ivan Stolarik & Daniel Jablonski, Pp. 10675–10678

Avifaunal diversity in the scrub forest of Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, India
-- Sumant Mali, Chelmala Srinivasulu & Asad R. Rahmani, Pp. 10679–10691

A second record of the Eastern Spadefoot Toad (Amphibia: Anura: Megophryidae: *Leptobrachium bompu* Sondhi & Ohler, 2011) with a note on its morphological variations and natural history
-- Bhaskar Saikia, Bikramjit Sinha & Ilona J. Kharkongor, Pp. 10692–10696

Spiders of Gujarat: a preliminary checklist
-- Archana Yadav, Reshma Solanki, Manju Siliwal & Dolly Kumar, Pp. 10697–10716

An ethnomycological survey of Jaunsar, Chakrata, Dehradun, India
-- Manoj Kumar, N.S.K. Harsh, Rajendra Prasad & Vijay Vardhan Pandey, Pp. 10717–10725

Notes

First record of Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* (Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae) from Jammu & Kashmir, India
-- Neeraj Sharma, Pp. 10726–10728

Sightings of the Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Linn. 1758) (Aves: Pelicaniformes: Pelicanidae) in Pallikarai Marshlands, Tamil Nadu, India
-- Kannan Thirunaranan, Samidurai Jayakumar, Sankaranathan Sivaraman & Santhanakrishnan Babu, Pp. 10729–10732

A note on three interesting Heteroptera from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India
-- S.M. Gaikwad, Y.J. Koli & G.P. Bhawane, Pp. 10733–10737

Response & Reply

Response to article on Adventitious rooting of mature *Cycas micronesica*
-- S. Suresh Ramanan, P. 10738

Best protocols for cycad propagation require more research
-- Thomas Edward Marler & Gil Naputi Cruz, Pp. 10738–10740