



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalayar Kamarajar"

Rustic Bunting

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Birders recently spotted a rare species, the rustic bunting (*emberiza rustica*) at Najafgarh Jheel on the Delhi-Gurugram border, marking the first time the passerine bird, which is also elusive across India, was spotted in the national capital region (NCR).?

About Rustic Bunting

It is a passerine bird in the bunting family *Emberizidae*.

Scientific Name: *Emberiza rustica*

Rustic Bunting Distribution

Its breeding range extends from the Nordic regions to eastern Siberia.

It migrates to southeast Asia and parts of East Asia, including Japan, Korea, and eastern China, during the winter months

There are only a handful of records of it being seen across India – predominantly in the northeast and across the Himalayan belt.

Rustic Bunting Features

It is relatively small but with a stocky body.

The compact body measures around 15-16 cm in length and weighs about 20-25 grams

Males and females exhibit some differences in their plumage, especially during the breeding season

Males boast a striking appearance with their black heads adorned with white stripes above and below the eyes, creating a distinctive facial pattern

Their upperparts are a combination of brown and black, with the brown being more prominent on the wings and back, creating a beautifully mottled effect

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: 044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833

The breast and underparts are a soft pinkish-buff, transitioning to white on the belly

In contrast, females and non-breeding males are more subdued in color, featuring browner heads with less distinct facial patterns, and overall, their plumage is more uniformly brown and less vibrant