

Record of Garganey in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India



Image 1. Garganey in Ooty Lake, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

The Garganey *Anas querquedula* breeds widely across the temperate and boreal regions of Eurasia, from the United Kingdom, continental Europe, and Scandinavia, east through Russia and other regions of northern and central Asia to the Kamchatka Peninsula, Sakhalin Island, and northern Japan (Brazil 2009; Mullarney & Zetterstrom 2009). It is highly migratory, wintering in northern and central Africa, and from Pakistan and India east through Southeast Asia to southern and eastern China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea (Brazil 2009; Mullarney & Zetterstrom 2009). Despite being an abundant and widespread dabbling duck

throughout the Old World, recent evidence suggests that the Garganey is declining in several regions (IUCN 2014). Nilgiris acts as a connective junction of Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats and providing excellent habitat for numerous life forms. Very scanty works are available in bird diversity and abundance in Nilgiris (Zarri et al. 2005; Samson et al. 2017). This short note represents the first known record on Garganey in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India.

On 03 February 2020 we recorded two female Garganey in Ooty lake. Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu, India (Figure 1).

Garganey is a common winter visitor to the Indian subcontinent (Brazil 2009; Mullarney & Zetterstrom 2009). The records on the species are sprinkled in Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, especially more records were from the Eastern side of Tamil Nadu (eBird 2020). In Nilgiris, only a few studies were comprehensively done on bird diversity.

Gokula (1996) recorded 266 species of birds from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Zarri et al. (2005) reported 196 species in the Upper Nilgiris region, Samson et al. (2017) observed 123 species of birds in Doddabetta areas of Nilgiris. Gokula (1996) recorded four migrating ducks species in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve namely Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*, Common Teal *Anas crecca*, and Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. Zarri et al. (2005) didn't record such migrating ducks in Upper Nilgiris during the study period 2000 to 2004.

Further confirmation of this species in this region eBird (2020) itself no such records in this species in Nilgiris. Hence this is the first know record of Garganey in Nilgiris. In a conclusion, further observation is needed on the water catchment areas to record more migrating water birds in Nilgiris.

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