

The Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon: new addition to Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu, India

The Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* is a resident bird to peninsular India. This bird is distributed from West Bengal and Chotta Nagpur southward along the Eastern Ghats, also inhabiting the Western Ghats and associated hill ranges from Kerala northward through Karnataka to Goa and it prefers evergreen and dry deciduous forest types, similar to all other green pigeons, it is gregarious, arboreal, and a frugivore bird (Ali & Ripley 1983). According to Rasmussen & Anderton (2012), this pigeon is resident in the Himalaya and in the large parts of eastern India, Western Ghats and central India.

Our team members recorded two Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon in the Vanniyaru Dam beat at Danishpet Range in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu during bird and butterfly survey on 19 December 2021. These birds were photographed by using Nikon Coolpix p900 camera (83X wide



Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. © Suryaprahasan Raja.

optical zoom 24–2,000 mm). Its identification was confirmed by using the field guide of Grimmett et al. (2011). Also, these birds were continuously observed for 30 minutes (1100–1130 h) through Pentax (16×50 mm) binocular at an approximate 50 m distance. The male and female birds can be easily distinguished from their plumage colours. The male has orange breast bordered above by lilac band and yellowish-green forehead merging into pale blue-grey hind crown, nape and the tail is slaty-grey above, underside of the tail was black with grey tip

and mantle is uniformly green. Similarly, the female has yellow cast to breast and belly, and grey hind crown and nape. In Sri Lanka, the female pigeons lack pronounced yellow forehead and throat.

The occurrence of this Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon in the Vanniyaru Dam beat of Danishpet Range in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu is the first record in this region. Previously this bird was recorded in Assam (Barua & Sharma 1999, 2005; Choudhury 2006), Arunachal Pradesh (Choudhury 2003),

Odisha (Gopi & Pandav 2007), Uttar Pradesh (Javed & Rahmani 1998), Karnataka (Srinivasan & Prashanth 2006), Uttarakhand (Kaushik 2013), Maharashtra (Hiragond & Gavade 2013; Khare & Thatte 2015). Frederick (2011) reported the species for the first time in the Panna National Park of Madhya Pradesh, and near Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

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