

## First photographic evidence of nesting of Asian Brown Flycatcher in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

The Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* is a summer and winter visitor to the Himalayan foothills and hills of central and western India. During winter, it is also found in central, southern, and eastern India as well as in Sri Lanka (Ali & Ripley 1983; Grimmett et al. 2011). It breeds in temperate habitats in east Asia and Mongolia as well as sporadically in southern Asia. Most of the northern populations of the species migrate south in southern Asia and southern India. Potentially, populations that breed in southern Asia will move even further south, to southern India (Santharam 2003).

On 29 April 2023, a nesting pair of Asian Brown Flycatcher was observed in Sal Patch near Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun at exactly 30.28 N, 77.91 E in location. The nest was observed on Teak *Tectona grandis* tree from 6 m above ground level. It was in the middle of the branch shaded



Asian Brown Flycatcher, Sal Patch, Dehradun. © G. Gokulakrishnan.

with a dry leaf. The nesting tree is next to a trail, and the habitat is sal forest; a dry riverbed is only 10 m away. Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus*, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*, and Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* are also seen in the vicinity of 5 m. During the observation, both parents were building nests and collecting nesting material. The nesting of this species has

been recorded in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Haryana, and Delhi earlier (Ali & Ripley 1983; Mohan & Kumar 2010; Mohan & Muralidhar 2019). Ours is the first photographic record of nesting of the species in Dehradun and more information can be gathered by avian enthusiasts through careful observation.

## References

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