

Sighting of Green Imperial Pigeon in Bargur Hills, Tamil Nadu



Green Imperial Pigeon in Bargur Hills. © P. Ganapathi.

The Green Imperial Pigeon (GIP) *Ducula aenea* is a large, arboreal, frugivorous bird is resident in peninsular India. It is distributed mainly across the Western Ghats, parts of eastern and northeastern India. The distribution of this bird species may extend to some other countries having rich in biodiversity, such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, northern Thailand, Indo-Chinese region (Ali & Ripley 1987; Veena & Mehta 2012; Grimmett et al. 2013; BirdLife International 2024). It mainly prefers evergreen and moist deciduous forest (Ali & Ripley 1987).

On 26 November 2025, during our routine farm visit to Velampatti Village (11.884167° N, 77.482500° E) located in Bargur Hills, Anthiyur Taluk, Erode District, we observed a pair of GIP perched in an open forested area. The birds were photographed by using a Canon PowerShot SX50 HS 50x camera (65x optical zoom wide 4K, 21–1,365 mm) from an approximate distance of 25 m. The identification was confirmed using the field guide of Grimmett et al. (2013), based on the characteristic dark metallic bronze and green

upperparts, uniformly dark green tail, maroon undertail coverts, and grey breast and belly.

The present observation of the GIP adds to the existing records of the species from Erode District. Although the GIP has previously been recorded from the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve–Jeerakahalli area of Erode District (Muniraju 2023; Prasanna 2023), the present observation represents an additional record from the Bargur Hills. The previously reported localities are also close to the present observation site suggesting that the species may occur more widely across suitable forest habitats in the region.

The population of the GIP is considered to be declining, primarily due to large-scale deforestation (BirdLife International 2024). However, detailed studies on the species, particularly its population status, ecology, distribution, and occurrence in fragmented habitats in this region, remain limited. Further systematic surveys are therefore required to determine the species' distribution and population status and to establish whether such observations represent stable resident populations or occasional individuals occurring outside their established range.

References

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