

SITE RECORDS OF YELLOW-THROATED BULBUL *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* (JERDON, 1844) IN THE NALLAMALA HILLS, EASTERN GHATS, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

C. Srinivasulu

Research Associate (Wildlife), Wildlife Biology Section, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh 500007, India

Email: masawa@hd2.dot.net.in

The Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* (Jerdon, 1844) is a threatened and endemic species restricted in distribution to southern India (Birdlife International, 2001). It has been reported from different localities of Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (Allen, 1908; Karthikeyan, 1995; Subramanya & Prasad, 1996; Subramanya *et al.*, 1990; Subramanya *et al.*, 1995; Rao, 1995; Kumar, 1999; Pittie 1999a, b, 2001b), associated hill complexes in Karnataka (Wilson & Editors, 1908; Subramanya *et al.*, 1991; Karthikeyan *et al.*, 1995; Subramanya *et al.*, 1995; Venkataswamappa & Chaitra, 1999; Pittie, 2001a) and also from Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu (Kannan, 1992) and Kerala (Ali & Ripley, 1987). Through this note I am presenting site records of the Yellow-throated Bulbul in the Nallamala Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh.

I have been documenting the faunal diversity of the Nallamala Hills (15°20'-16°31'N and 78°30'-80°10'E) in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh (Srinivasulu & Nagulu, 2002) since 1995. The Nallamala is a group of low hill ranges in the central part of Eastern Ghats encompassing an area of about 7,640km². The vegetation is typically of southern tropical dry deciduous and southern tropical moist deciduous forest types intermingled with scrub (Champion & Seth, 1968).

The Yellow-throated Bulbul was first recorded from the Nallamalas between 12-14 July 1997 when it was heard several times in the valleys between Potharajupenta and Rollapenta on the southern side of the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (15°53'-16°42'N and 78°30'-79°28'E). On 14 July 1997 a pair of birds were sighted on *Anogeissus latifolia* tree near Rollapenta. During a later survey on 21 November 1997, a single individual was again sighted on *Ficus bengalensis* tree near Potharajupenta. The present sightings constitute the first report of this species from the Nallamala Hills as earlier surveys (Ali,

1933a,b,c; 1934a,b; Bhushan 1994; Rao *et al.*, 1997; Taher, 1999) failed to record it. Furthermore, later records of this species 140km north in the Umamaheshwaram region near Mananur (Kumar, 1999; Pittie, 1999a) indicates that this species could well be sighted elsewhere in the Nallamala Hills. I totally agree with Karthikeyan *et al.* (1995) who opined that the Yellow-throated Bulbul has a disjunct but a wider distribution than hitherto accepted, and hence appeal to researchers undertaking ornithological expeditions in the Eastern and Western Ghats to pay more attention towards this endemic and threatened bird.

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NOTE

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RECENT SIGHTING OF RED-BREASTED HILL-PARTRIDGE *ARBOROPHILA MANDELLII* FROM BUXA TIGER RESERVE, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

S. Sivakumar and Vibhu Prakash

Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Dr. Salim Ali Chowk, S.B. Singh Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400023, India.

The Red-breasted Hill-Partridge (*Arborophila mandellii*) is one of the nine threatened members of the suite of 19 bird species that are entirely restricted to "Eastern Himalaya Endemic Bird Area" (Birdlife International, 2001). Forest cutting, shifting agriculture and hunting for food are presumably among the deleterious pressure on population of this species (McGowan *et al.*, 1995). The Red-breasted Hill-Partridge has recently been determined as present in three protected areas, of which Singhalila National Park in West Bengal, Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary and Dibang Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh are considered irreplaceably important to the long-term conservation of Galliformes in East Asia (McGowan *et al.*, 1999).

The species was seen once during one of two visits to Buxa

Tiger Reserve, West Bengal (ca. 1200m). The place of sighting was between Buxaduar and Rupam during our bird watching trip in March 2001. Allen *et al.* (1996) have seen a group of this partridge briefly on four occasions in the same area of the Reserve. The habitat in Buxaduar-Rupam area is very suitable for this vulnerable bird species. The ecological territory of this area extends further into Bhutan. Such a vast hilly terrain can definitely hold a good population of this vulnerable species. We think that a concerted effort to locate this species might yield positive results. There could be moderate disturbance from some nomadic human population at the Indo-Bhutan border here. However, if there is no hunting, the movement of these people cannot be considered a threat.

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