

was reported once by the Pollachi-Valparai road, just above Aliyar Dam (Kannan 1992), but could not be found again in subsequent searches (Kannan 1998). Whistler and Kinnear (1932; also cited in Ali and Ripley 1971) mention a record of 1886 in the Anaimalai Hills by W. Davison. Unfortunately, the cited reference (*Ibis*, 1886, p. 146) is wrong, so we could not examine that location for the occurrence of the Yellow-throated Bulbul.

The favoured habitats of the Yellow-throated Bulbul are hill scrub and deciduous forests (Ali 1942). Thus, the Yellow-throated Bulbul should only be expected on the drier eastern slopes of the Anaimalai Hills. In studies of the avifauna of the western and central parts of the Anaimalai Hills, in which tropical rainforest, tea gardens or cardamom and coffee plantations are dominating, the Yellow-throated Bulbul was therefore missed (Kannan 1998, Vijayan 1978, Ali 1969, Stonor 1946).

We looked for the Yellow-throated Bulbul in March, 2001 on the eastern slopes of the Anaimalai Hills. We found two birds some kilometres south of the location where Kannan (1992) observed it, near the open

channel, which supplies the Aliyar Dam with water from the western side of the Anaimalai Hills. The birds behaved like a pair: sitting side by side, feeding together, and following each other. Some days later, we located three more specimens on the steep slopes of the hills near the road Pollachi-Valparai. It seemed to us that two of these birds, again possibly paired, were hunting the third one out of their territory.

In the same area, three more species of bulbuls were found: the Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*, the Red-vented Bulbul *P. cafer*, and the Yellow-browed Bulbul *P. luteolus*. The Yellow-throated Bulbul had the lowest relative abundance of the four congeneric species. At Horsley Hills (Andhra Pradesh), the same bulbuls were recorded as sympatric by Subramanya and Prasad (1996), but there the Yellow-throated Bulbul was the most abundant species.

August 3, 2001

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16. ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER *MUSCICAPA DAUURICA* AT MT. ABU, RAJASTHAN

In the early afternoon of March 25, 2001 we found an Asian brown flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* near Sunset Point, Mt. Abu. The bird was busy catching insects attracted to a blossoming mango tree. It was oblivious to our presence and its attention was upon the tree for about ten minutes. It was quite easy to observe the bird as it made sallies to catch the insects in the lower tree canopy.

Being familiar with the species in south India, we were able to identify it easily. It was brownish-grey above and off-white below (including undertail coverts),

and had a uniform pale brown-grey wash across the breast and flanks. The whitish eye-ring around the striking large eyes and lore were prominent and distinctive even in the shade of the tree. The throat was conspicuously white. The bill was black, with the basal half of the lower mandible conspicuously pale. The legs and feet were blackish.

According to Ali and Ripley (1996), it is a partial migrant having a disjunct breeding range and its movements are imperfectly understood. As some birds reach their breeding grounds in the Himalaya in

April, the bird we observed was most likely on passage.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, this individual is the first record for Rajasthan. The Asian Brown Flycatcher is not recorded from Rajasthan (Ali and Ripley 1996, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). A record from central Rajasthan (Kazmierczak and van Perlo 2000) can be discounted as there is no basis to believe the species to be a summer visitor. If the species occurs in

Rajasthan, it is most likely a rare passage migrant

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17. NEW SIGHT RECORDS OF PIED TIT *PARUS NUCHALIS* IN RAJASTHAN

The pied tit *Parus nuchalis* is endemic in India, confined to Rajasthan and Gujarat (Adam 1873, Ali and Ripley 1987, Hussain *et al.* 1992, Tiwari and Rahmani 1996, Tiwari 2001). According to Tiwari (2001), it is distributed in seven districts of Rajasthan, namely Pali, Jodhpur, Jalor, Sirohi, Ajmer, Jaipur and Nagaur.

While surveying the biodiversity of protected areas (PAs) and other regions of mega-biodiversity in Rajasthan State, I came across this endemic bird thrice in two more districts of Rajasthan (Table 1).

Table 1: Pied Tit sightings in Rajasthan

Date	Number of birds observed	Locality	District
27.vii.2000	2	Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary, on the way to Sajjangarh Fort	Udaipur
1.vii.2001	2	Forest Range Campus, Deola	Udaipur
2.viii.2001	1	Ruliyana village (between Bay and Danta villages)	Sikar

Sajjangarh Sanctuary has dry deciduous forests, with thorny and other shrubs like *Anogeissus pendula*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, *Dichrostachys cinerea* and *Euphorbia caducifolia* in the foothill zone and middle slopes. *Boswellia serrata* and *Lannea coromandelica* are common tree species in the upper reaches of the Sanctuary.

Deola is a small village situated at the northwestern outskirts of Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary in Kotra tehsil, Udaipur district. There are dense forest patches in Kotra tehsil, but the environs of Deola village are highly degraded. Thorny species are not very common in this area, except *Anona squamosa* and *Jatropha curcas*.

The pied tit has also been observed by Raza Tehsin (pers. comm.) in Jamunia-ki-Nal, near Udaipur city. This is a moist valley with a semi-perennial stream. The adjacent hills bear thorny forests.

Ruliyana village is very near Harshnath hill, the highest point in Sikar district. This area is surrounded by many protected forest blocks, namely Deogarh, Rewasa-Jheen Mata, Bhoya-Dungri, and Raghunathgarh, which have thorny dry deciduous and scrub forests. *Anogeissus pendula*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, and *Euphorbia caducifolia* are common here. *Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia tortilis* are also present at many places, especially near the foothills.

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