

Sighting of Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra

Veena P. G. & Prachi Mehta

Veena P. G., & Mehta, P., 2012. Sighting of Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra. *Indian BIRDS* 7 (6): 166.

Veena P. G., Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore 560064, Karnataka, India. Email: veena.03@gmail.com

Prachi Mehta, Wildlife Research and Conservation Society, Pune 411021 Maharashtra, India.

Manuscript received on 8 September 2010.

The Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* is a large arboreal frugivore belonging to the Family Columbidae. Within India, it is distributed along the Western- and Eastern Ghats, Bihar, West Bengal, and north-eastern India. Outside India, it is widely distributed in Sri Lanka, Burma, North Thailand, and the Indo-Chinese region (Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1999; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). The preferred habitat of the Green Imperial Pigeon is evergreen and moist-deciduous forests but it can be seen in secondary forests that have *Ficus* or other wild fruit trees (Ali & Ripley 1987).

From June to August 2008, we conducted a bird diversity survey in Lohara Reserved Forests in Chandrapur district (19°57'3"N, 79°22'24"E), located south of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. On 23 July, we sighted a single Green Imperial Pigeon (Fig. 1) perched on a large fruit-laden leafy *Morinda tinctoria* tree, amidst an approximately 25 years old *Tectona grandis* plantation along with dry-deciduous trees such as *Terminalia alata*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Madhuca longifolia*, *Xylia xylocarpa*, and *Lagerstroemia parviflora*.

The distribution of the Green Imperial Pigeon is restricted

to the south-eastern tip of Maharashtra (Grimmett *et al.* 1999; Kazmierczak 2000) covering some parts of Gadchiroli District (19°26'24"N, 80°31'12"E), which is about 130 km (aerial distance) away from the site where the Green Imperial Pigeon was recorded.

Further survey is required to determine if this sighting represents a vagrant or a resident population outside its known range.

References

- Ali, S., & Ripley, S. D., 1987. *Compact handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka*. 2nd ed. Pp. i-xlii, 1-737, 52 ll. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 1999. *Pocket guide to the birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Pp. 1-384. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Kazmierczak, K., 2000. *A field guide to the birds of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives*. 1st ed. Pp. 1-352. New Delhi: Om Book Service.
- Rasmussen, P. C., & Anderton, J. C., 2005. *Birds of South Asia: the Ripley guide*. 2 vols. 1st ed. Pp. 1-378, 1-683. Washington, D.C. & Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution & Lynx Edicions.



Photo: Veena P. G.

Fig. 1. Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra.