

small outlying breeding population in the Nilgiris, where, to judge by the paucity of published papers, there has been little serious general birdwatching activity in recent years. Reviewing birds in the Nilgiris (including Mukurthi National Park) from visits over the four years 2001–2004, Zarri & Rahmani (2005) did not mention Pacific Swifts; I have not scoured all the online trip reports from visiting foreigners, but the sample I have looked at did not reveal any Pacific Swift observations in spring or summer.

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Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* from Jammu and Kashmir, India

On 12 August 2017 around 1015 hrs we spotted a pair of Whiskered Yuhinas *Yuhina flavicollis* feeding on the ripe fruits of *Berberis lycium* along a perennial stream near village Mathola, (32.97°N, 75.67°E, c. 2025 m) Bhaderwah Tehsil, Doda District, Jammu & Kashmir. The birds were photographed and identified as this species by SKR based on his previous sightings in other parts of the north-western Himalayas, which was subsequently confirmed from the field guides (Ali & Ripley 2001; Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The photographs clearly revealed the prominent features like dark brownish crest on head, white eye-ring, blackish moustache extending below the eyes till neck, yellowish hind collar, and white underside to establish its identification as Whiskered Yuhina. While returning, at around 1745 hrs, we spent some time searching for the birds and found two individuals fluttering around a *Cedrus deodara* tree about 100 m away from our earlier sighting. One bird instantly came out and perched in front of us on an *Aesculus indica* tree, and subsequently flew to an adjacent *Ailanthus altissima* tree before finally disappearing towards the stream. We followed their activities for some time and noticed that the pair was nesting three meters above the ground, within tree twigs of *Cedrus deodara*. On 23 November 2017, around 0915 hrs, NS spotted one individual

[32] fluttering around the *Mallotus philippensis*–*Flacourtia indica* understorey along a moist seasonal stream near Bal Jarallan village (33.30°N, 74.36°E, c. 720 m), in Rajouri Tehsil and District, Jammu and Kashmir. Another individual joined it later.

This species has so far been reported up till Chamba (Singh 2011; Shah *et al.* 2016) in western Himachal Pradesh, apart from the districts of Kangra (den Besten 2004), Solan (Singh 2015a), and Mandi (Singh 2015b). Thus, it appears to be an addition to the avifauna of Jammu and Kashmir.



Neeraj Sharma

32. Whiskered Yuhina at Bal Jarallan.

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