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Letters to the Editor

A second Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India

I wish to report a sighting of the Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* at Barefoot, Havelock Resort (12.00°N, 92.95°E), Radhanagar Beach, which situated at the western side of Havelock Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It was seen twice on 28 December 2016 [182, 183], perched on low open branches in the late morning, and then again on 29 December [184] just 50 m away from the earlier spot, around the same time. The second time it was in the company of Red-whiskered Bulbuls *Pycnonotus jocosus* and minivets *Pericrocotus* sp. From the photographs, the bird appears to be either a female, or a first winter male.



182. Mugimaki Flycatcher *F. mugimaki* on Havelock Island.



183. Mugimaki Flycatcher *F. mugimaki* rear view.



184. Mugimaki Flycatcher *F. mugimaki* side view.

I learnt later that it has been recorded from Neil Island, also part of the Andaman & Nicobars Islands (Das 2014). Islands on the eastern edge of the Andaman group are probably the first islands where these birds land during their migration from/to South-east Asia, and these are the areas where one should specifically look for this species.

More recently it has been reported from Kalatang, Shoal Bay, South Andman, in the first week of February 2017 (Bowden 2017).

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Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, and Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* from the Delhi-NCR region

Through this letter, I would like to report the presence of two rare flycatchers from the Delhi-NCR region.

On 30 May 2016, I photographed a Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurgaon (28.48°N, 77.10°E) [185]. Though it has been recorded from Delhi-NCR on 09 and 15 September 1970, at the Delhi Ridge, the most recent confirmed sighting of this species was at the Delhi Zoo in October 2004 (Harvey *et al.* 2006). I am not aware of any other report of this species from this region. Although an autumn passage migrant in western India, this bird is less common in our region during spring passage and hence this record is of additional interest.



185. Spotted Flycatcher at Aravalli Biodiversity Park.

A Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, possibly an adult female, was photographed on 10 July 2016 at Mangar Bani forest (28.38°N, 77.15°E) near Faridabad [186]. The bird was seen in a grove near a temple in the company of an Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura*, and a White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*. A widespread breeding resident in peninsular India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012), this species is a common winter visitor in the forests of Kalesar, and the Morni, and Kalka hills in northern Haryana, but has not been reported from the Delhi-NCR yet (Harvey *et al.* 2006). Hence, this could be the first record for this



186. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher at Mangar Bani forest.

region. Considering the date, it would be interesting to check out if some birds are breeding around this area.

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A Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* from Chennai

While I was birding along with my cousin, Manoj, on 28 April 2016 in the campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, at 0632 hrs, I saw a metallic blue bird that looked like a drongo, with its tail cut, sitting on a small prosopis tree. Just as I took out my camera it flew off. We searched for the bird but to no avail. While returning along the same path, we saw a group of Black Drongos *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and amongst them, was the bird but I thought it to be a drongo. I took record shots [187], and then it flew down when I recognised it as the same bird which we were looking for, and realised that I had mistook it to be a drongo with a cut tail as it was against the light. Later, I could identify it as a Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris dicruroides* based on the long forked tail, thin and long cuckoo bill and the white spot on its nape. The next day a fellow birder, Rama Neelamegam, and I, came back to the same location in search of it but couldn't find it.



187. Drongo Cuckoo in Chennai.

I understand that Drongo Cuckoo is a vagrant to Chennai and there are very few records from the city.

I wish to thank V. Santharam, and Vikas Madhav for helping me with the identification.

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Himalayan Vultures *Gyps himalayensis* from Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

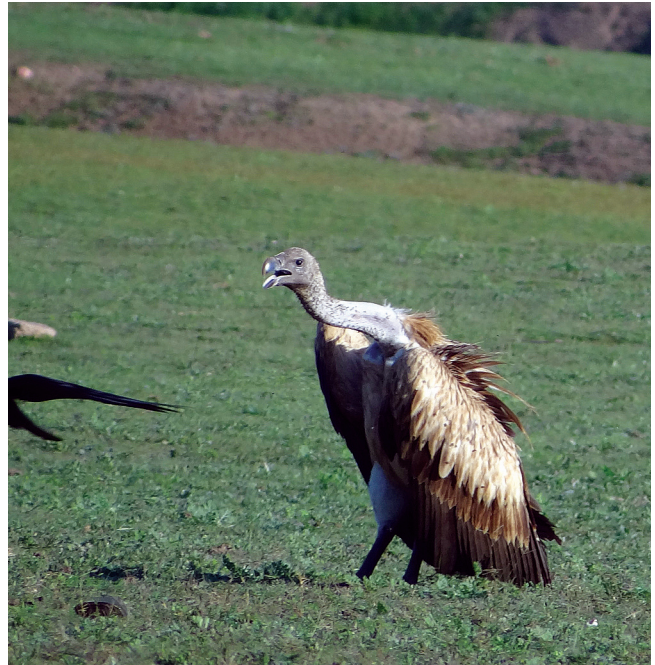
Pench Tiger Reserve (21.41°N–21.69°N, 79.20°E–79.24°E) in Maharashtra has photographic documentation of six species of vultures during 2014–2016, namely, Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, White-rumped Vulture *G. bengalensis*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Indian Vulture *G. indicus*, and Himalayan Vulture *G. himalayensis*. Though Himalayan Vulture is mainly considered a winter visitor to northern India (Naoroji 2007), with sporadic recent records of juveniles in southern India (Chandorkar 2013; Praveen *et al.* 2014; Surve 2016; Dharwadkar & Bhagat 2016), here at Pench, there have been regular sightings since 2013 of this species, including adult birds (188, 189; Table 1).

Hence, these observations indicate a probable extension of its winter range into central India.

We would like to thank Vinit Arora for sharing the details of his observations with us.

Sight records of the Himalayan Vulture in Pench Tiger Reserve

Date	No of adults	No of juveniles	Total	Observer
19 April 2013	01	01	02	Vinit Arora
29 April 2013	02	-	02	Vinit Arora
22 February 2015	03	1	04	Prajakta Hushangabdkar
10 March 2016	01	-	01	Prajakta Hushangabdkar
14 March 2016	01	-	01	Prajakta Hushangabdkar
03 April 2016	02	01	03	Vinit Arora



189. An adult Himalayan Griffon at Pench.

Surve, S. S., 2016. Snapshot sightings: Himalayan Vulture from Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. *Indian BIRDS* 11 (3): 84A.

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188. A mixed flock of Eurasian, and Himalayan Griffons, and a few Indian Vultures.