

a solitary record of the Black-throated Accentor from extreme northern Punjab, bordering Himachal Pradesh. In an e-mail, Krys Kazmierczak mentioned that 'I'm afraid I do not recall the source of this record. I restricted my records to what were apparently reliable sources, but the time pressure I was under to produce the book did not allow me to keep details of all records' (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 25 February 2021). Tim Inskipp said that, 'I have tracked down the relevant reference but I am afraid it is not very helpful! Undeland, P. (1997) Checklist of birds seen in Punjab, 22 August 1993 to 30 June 1996. Unpublished. The species is marked as recorded during this period but without any further information except that it was not recorded at Harike' (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 24 February 2021). An e-mail from Per Undeland confirmed that 'Unfortunately I cannot give you the exact location and dates of my records of the species from Punjab, neither any photograph. I'm at least sure that the records were from Pathankot District along the road between Chakki and Dunera, probably in the region of Dhar. Black-throated Accentor is for sure a regular winter visitor to the Shivalik Hills in Punjab' (*in litt.*, e-mail 28 February 2021). Several records of these two species are available from the adjoining hill areas of Himachal Pradesh. Thus, they must be regular winter visitors in the lower altitudes in the contiguous areas in Punjab. But, these areas are not birded widely and regularly, hence the absence of photographic records. My records are possibly the first photographic documentation of either species from Punjab, India.

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The Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* from Bengaluru, Karnataka

On 25 December 2020, the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (hereinafter, ARRC) received a bird-rescue SOS regarding an injured bird in HSR Layout, Bengaluru (12.91°N, 77.65°E). The bird was unable to stand, or open its eyes, possibly due to a collision injury. The bird appeared to be a female, or juvenile rock-thrush but the exact species was slightly ambiguous. Saikia, and Kumar, co-authors of Balar et al. (2016) confirmed that it was a Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, which is an

uncommon visitor to southern India. This individual is likely to be a first winter bird based on its plumage characteristics: mainly prominent white tips on the greater covert feathers and worn-out feathers with dark centers (Grimmett et al. 2011).

The bird weighed 43 g when admitted to ARRC and after rehabilitation reached a weight of 46.5 g. It was able to perch and feed on its own after being treated for a few days [79]. On 09 January 2021, it was released in Ragihalli State Forest near Bannerghatta National Park, which was chosen as the ideal habitat for it to feed and continue its migratory journey when it was ready. Upon release, the bird's flight was strong, indicating a complete recovery.



79. Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush in its recovery box at ARRC, Bengaluru.

Although considered a regular passage migrant in northern India (Grimmett et al. 2011), there are limited records of the species southwards of Jammu and Kashmir, from other states of India, which include Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Rajasthan (Balar et al. 2016; eBird 2021). The Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush possibly breeds in northern Kashmir as well (Zahler et al. 1998). This is the first record of a Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush from Bengaluru, Karnataka. The nearest previous sighting was ~240 km away (aerial distance) south-eastwards from Bengaluru, at Bhagamandala, Karnataka, in late November 2013 (Balar et al. 2016). There is also a single record from Kerala, which is from November 2015 (Balar et al. 2016). This record suggests that juvenile birds of this species could be migrating even in December.

We are grateful to the residents of HSR Layout who alerted ARRC to the injured bird. We thank Pranjal J. Saikia and Prashant Kumar S.R. who helped confirm the bird's identity.

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The Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* in Jaipurdoddi, Bengaluru, Karnataka

05 October 2020 happened to be one of those mornings—set apart from almost every morning that we would go for birding. Little did we realise that a sighting that day, which was otherwise an uneventful day at Jaipurdoddi, would stand out in posterity.

At 0500 h that morning we MR and NMR, packed up the gear to leave for Jaipurdoddi (12.68°N, 77.57°E), near Bannerghatta National Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka. We reached Jaipurdoddi a little before sunrise at 0600 h and waited in the car, sipping some hot tea, on a short stretch of a mud road in the jungle. The area was quieter than usual. We waited patiently for bird activity to begin as the sun rose from between the trees to a glorious cold morning. Sunrise there in itself is not as dramatic as the wait in anticipation. Little did we know in the waiting however, on this morning is that we would probably be blessed by beginners luck in the sighting and all our skills that we had developed over the last one year of noticing the slightest of the rustle of the leaves from the corner of the eye, spotting the so well camouflaged bird and also getting the camera ready, focusing and clicking in the fraction of a second, would all come together to record a lifer.

After a wait of about a couple of hours or so, moving back and forth on the narrow dirt road in the car at Jaipurdoddi, we were mindful of the elephants who frequent the place. The morning was unusually and eerily quiet and what we did not realise for a while was that there were no birders and there was no bird activity, except an occasional Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*, Drongo *Dicrurus* sp., Indian Robin *Copsychus fulicatus*, and a Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, flitting around.

At 0745 h, we decided to call it a day and turn homeward, mindful of the hour-long drive. Just as we decided to leave, NMR spotted a medium-sized yellow bird that was pretty far off, while I was at the wheel. The bird just flew out of nowhere and perched on a branch providing us a glimpse of its gaudy yellow colour. She exclaimed with joy, "Quick, there's a yellow bird there", not wanting to lose a chance to click something on a rather uneventful day, I made an attempt to shoot the bird from inside the car itself. As this beautiful little bird hopped from one branch to the other before taking off deeper into the jungle. A couple of seconds is all I must have had, to spot, focus, and click, and luckily, I didn't miss the shot [80, 81]. Unable to recognise the bird from that

distance, and as usual arguing about whether it was Nischitha's hawk-like spotting skills or my photography, which allowed us to get the picture, we immediately did a google lens search of the pic. It threw up a name, Korean Flycatcher or the Yellow-rumped flycatcher. Not knowing the significance of the sighting, we were just extremely happy to have spotted and recorded yet another beautiful flycatcher to our birding list. It was only later, when we consulted some of the experts, to confirm the identification of the bird, did we realise the significance of the sighting, that it happened to be the first one from Karnataka. There have been less than ten sightings from across India, most of them from the southern parts of India, from Kerala, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



80. The Yellow-rumped Flycatcher: A lifer, beginner's luck, and a new bird for Bengaluru.



81. Yellow-rumped Flycatcher: Split seconds, before it took off. Just those couple of seconds have got etched in our memory forever.

Both: Manoj Rath

Praveen et al. (2017) considered this species as tentative in their Karnataka checklist, though there is a sight record from Bandipur National Park on 15 July 2006; despite the description being 'probably sufficient to be sure of the identification'. We list all confirmed records from India in Table 1. Though it is mainly an East Asian species that may be expected in north-eastern India (no records) and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (two records); other records are from the southern Western Ghats (three), the Deccan (this record), Central India (one), and eastern India (one). There is no specific pattern on the timing of the bird's vagrancy: records from October (one), December (two), January