Arboreal feeding of Grey Junglefowl appears to be a novel behaviour as earlier studies on its foraging ecology did not document this behaviour (Gokula & Vijayan 2000; Gokula 2001; Karthikeyan 2007; Somasundaram & Vijayan 2008; Subramanian et al. 2008; Ramesh & Sathyanarayana 2009; Nirmala 2016; Pankaj, 2017; McGowan & Kirwan, 2020). This also adds *Macaranga peltata* to the known food plants consumed by Grey Junglefowl in the wild.

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Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* feeding on the aril of *Acacia auriculiformis*

On 02 November 2020, at 1109 h, we came across a pair of Yellow-throated Bulbuls *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* (hereinafter, YTB) while watching birds on a trail leading to the monolithic rocks at Kutagal (12.78°N, 77.23°E), Ramanagara District, Karnataka. The bulbuls were first spotted among the foliage of an *Acacia auriculiformis* tree from where they flew to another tree of the same species, and one bird began consuming the orange-coloured aril, surrounding the seed **[75]**. Over the next couple of minutes, we observed the YTB visit multiple seedpods and consume the arils. Subsequently, the birds flew into nearby shrubs and went out of sight.

Seshadri K. S.

75. A Yellow-throated Bulbul feeding on the aril of an *Acacia auriculiformis*.

The YTB is endemic to parts of southern India and has a disjunct distribution despite being known from nearly 100 localities (Jha & Vasudevan 2020). It is a habitat specialist, found in scrub forests in rocky, boulder-strewn landscapes and is currently listed as a vulnerable species (BirdLife International 2021). The YTB is known to consume a higher proportion of fleshy berries compared to insects (Subramanya et al. 2006). The *Acacia auriculiformis* is an exotic tree native to Australia, which has been planted extensively in India. It produces seeds that are enclosed in pods that open when ripe, exposing the hard dark seeds attached to a red-orange coloured thread-like funicle. The funicle, often referred to as the aril, is believed to be sweet and several frugivorous birds such as the Red-whiskered bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Devashyam & Rema 1991), and the Yellow-vented Bulbul *P. goiaver* (Fishpool et al. 2020) are known to consume it. The Olive-winged Bulbul *P. plumosus has been observed to consume arils surrounding seeds of an allied exotic tree, A. mangium, as well (Tang 2013)*.

The *A. auriculiformis*, an exotic tree, is an addition to the list of plants from which, the YTB is known to consume berries or fruits. The landscape around Kutagal is arid and dry and in several parts, exotic plants such as *A. auriculiformis* have been planted in the valleys between the rock escarpments. It would be useful to systematically study the diet of the YTB in this region, and in other parts of its range, to understand how much of their diet comprises exotic plants. It would also be insightful to study the vegetation, and examine if the exotic plant is being dispersed by birds such as the YTB, and is subsequently being recruited. The rocky scrub habitat, to which the YTB is restricted, is threatened by large-scale land-use change, rampant granite quarrying, unregulated cattle grazing, and fire (Subramanya et al. 2007). Although the YTB is consuming the aril of *A. auriculiformes*, the introduction of exotic species may further alter the vegetation profile in the long term. It is plausible that the YTB consuming parts of an exotic plant is an indicator of a dietary shift, induced by the absence of native food sources in its preferred landscape. Further focused research may reveal more insights about its foraging and feeding behaviour.

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The Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata* and the Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis* from Punjab, India

Siswan (Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar District, Punjab, India) is a small village (30.87°N, 76.75°E), about 22 km from Mohali and 15 km from the state capital, Chandigarh, on the Chandigarhi–Baddi road, and is located in the foothills of the Shivalik Range. There is a reservoir behind the village, formed due to construction of a check dam on a seasonal rivulet. Hill forests surrounds the reservoir. The Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Punjab, in 2017 declared an area of *c.*1,295 HA as a community reserve which, along with the reservoir, is a unique blend of forest and wetland ecosystems.

On 26 January 2021, during a visit to the area, I spotted a small bird that seemed unfamiliar to me. It was perching on a low branch of a bush. It was catching insects in the air. Initially, I thought that it was a Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. However, examination of my photographs **[76, 77]** revealed a different bird. After consulting Gurpratap Singh, we identified it as a male Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata*. The identification of a male of the species is straightforward. The photographs showed a white forehead, olive-brown upperparts, white bases to black tail, orange-rufous patch below the blackish throat, ashy belly grading to white on vent (Ali & Ripley 1998: 158–159). Apparently, the nominate subspecies is what is expected in this region, but I did not attempt subspecies identification based on these photos.

Pushkar Bali

76. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher showing white forehead, black throat with orange patch under it.

Pushkar Bali

77. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher showing white tail bases to black tail.

On 14 February 2021, during a visit to the area, I spotted another small bird that I could not identify. Also, I didn't get a clear view as it kept within the branches of a bush. However, I managed to click a single photo. As I tried to get a better view by getting closer, it quickly disappeared in the thickets. I was fortunate to photograph this bird at same spot on 21 February 2021 **[78]**, with the help of which Gurpartap Singh and I identified it as a Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*. The photograph showed an accentor with a prominent white supercilium, a black line above it with black face and throat – a combination that is not shown by any other accentor species (Kazmierczak 2000: 298–299; Grimmett et al. 2011: 486–487). Other features like streaked flanks and yellowish neck-sides are also visible.

Pushkar Bali

78. Black-throated Accentor with white eye-brow, black face and black throat.

Two subspecies are mentioned in the extant literature; however, no attempt is being made here to identify subspecies. On both occasions, I immediately checked on eBird, and enquired with several birding groups of Punjab, about the birds' novelty. Apparently, nobody had earlier recorded these two species from Punjab, India. I retrieved relevant literature from (Pittie 2021). In a list of 233 species of birds recorded from four small natural wetlands, within a range of 10 km around Gurdaspur, Punjab, India, the Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher has been mentioned by Bal & Dua (2010). In response to my e-mail, R. Bal confirmed that 'I have searched my database but didn't find any picture' and no further details could be obtained (*in litt.*, e-mail dated 27 February 2021). The nominate race is known to descend to lower altitudes after breeding (Clement 2020). Distribution maps in Grimmett et al. (2011) and Kazmierczak (2000) show