

A Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* from Goa, India

Although Goa is one of India's smaller states, it supports an impressive avifaunal diversity of 489 species (Baidya & Bhagat 2024). With birdwatching gaining popularity both as a hobby among local enthusiasts and as a reason for birders across the country to visit Goa, the number of reported sightings has naturally increased as more observers take to the field. Over the past five years (2019–2024), 18 new species records have been documented in the state (Baidya & Bhagat 2019 2025). To this growing list, we now add the Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*.

The Yellow-rumped or Korean Flycatcher is a small to medium-sized flycatcher that breeds across southeastern Russia, eastern Mongolia, the Korean Peninsula, and eastern China. They winter in the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java (Clement & de Juana 2020). It is considered a vagrant in India by Grimmett et. al (2011). Since the first record in 1989 from Central India, there have been c.20 records from various parts of the country, with most sightings occurring in southern India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and one from eastern India (eBird 2025).

On 13 November 2024 at 0945 h, while on a birdwatching tour near the Mahadev Temple in Tambdi-Surla on the outskirts of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, PR heard a call that resembled the *Ficedula* flycatcher. The individual, showing a prominent yellow rump and a distinct white wing patch, was sighted and photographed [205, 206]. Its overall brown upperparts, whitish underparts, yellow rump, and wing patch confirmed the identification as a female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher. The bird's relatively large size, along with its diagnostic markings, particularly the yellow rump, clearly distinguished it from similar species, such as the Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva* and the Taiga Flycatcher *F. albicilla*. The species was observed

intermittently at the same location after our initial sighting, with the most recent sighting recorded on 13 January 2025. The forest type where the individual occurred was a mix of moist-deciduous and semi-evergreen. The individual remained in the middle and upper canopy, fleeing between branches. It was not in the company of any other bird during the first sighting, but KT observed it getting mobbed by other birds such as Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, Yellow-browed Bulbul *Acrithillas indica*, and Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* during subsequent visits. This is an addition to the checklist of Goa, taking the tally to 490 species.

References

- Baidya, P., & Bhagat, M., 2019. Checklist of birds of Goa v.1.0. Webpage URL: https://indianbirds.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Goa_Checklist_v1_0.xlsx [Accessed on 09 September 2025.]
- Baidya, P., & Bhagat, M., 2024. Checklist of birds of Goa v.7.0. Webpage URL: https://indianbirds.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Goa_Checklist_v7_0.xlsx [Accessed on 09 September 2025.]
- Clement, P., & de Juana, E., 2020. Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.korfly1.01>.
- eBird, 2025. Yellow-rumped Flycatcher Range: Map. Webpage URL: <https://ebird.org/map/korfly1> [Accessed on 09 September 2025.]
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T., 2011. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*, 2nd ed. Oxford University Press & Christopher Helm, London. Pp. 1–528.
- Parag Rangnekar, Kuldip Topo & Lee Mott
Parag Rangnekar, Mrugaya Xpeditions, 407, III-A, Susheela Seawinds, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa, 403802, India. E-mail: rangnekarparag@gmail.com [Corresponding author]
Kuldip Topo, Nirmala Poultry Farm, Kallapwada, Usgao, Goa, 403406, India
Lee Mott, Shetland Islands, Scotland, United Kingdom

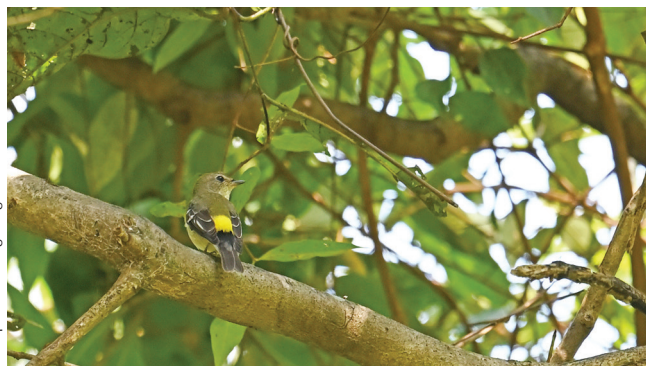
Autumn passage migration of falcons in West Champaran District, Bihar, India

Several falcons migrate long distances between Eurasia and Africa, crossing the Indian subcontinent during spring and autumn passage. Among them, Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* travels a massive distance between its breeding grounds in north-eastern Asia and wintering range in southern Africa (Bildstein 2006), while the Lesser Kestrel *F. naumanni* breeds in Europe, Central Asia, China and Mongolia, and winters in central and southern Africa (BirdLife International 2021). The Eurasian Hobby *F. subbuteo* breeds widely across Eurasia, including parts of the Himalaya, from Kashmir to at least Nepal and probably Bhutan and winters in Africa and Southeast Asia (Naoroji 2006). All these three falcons have similar diet preferences and also associate with each other during their passage migration forming communal roosts (Naoroji 2006). Although all are known to occur as passage migrants in India, records from Bihar remain few. Here, I summarise observations of these falcons from West Champaran District, Bihar, spanning 2016–2024.

The first record in the present series was on 26 October 2016 at 1100 h, when four male Lesser Kestrels were observed and photographed at Harinagar Sugar Mill Colony (27.152°N, 84.329°E), the place where I live, in Ramnagar Town in West Champaran. Soon after, on 01 November 2016 at 0700 h, a flock of 11 Amur Falcons, including three males, six females, and two juveniles was recorded near Gobardhana village (27.311°N, 84.315°E), perched on low electrical wires. The next year, on 16 October 2017, a small mixed flock of five Lesser Kestrels and two female Amur Falcons was observed at Harinagar Sugar Mill Colony, Ramnagar Town. The birds came in late morning, circling overhead and catching insects all day till 1620 h. The



205. Female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, Goa.



206. Female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, Goa.