

(Muzaffar A. Kichloo, pers. comm. May 2025).

In India the species breeds in Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, northern Bengal, Sikkim, and all north-eastern hill states. Non-breeding range extends to adjacent plains and Central Indian highlands, south-western Bengal, Chota Nagpur plateau of Jharkhand, northern Odisha, Andhra, and Chhattisgarh (Praveen 2025). The nearest record of this bird from the current location is from Mendhar, Poonch District (Khan 2021, 2024). This observation represents a significant north-westward extension of its known range in India.

I thank Muzaffar A. Kichloo for confirming this as the first regional record and helping with the manuscript, and to Waseem Bhat for assistance with identification.

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The Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* as a passage migrant in Chhattisgarh, India

The Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* breeds from May to September across northeastern Afghanistan, the Safed Koh range, and the Himalayas from northern Pakistan to Bhutan, extending into southern and central China (Collar 2020). In India, it breeds along the Himalaya from Kashmir, Jammu, Himachal, Uttarakhand, northern Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal, and Nagaland (Praveen 2025). It winters in hilly areas from 600–2,100 m, mainly in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, as well as in Meghalaya, Cachar, Manipur, and Mizoram (Ali & Ripley 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Praveen 2025). Passage migrant records are scattered across peninsular India, including Gujarat, Central India, north-eastern Ghats, West Bengal, and northern plains (Praveen 2025).

On 21 April 2021, HG photographed an Indian Blue Robin foraging in the undergrowth of a small wooded patch at Mowa (21.272°N, 81.656°E), Raipur, Chhattisgarh. On 30 April 2025, during a birdwatching session near Dhaara Dam (21.277°N, 80.833°E) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, PT was initially attracted by the call of a White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*. While filming the Shama, an unfamiliar bird with striking blue upperparts, a prominent white supercilium, black cheeks, chestnut-colored throat and breast, and white undertail coverts was noticed nearby. It was identified as a male Indian Blue Robin based on these characteristics [75]. The individual was observed near a small stream flowing from a leakage point of the dam, actively foraging along the muddy edges and occasionally perching on nearby saplings.

On 03 May 2025, SDB sighted and photographed the species at Sector-03 (21.199°N, 81.373°E), Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, an area comprising old plantations established by the Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and a perennial stream. The bird later flew into dense vegetation, limiting further observations. Despite visiting the site on the next two consecutive days, the bird was not spotted again. The area is a well-known birding hotspot regularly visited by local birders.



Photo: Pratik Thakur

75. Indian Blue Robin from Dhaara Dam, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh on 30 April 2025.

In Chhattisgarh, this bird has been previously reported from a garden in Raipur on 13 April 1991 (Bharos 1992), and from Narayanpur on 07 October 2005 (19.715°N, 81.225°E) (Bharos et al. 2019). All documented records of the Indian Blue Robin from Chhattisgarh coincide with the spring and autumn migratory periods, indicating that the species most likely occurs as a passage migrant in the state.

We sincerely thank Dr. Anurag Vishwakarma and the Chhattisgarh Forest Department for their support and assistance during the study.

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The Critically Endangered Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus* in Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, India

The Indian subcontinent hosts nine vulture species, of which seven are resident breeders, including the Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*. The Indian Vulture is listed as Critically Endangered (BirdLife International 2021) due to a substantial decline of over 90% across India since the 1990s, driven by a range of threats, including habitat destruction, food scarcity, and widespread diclofenac contamination (Oaks et al. 2004; Cuthbert et al. 2011). Historically, the Indian Vulture was found extensively across India,