

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Sighting records of the Malabar Pied Hornbill In Chandgad taluk, Kolhapur, Southern Maharashtra, India

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Malabar Pied Hornbill Anthracoceros coronatus is distributed across the Eastern Himalayas, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Melghat Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Northern Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and Srilanka (Kazmierczak 2000, Ali 2002, Jaypal et al. 2005, Grimmitt and Inskipp 2007, Grimmett et al. 2011). Malabar Pied Hornbill is well documented in Western Ghats and reported that, Amboli- Goa-Dandeli and Ganeshgudi are strong hold places and key areas for its conservation (Mudappa and Raman 2009, Sneha and Davidar 2011). In my previous word (Pratibha Riswadkar and N. C. Hiragond, 2015; Hiragond, NC 2014) described different birds findings and In this paper we report the sighting records of Near Threatened bird Malabar Pied Hornbill (IUCN Red List, 2012) in Chandgad taluk of Kolhapur in Western Sahvadris of southern Ghats of Maharashtra. Chandgad is located between 694-1000m asl and witness rainfall between 3000 to 5000 mm/year. Survey was conducted in Tillari, Parle, Tudiye, Mhalunge and Malatwadi area of Chandgad (latitude 15° 45' to 16° 3' North & longitude 74° 1' to 74[°] 27' East) between 06h30 to 11h00 hrs and 14h00 to18h30 hrs during December 2010 to April 2012 for the period of 17 months. Survey was not conducted during the rainy season from June to August and in

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Malabar Pied Hornbill (Figure 1, 2) was sighted singly, in pair and in 3-8 individual flocks in different parts of the study area. Most of the birds recorded were on the tree nearby irrigation canal and water stream. The detailed sighting record is listed in table 1. We also observed the bird in association with Great Hornbill and Malabar Grey Hornbill. Present sighting records on the Malabar Pied Hornbill as a resident in Chandgad taluk corroborates the findings of Mudappa and Raman (2009) in Western Ghats, Sneha and Davidar (2011) in Dandeli and Wagh *et al.* (2011) in Melghat Tiger Reserve.

Sneha and Davidar (2011) documented 61 birds in 3 months and Reddy (1988) recorded 44 birds during 24 months observation in Dandeli (References in Sneha and Davidar 2011). Wagh et al. (2011) recorded 22 birds in 10 sighting from 40 visits to Melghat Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra in Satpuda Range of Central India during 66 months observation. Mudappa and Raman (2009) documented 131 individuals in 10 localities at different parts of the Western Ghats from Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It is also important to note that, out of 131 individuals 5 birds were recorded in 4 sightings in Amboli and Phansad of Maharashtra. Further, they report Malabar Pied Hornbill population is very scattered and sporadic in Amboli and Phansad of

Table 1. Showing sighting records of Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus* in Chandgad taluk of Kolhapur

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Maharashtra. In present study we sighted 123 Malabar Pied Hornbills in 33 sighting during 17 months. These figures reveal that, more number of Malabar Pied Hornbills recorded in Chandgad than in Dandeli, Melghat Tiger Reserve, and Amboli and Phansad. The encounter rate of the said bird per sighting is also more in Chandgad forested area. Four birds sighted per sighting in Chandgad whereas, 2 birds and 1 bird sighted per sighting in Melghat Tiger Reserve, and Amboli and Phansad area respectively. It seems that the rapid urban and industrial developmental activities in Dandeli might have forced the Malabar Pied Hornbill to shift towards northern Western Ghats to Chandgad forested area.

Our findings shed light on local status of Malabar Pied Hornbills in Chandgad taluk. Table 1 reveals that, we have sighted the bird almost throughout the year in study area. Interview with local people in Tillari gave evidence of its (Malabar Pied Hornbill) presence throughout the year. This indicates that, Tillari forest provides suitable habitat for Malabar Pied Hornbill and it is not a vagrant or migratory bird. Tillari is a home ground for Malabar Pied Hornbill. The bird might also breed in Chandgad area. But we have not sighted any juveniles or nests during our

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routine field work. Sneha and Davidar (2011) reported that, the open riverine habitats on the banks of Kali River provide important roosting site for Malabar Pied Hornbill. This statement supports our sighting records of the bird along the irrigation canal and water stream. On our every field trip we recorded the bird except to Malatwadi.

Figure-1.Showing Malabar Pied Hornbill Anthracoceros coronatus in Bamboo forest of Tillari



Figure-2. Showing Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus* in Dense forest of Tillari



The habitat of Malatwadi is completely different from those of Tillari, Tudiye and Mhalunge. It is not a forested area and consists of open dry land with some irrigated land and trees in scattered condition. Malatwadi is located in eastern part of the Western Ghats and it is around 50 Km away from the Sahyadris of southern Maharashtra. The habitat structure of Malatwadi may not be supporting the life of Malabar Pied Hornbill. Therefore we could not have sighted the bird regularly. A detailed systematic observation is needed in Chandgad forest and its vicinity to assess the population density, distribution pattern and conservation status of nearly threatened birds Malabar Pied Hornbill and Great Hornbill, least concern birds Malabar Grey Hornbill and Indian Grey hornbill.

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Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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