

# Interspecific feeding of Asian Paradise Flycatcher nestlings by Red-vented Bulbul in Hingolghadh

**Devvratsinh Mori** : Opp. Darbar gadh, Wadhwan-363030. devvratsinhmori@gmail.com

**Brijesh Malaviya** : Sukhnathnagar, Behind Govt. Hospital, Gondal-360311. brjsh.patel2@gmail.com



Pankaj Maheria

[Interspecific feeding of Asian Paradise Flycatcher nestlings by Oriental White Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) was reported earlier from Gujarat (Balar 2009). The various reasons behind this behaviour are explained in detail in the editor's note given in this reference. We request birdwatchers to report such interspecific feeding behaviour – Eds]



Pankaj Maheria

On 12 July 2014, we visited Hingolghadh Nature Education Sanctuary. The Hingolghadh Nature Education Sanctuary is located in Jasdan Taluka of Rajkot District. The Sanctuary is spread over an area of 654 ha. It is mainly a dry deciduous scrub forest. We observed a nest of an Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) on a bare branch of a tree.

## Observations:

We observed the nest at around 10:15 hrs. There were two chicks in the nest and both the male and the female Asian Paradise Flycatchers were feeding their nestlings. The nest was observed from about 10 mtrs so as not to disturb the birds. The feeding frequency was lower down during that time. Then suddenly, we observed that one Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) came and perched on the top the Asian Paradise Flycatcher's nest. The chicks raised their necks with open beaks and were seen begging for food. The Red-vented Bulbul fed the chicks or was seen putting its beak into the mouths of the two nestlings. When the chicks sat down, the Red-vented Bulbul started feeding inside the Asian Paradise Flycatcher's nest. We could not see what it was feeding on. We again observed this nest in the evening at 17:30 hrs. This time, we saw that the bulbul was feeding the chicks. When the bulbul came to feed, the flycatcher would observe this while being perched on a nearby branch. It also happened that many times the bulbul and the flycatcher would arrive together with feed. But the bulbul would feed the chicks first and then the flycatchers would get the chance.

Based on the above observations, we thought that as the Red-vented Bulbul was also nesting, and one of the parents was collecting food for the incubating bird, it was attracted by the begging and thus was feeding the chicks of the flycatcher.



Pankaj Maheria

## Acknowledgments:

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## References:

Balar, R. 2009. Interspecific feeding of Asian Paradise - Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* nestlings by Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*. *Indian Birds* 4 (5): 163–164 □