

Occurrence of White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus* in Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, India

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The avifaunal diversity of Gujarat continues to reveal important additions through regular field observations and systematic monitoring (Parasharya et al., 2004; Ganpule, 2025). During a recent bird survey conducted in Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, two individuals of the White-browed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) were recorded. Based on available literature and published regional bird checklists, this observation constitutes the first documented record of the species from Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary.

The White-browed Bulbul is a resident passerine belonging to the family Pycnonotidae. Endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka, the species is generally associated with dry scrub forests, thorny thickets, woodland edges, agricultural landscapes, and shrubby habitats (Ali & Ripley, 2001; Grimmett et al., 2011). It is known for its preference for dense undergrowth, where it frequently remains concealed within thick vegetation (Rasmussen & Anderton, 2012).

The individuals were observed in a scrub-dominated habitat within Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of two birds were recorded during the survey period, both frequently seen visiting and foraging on *Cordia sinensis* Lam. (locally known

as Nani Gundi), a characteristic fruiting shrub species of the area. Other bird species observed in mixed association within the same micro-habitat included the Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*), White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*), and Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*).

The White-browed Bulbul is relatively common in southern and central parts of Gujarat (Grimmett et al., 2011; Bhatt & Trivedi, 2016). Historically, the species was considered absent from much of the Saurashtra peninsula (Dharmakumarsinhji, 1955; Ali, 1955; Raol, 1998). However, recent observations and published records have documented its occurrence in several localities within Saurashtra, including Rajkot (Bhatt & Trivedi, 2016), alongside reports from the Little Rann of Kachchh and Jamnagar (eBird, 2024). Despite these expanding records across Saurashtra, the species has not previously been documented from Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary. The absence of earlier records from the sanctuary may simply be due to under-exploration and limited systematic avifaunal surveys rather than a recent range expansion. Nevertheless, long-term monitoring will help clarify whether this record represents a genuine range shift or an overlooked resident population.





The present observation is noteworthy as it adds a new species to the avifaunal checklist of Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary and further strengthens evidence regarding the establishment and spread of the White-browed Bulbul in Saurashtra, Gujarat.

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