

New site record of Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* from Andhra Pradesh

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The Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* is endemic to peninsular India and is known to occur in Andhra Pradesh (Allen 1908; Subramanya & Prasad 1996; Kumar 1999; Srinivasulu 2003), Karnataka (Ali 1942; Subramanya *et al.* 1991; Karthikeyan *et al.* 1995; Thejaswi 2004; Misra *et al.* 2007), and Tamil Nadu (Nichols 1944; Rao 1995; Karthikeyan 1995; Beisenherz 2004; Thejaswi 2004; Narayan *et al.* 2006), with a few records from Kerala (Kannan 1993; Beisenherz 2004; Thejaswi 2004; Praveen & Namassivayan 2006).

The Yellow-throated Bulbul is considered to be one of the 78 threatened bird species in India (Anonymous 2008). In this note we place on record the sighting of a small population of these birds in Kolluru locality of Papikonda Hills in the northern Eastern Ghats, Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh.

The Papikonda Hills are an unbroken chain of rugged hills and plateaus that spread over an area of about 700+ km² (Javed *et al.* 2007). They possess a typical southern tropical dry deciduous and southern tropical moist deciduous forest types intermingled with scrub (Champion & Seth 1968). The annual rainfall ranges from 900–1,500 mm.

The birds were sighted at an altitude of 600 m while guiding the trekkers onto a hilly slope by making a dry streambed as pathway. The hillock is on the River Pammeleru, a tributary of the River Godavari. Three birds were sighted very close to the canopy along with Red-vented Bulbuls *P. cafer*. A bird was sighted sunning at 1030 hrs on 26.xii.2008, the bird looked very similar to the White-browed Bulbul *P. luteolus* but was differentiated by the distinct yellow on the throat and cheek region, lacking a white eyebrow, light yellow streaking on the underside and yellow barring on the secondaries. The bird had a yellowish-white vent and under-tail coverts.

Subramanya's (2004) prediction of the bird's occurrence in Orissa could well be prophetic as there is a continuous chain of forests from the Papikonda Hills to Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

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