

Short Article

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Important Sightings of Orange Flanked Bush Robin Tarsiger Cyanurus from Northern Range of Nandadevi National Park, Ukhimath Tehsil, Dist. - Rudraprayag, Utrakhand, Central Himalayas

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Abstract: In present article, introducing some important vagrant records of Orange flanked bush-robin Tarsiger cyanurus. Extensive observation was carried out from 28th Feb, 2011 to 27th March, 2011. During this observation, 7 birds were sighted and photographed. 6 birds were orange flanked bush-robin Tarsiger cyanurus and another 1 species was Himalayan bush-robin Tarsiger rufilatus. 2 were in winter plumage, 2 were in breeding plumage and remaining probably 2 birds were juvenile of Orange flanked bush-robin.

Keyword: Important wintering record of Orange flanked Bush-Robin from Central Himalaya

Species authority: Pallas, 1773

Domain: Eukaryote

Genus: - Tarsiger

Family: - Muscicapadae

Sub-family: Turushes

Order: - Passeriformes

Class: - Aves

Phylum: - Chordata

Kingdom: - Animalia

Scientific name: - Tarsiger cyanurus

English name: - Orange flanked Bush-robin

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INTRODUCTION

The Orange flanked Bush-robin *T. cyanurus* are resembling of Himalayan bush-robin *T. rufilatus*, also known as a Siberian blue-tail. This race is recently considered as conspecific with Himalayan Bush-robin *T. rufilatus*. Occures in South-East, North Asia, Hainan, Taiwan, South-East, East China, North, South Korea, North, Central, South Japan, Mongolia, North-East Kazakhstan, Altai to North Sea of Okhotsk to West Varal peninsular Central Kola, North-West Russia, North-East, Central Finland. Some confirmed records are available from North-East and East Himalaya. First species was collected by Baker on 2nd Feb, 1896. 2nd species by R. Thakur from Saiha, Mizoram, on 20th March, 1953. Recently two sites were recorded in Lohit and Anjaw districts of Arunachal Pradesh – IB Vol. 17/2.

Observation

On 27th March, 2011, I toured Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand, Western range of Himalayas. Site was South-East, South-west as well as Southern range of the Nandadevi National Park. Site has *Rhododendron*, *Oak Quercus*, Pine (Chir and Blue Pine) *Pinus*, Deodar (Himalayan Cedar) *Cedrus deodara*, Fir *Abies* and Spruce *Picea*, also, long leaf moist forest.

Orange flanked Bush-robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*



Fig. 1

Glossy blue crown, dark blue ear coverts, black bill, white throat, orange on flank, buff breast, blue

mentle, blue greater coverts, grey primary, median, secondary coverts, square-ended blue tail, white on vent.



Fig. 2

Narrow white supercilium upto eye, white throat, glossy blue crown, mentle and tail, black wing coverts.



Fig. 3

Probably in breeding plumage. Black bill, white supercilium in front of eye, glossy blue crown, mentle, dark blue ear and greater covert, pale fringed median, secondary and primary coverts, pale fringed bluish-black tertial, glossy blue shorter round-tipped tail, orange on flank, white and central breast.



Fig. 4

Very similar to fig. 2. White throat, central belly and vent, orange on flank, black legs.



Fig. 5

Dark blue crown, mentle, dark blue ear coverts, white throat, bluish-buff breast, orange on upper flank.



Fig. 6

Probably juvenile and Orange flanked bush robin. Very similar to fig. 4. Orange (thin) on flank.

Himalayan bush-robin *Tarsiger rufilatus*



White throat, black undertail, bluish-buff breast.

Fig.	Date	Site	Latitude and longitude	Plumage
1	28-02-11	Dugadda	29.8° N, 78.61° E	Winter
2	28-02-11	Dugadda	29.8° N, 78.61° E	Winter
3	12-03-11	Duggal bittha	30.49° N, 79.18° E	Breeding
4	22-03-11	Tungnath hills	30.48° N, 79.21° E	Breeding
5	22-03-11	Tungnath hills	30.48° N, 79.21° E	Juvenile
6	27-03-11	Makku Band	30.52° N, 79.42° E	Juvenile

DISCUSSION

During this observation, 6 species of birds were observed and photographed in Nanda devi National Park. Observation is very important for its distribution range. Recently, some birds were sighted and photographed in Arunachal Pradesh and Eastern Himalayas. More observation is required in Central Himalaya from Dehradun Dist. (Dhanolti) to Eastern range of Uttarakhand, Dist. Nanital. Might be birds are winter visitor but overlooked.

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