

Sighting of Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* in Pune, India

Pallavi Ghaskadbi

Ghaskadbi, P., 2010. Sighting of Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* in Pune, India. *Indian BIRDS* 6 (6): 174A.

Pallavi Ghaskadbi, 2 Basant Bahar, 119B Prabhat Road, Pune 411004, Maharashtra, India. Email: pallavi.ghaskadbi@gmail.com

Manuscript received on 12 December 2009.

The Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* belongs to the family Muscicapidae, sub-family Muscicapinae, of the old world flycatchers. It breeds in the Himalayas from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, and in the hills of Manipur (Kazmierczak 2000; Ali 2002; Grimmett *et al.* 2007). It winters south of Goa in the Western Ghats, and also in the Eastern Ghats. However, there is a published record of a vagrant bird from Rajkot, Gujarat (Ganpule 2009).

On 9 November 2009, at 1245 hrs, a very unfamiliar birdcall brought me to the window of my house on Prabhat road in the city of Pune (18°31'N 73°55'E; Maharashtra, India). I observed, and photographed a flycatcher which had a rufous breast, a white belly and a prominent blue throat, ruling out the possibility of its being the locally common, and con-generic Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *C. tickelliae*. The bird was observed perching either on a golden shower *Cassia fistula* tree, a crepe jasmine *Tabernaemontana divaricata* plant, or on a cement wall below them. It would frequently drop to the ground, and would also dart to the wall to catch insects. The bird was seen again on 10 November 2009 at 0950 hrs. This time there was a pair. The female had an olive-brown head and a rufous breast. Both the birds were heard calling out and were relatively oblivious to my presence.

Interestingly, the bird is generally known to inhabit well-wooded areas, and forests with plenty of undergrowth. Also this particular bird appears to be far away from its known range. To my knowledge, this is the first pair of Blue-throated Flycatchers recorded in Pune (Pande *et al.* 2003; Grimmett & Inskipp 2005).

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr Prachi Mehta, Prasad Ganpule, and Shashank Dalvi for their useful guidance, and for suggestions towards improvement of this note. I am thankful to Anirudh Chaoji for his encouragement.

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