

# Occurrence of Malabar Whistling Thrush: *Myophonus horsfieldii*, (Vigors, 1831) in Similipal Biosphere Reserve of Odisha



IUCN Red List:  
Global – Least Concern

Malabar whistling thrush sitting on hill rock

**Aves**  
[Class of Birds]

**Passeriformes**  
[Order of Perching Bird]

**Muscicapidae**  
[Family of Song Bird]

***Myophonus horsfieldii***  
[Malabar Whistling Thrush]

Species described by Vigors in 1831

Malabar whistling thrush (*Myophonus horsfieldii*) is resident to Western Ghats, associated peninsular India and some parts of Eastern Ghats including North West region of Odisha (Grimmett et al., 2011, Narayanan et al., 2007). This species is generally native to Eastern Ghats (Ananth, 1982). The *M. horsfieldii* is not migratory in nature but in winter they are wider spread (Praveen, 2006). The species is generally present near rocky hill stream, evergreen jungles, well wooded areas etc (Grimmett et al., 2011, Ali and Ripley, 1987).

*M. horsfieldii* measure up to 22-25 cm, possesses blackish with shiny patches of blue on forehead and in shoulders (Grimmett et al., 2011). The blue is become

visible when exposed to light (Grimmett et al.; 2011). Bill and legs are black. Sexes are indistinguishable and juvenile is brownish in colour and lacks a blue forehead (Grimmett et al., 2011, Rasmussen et al., 2005, Ali and Ripley, 2001).

During our field visit to Sitakund Waterfall, which is situated in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha state, which is situated adjacent to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR). The GPS coordinates are 21°55'44.2" North to 86°34'16.9" East, with an elevation level of 178.8m ASL. A Malabar whistling thrush was seen near the waterfall, near a cave, the species continuously move inside and outside of this cave. At that time the photo of this species has been taken. The same species is also found in Barhakamuda region, a core area of Similipal Biosphere Reserve, in some few numbers and also tracked at Devkund waterfall from the same district (there has been no scientific study about this species, only reported by some bird watcher). During the sighting of this species, they show very restless movement and are quite shy in nature. The movement is more frequent during the morning session and in the afternoon session.

The features and behavior of this bird confirmed it to be of Malabar Whistling Thrush (Grimmett et al., 2011, Ali and Ripley, 1987, Narayanan et al., 2007).

#### Global Distribution:

India: Western Ghats south of the Surat Dangs, Satpura range to northwestern Odisha and Eastern Ghats

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**Biswajeet Panda<sup>1</sup>, Siddhartha Pati<sup>2</sup> & Bisnu Prasad Dash<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1-3</sup> Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Fakir Mohan University, Odisha 756020

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