

Sighting of Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* in Odisha, India

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Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* is known to be a resident in Himalayas from Central Nepal to Arunachal Pradesh, South Assam Hills, and north-eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh; It breeds in the foothills up to 2200 m (900–1800 m in S Assam hills), wintering down to adjacent plains; also found in south-eastern Tibet, and south-western China, up to western Indonesia (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

This short note presents, with photographic documentation [204, 205], a record of this species from Satkosia Tiger Reserve (20°25'–20°45'N 85°35'–86°5'E), Angul District, Odisha, India.



204. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*.



205. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*.

Photos: D.K. Singh

The field site in Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Kantarsingha Game Tank (20°38'N 84°59'E; 445 m asl), near Labangi, is located towards the northeastern boundary of the reserve. It is about 13 kms from Pampasar, the main entrance into the reserve from the north.

On 03 May 2009 at 1045 hours, a Yellow-bellied Warbler was spotted from the Kantarsingha Game Tank watchtower. The bird was near the base of a bamboo clump, foraging in dried bamboo leaf litter and moving on the dried branches of the clump. It was observed till 1100 hrs.

The bird's distinct white supercilium, white throat with yellow underparts, and yellowish-olive mantle ruled out any confusion with a Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* (which is again unrecorded in the area).

This is the first confirmed record, with photographic evidence, of a Yellow-bellied Warbler from Odisha. There are no known breeding/wintering sightings of this bird within a radius of c. 650 kms around Satkosia Tiger Reserve towards its northern and north-eastern sides. This record suggests that the bird might winter sporadically in the northern Eastern Ghats, possibly as far south as northern Andhra Pradesh, where similar habitat and terrain are present. In all likelihood, this bird might have been on its return migration from areas further south of Satkosia. Further observations may be necessary to study potentially larger extent and abundance of migration of this species in the moist deciduous and semi-evergreen habitats of the Eastern Ghats and Chota Nagpur Plateau.

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