
SHORT COMMUNICATION

An Observation on Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis* (Jardón, 1845) feeding on Sri Lankan Pipe Snake *Cylindrophis maculata* (Linne, 1754)

D.M.S. Suranjan Karunaratna^{1,2} and A.A. Thasun Amarasinghe¹

Introduction

There are seven species of Babblers (Family: Sylviidae) in Sri Lanka and two of them are endemic (Harrison, 1999; Kotagama & Fernando, 1994). Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis* (Jerdon, 1845), a common bird in Sri Lanka and they distributed all over the country from secondary forest to urban home gardens. They feed on a variety of food items including insects, fruits and kitchen scraps (Henry, 1998). Here we report an unusual feeding behavior of Yellow-billed Babbler.

Observation

On 13th of August 2004, around 07.25 hours, six an adult Yellow-billed Babblers were observed at a home garden at Panadura. We observed one of these birds which was swallowing a small Sri Lankan Pipe Snake *Cylindrophis maculata*, approximately 200mm in length. The anterior part of the snake was already swallowed and it took nearly fifteen minutes to complete the process. After swallowing the prey, it

slowly flew to a nearby Jack tree *Artocarpus heterophyllas*. According to published literature, there is no record of Yellow-billed Babbler feeding on a snake. Hence this is the first recorded on Yellow-billed Babbler feeding on Sri Lankan Pipe Snake.

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¹ The Young Zoologists' Association of Sri Lanka, National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka.

² E-mail: dmsameera@gmail.com