

Distribution of Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* in India

Satish Pande¹, Reuven Yosef^{2,*}, Rajgopal Patil¹, Prashant Deshpande¹, Vaibhav Deshmukh¹,
Pravin Kawle¹ and Rajkumar Pawar¹

¹Ela Foundation, C-9, Bhosale Park, Sakakarnagar-2, Pune-411009, India

²Ben Gurion University of the Negev - Eilat Campus, P. O. Box 272, Eilat 88106, Israel

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: ryosef60@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The Sri Lanka Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) is an elusive nocturnal bird whose distribution is known to be restricted to the forests of the southern Western Ghats of India and Sri Lanka. Following several sporadic sightings reports of the species north of its known range, we conducted a survey between 12th March 2011 and 10th April 2011 to determine its presence. Random areas in the northern Western Ghats were selected and regions of earlier sightings were surveyed. Call playback survey technique was employed on predetermined transects and calls were played every 200 m and responses by frogmouths were recorded. We recorded 51 individuals from 28 locations in a 10 km² area. We attempted to maximise visual identification and to establish with maximum certainty the sex of the bird. All detected frogmouths were found only in one of the three surveyed areas. We consider the recent sightings to be the result of a change northwards in the distribution of the species owing to climate change.

Keywords: Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus moniliger*, Western Ghats, India, distribution.