

Breeding Behaviour of White Cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*): A Case Study at Bari Doda, Jammu and Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

The breeding behaviour of white cheeked bulbul (Pycnonotus leucogenys) was studied in village Bari of district Doda of Jammu and Kashmir in courtyard during may- june of 2020. During the course of observation it was observed that female lays 3 egg in a nest on a Araucaria tree in the courtyard .The hatching success was found to be 100%. The incubation period was 14-15 days and nesting period was found 12-14 days. Both the male and female fed their youngones. The fledging success was observed to be 66%.

Keywords: Himalayan Bulbul, Africa and islands of westren Indian ocean, Semi arid

INTRODUCTION

Himalayan Bulbul (White Cheeked Bulbul) *Pycnonotus leucogenys* occurs in the northern regions of Indian sub continent and its adjoining areas. They have broad range of habitat from semi arid to rain forest. Of the 27 genera currently treated within the family Pycnonotidae, 11 are exclusively Asian, 14 are present in Africa and islands of westren Indian ocean .Only a few widespread and lowland species have been well studied in their native and other introduced ranges (Prajapathi et al., 2011, Rao et al., 2013, Sharma & Sharma 2013, Zia et al., 2014, Awais et al., 2014). It is found near the Himalayas (IOC world Bird), and visit frequently forest, shrubs and also comes to gardens and parks.

It is about 18cm in length, and approximately 150 gm in weight. Its head, throat and crest are black and white. The sides, back and tail is brown. Where as under sides are pale yellow. There is no sexual dimorphism based on plumage. It feeds on insects and other small invertebrates as well as fruits, seeds and buds etc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in village Bari which is approximately 40 km from district headquarter Doda of Jammu and Kashmir at an elevation of apprximately 1200m from sea level.

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The study area has subtropical type of climate with the upper reaches bearing temperate type of climatic conditions. The observation was carried with the objective to study the breeding behavior of white cheeked bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenis*) whose nest was observed in the courtyard on a tree.

Observation and Discussion :-

The present observation of breeding behavior of White Cheeked bulbul was made in village Bari in a courtyard on a *Araucaria* tree, where Bulbul constructed its nest. The nest is made up of straw, and dry grass etc. Which was at a height of 8 feet approximately from ground. Both male and female participated in the construction of nest. The clutch size was 3 eggs. The eggs were hatched in 14-15 days with hatching success of 100/ and the hatched

young ones are nidicolous. After hatching both the partners (i.e male and female) feed their young ones. During the feeding of young ones, feed is brought turn by turn as one partner remains near by the nest for caring of their young ones. The food generally comprised of insects and their larvas, which were observed keenly in their breaks. The chick grow to their flight stage in about 12-14 days after hatching.

During the course of observation it was observed that one chick of approximately 8 days old was missing from the nest, may be during the night hours, it fell down from the nest and was preyed by cat or someone else. Therefore only two chicks reached the flight stage. Thus the success rate of the clutch size was 66%.



Plate 1:- Nest of White Chicked Bulbul on Tree



Plate 2:- Chick of White Chicked Bulbul in Nest



Plate3:- 8 Days Old Chicks of Bulbul



Plate 4:-Adult Male and Female Bulbul with feed

This observation is in concordant with the observation made by Meera Srivastava (2012), who did same study in Biknar Rajasthan, and Zia et al. (2014) studied the breeding biology of red vented bulbul in Rawalpandi area of Islamabad.

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