

# Sighting of Indian grey hornbill and Rufous woodpecker at Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, India

## Abstract

Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, India is home to a rich assemblage of faunal and floral diversity including 121 species of bird species. The present communication reports addition of two new species namely Indian grey hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* (Scopoli, 1786) and Rufous woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* (Vieillot, 1818) to the existing checklist of Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary.

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## Observations

Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary (NWS) is located between 20°23'08" to 20°24'10"N and 85°48'09" to 85°48'13" E, spreading over an area of 4.37 sq.km in the state of Odisha, Eastern India. The sanctuary enjoys a moderately hot humid climate around 30°C with annual average rainfall of 1350mm. The vegetation is of moist mixed deciduous type.<sup>1</sup> There is scanty literature on birds of NWS. Kamal et al.,<sup>2</sup> recorded 53 species of birds from "Kanjia" lake of NWS. A checklist of 120 species of birds of 41 families was reported by Panda et al.,<sup>3</sup> Mohapatra et al. added one more species i.e., Stork billed kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) to the checklist.<sup>4</sup> The present note intends to report addition of two new species to the above checklist. The sighted birds are Indian grey hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* (Scopoli, 1786) (Figure 1). Rufous woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* (Vieillot, 1818) (Figure 2). Both birds were sighted and photo-documented by the author during ad libitum field survey inside the sanctuary area. Both species were identified on site and confirmed.<sup>5,6</sup> Indian Grey Hornbill is grey colored with white under parts, red iris & a tail with white tip and dark sub-terminal band. The bill is dark-grey to black surmounted with a casque extending upto the point of curvature in the bill. Rufous Woodpecker is a medium sized rufous colored bird with short black bill and black barring on the wing and tail. The bird lacks a crest. Male has crimson patch on ear covert which is pale buff in case of female.<sup>5,6</sup>



**Figure 1** Indian grey hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* at NWS.



**Figure 2** Rufous woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* at NWS.

Spatiotemporal details of sightings of Indian grey hornbill and Rufous woodpecker were given in the Table 1. Indian grey hornbill has a wide distribution range including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.<sup>7</sup> In odisha the species was reported from Sundargarh,<sup>6,8</sup> Ganjam,<sup>9,10</sup> Athagarh, Cuttack,<sup>11</sup> Joda, Keonjhar districts<sup>12</sup> and Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary<sup>13</sup> spreading over Nayagarh and Boudh districts of Odisha. Rufous woodpecker is having a very wide distribution range including India; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Viet Nam.<sup>14</sup> In Odisha, the species was recorded from Mayurbhanj district<sup>15</sup> and Kalrapat Wildlife Sanctuary, southern Odisha.<sup>16</sup>

## Conclusion

Indian grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) and Rufous woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) were observed at Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary between March and May, 2018. These species were not report earlier from the sanctuary. There is a need for further study on the bird diversity of Nandankanan in general and biology of the above species in particular to enrich our knowledge and contribute towards their conservation.

**Table 1** Spatiotemporal details of sighting of Indian grey hornbill and rufous woodpecker

SNo	Species	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude
1	Indian grey hornbill	25-03-2018	04:03pm	20°23'43.99"N	85°49'17.79"E
2	Indian grey hornbill	28-04-2018	07:48am	20°23'44.11"N	85°49'21.58"E
3	Rufous woodpecker	22.05.2018	07:31am	20°24'24.3"N	85°49'12.9"E
4	Rufous woodpecker	27.05.2018	08:05am	20°24'20.5"N	85°49'10.8"E

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None.

## Conflict of interest

Author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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