

Sight Record of Cinereous Vulture *Aegypiusmonachus* at Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan, India

Srinu Srikanta Maharana¹, Suraj Kumar², Neha Sharma³, Pooja Acharya⁴

¹Agra Bear Rescue Facility, Uttar Pradesh, India

Corresponding author E-mail ID: [maharanasrinusrikanta\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:maharanasrinusrikanta[at]gmail.com)

^{2 & 4} Agra Bear Rescue Facility, Uttar Pradesh, India

³Department of Zoology, Agra College, Uttar Pradesh, India

The Cinereous Vulture *Aegypiusmonachus* belongs to the family Accipitridae, order Falconiformes is listed as Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List of threatened species (BirdLife International 2021). In India, the species is resident to the dry temperate of Himalaya and a rare winter visitor to the northern and central part (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett et al.2009). The present note intends to report the occurrence of Cinereous Vulture in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur of Rajasthan.

Keoladeo National Park (*henceforth*, KNP) (27.17 °N, 77.52 °E) is a part of the Indo-Gangetic flood plains in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan (Fig.1). On 15 November 2021, at 1618 h, we spotted a Cinereous Vulture *A. monachus* was sitting on the treetop inclining its back to maximize sun exposure. The photo-documented bird along with characteristic features viz. bluish-grey cere, dark irises, and uniformly dark plumage was confirmed as a Cinereous Vulture (Fig. 2).

Earlier at KNP, the Cinereous vulture was reported by Hines (1988) . However, in the last two decades, except ours, there was no sight record of this species. The current sight record reveals the migratory pattern and home range of Cinereous vulture in winters at KNP. In future, the habitat use pattern and food resources in wintering ground of this species should be studied to understand its biology and movement.

References

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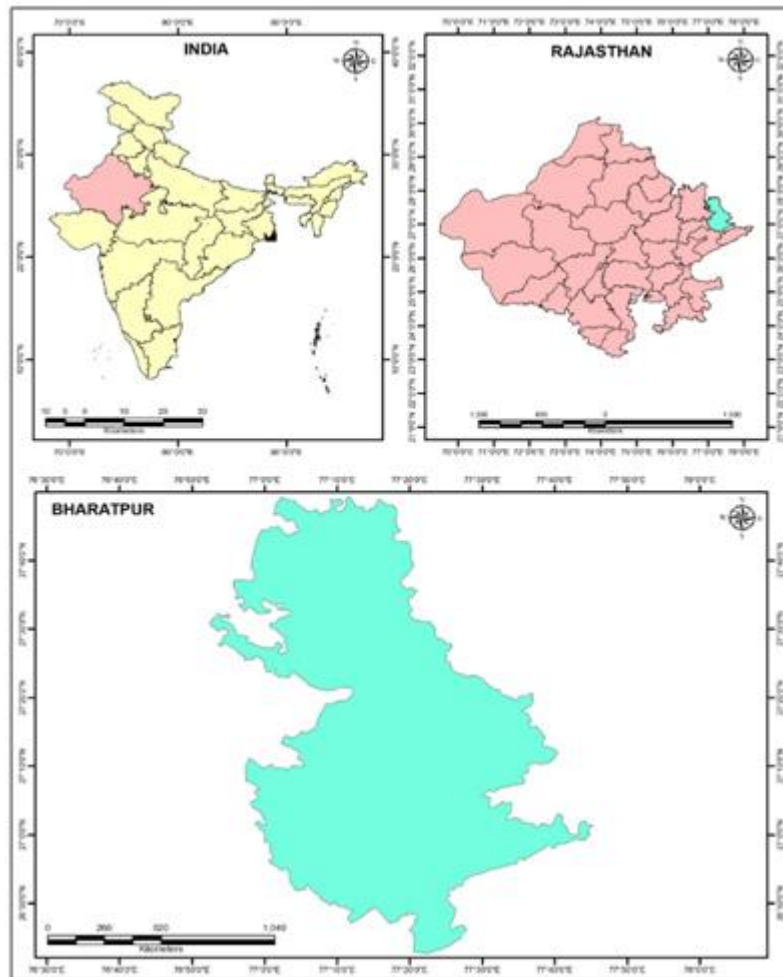


Figure 1: Map showing Bharatpur district of Rajasthan

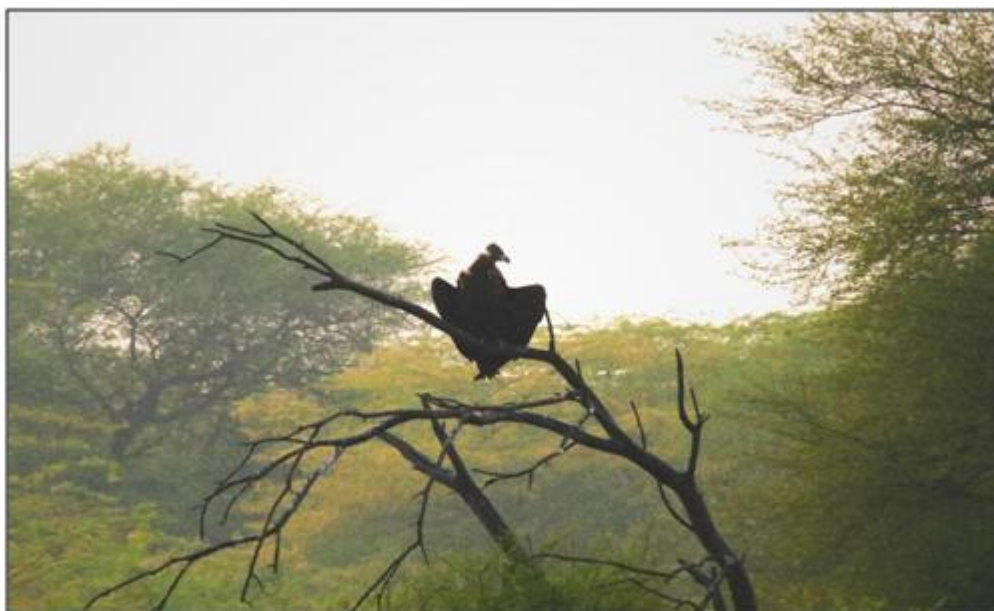


Figure 2: Cinereous Vulture sitting on the treetop inclining its back to maximize sun exposure at KNP