



## New sighting record of golden-headed *Cisticola* (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) from Pune, Maharashtra

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Golden-headed *Cisticola* *Cisticola exilllis* is a small grassland warbler around 10 cm resembling that of Zitting *Cisticola* *Cisticola juncidis*. It is a least concerned (IUCN 2014, BirdLife 2014) resident bird distributed in southern part of Uttarkhand, northern part of Uttar Pradesh, north-east and southern hills of Indian subcontinent, Nepal and Bangladesh. Few sighting records are also reported from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Bird inhabits tall and open grasslands, scrubs, rivers, and wetlands regions up to 1200m. It builds a nest of fine grass and breeds in colonies during April to August (Grimmett *et al.*, 1998, 2011; Grimmett & Inskipp 2007; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

In this note we are reporting a new sighting record of Golden-headed *Cisticola* from Pune in Maharashtra. One of author (BR) was very surprised to sight Golden-headed *Cisticola* (Fig.1) on 4th Nov. 2014 at Baner Hills in Pune (18°31'10" N, 73°51'19" E) at 554 m asl. It was

a short encounter for 2-4 minutes but managed to take few photographs of the bird. The first impression on the bird was very confusing seems to be *Zitting cisticola*. Later the photographs of bird were sent to Tim Inskipp for identification and confirmed as presently sighted bird is Golden-headed *Cisticola*.

Earlier Golden-headed *Cisticola* was reported from Radhanagari Sanctuary in Kolhapur district, Ahemadnagar and nearby Pune (References in Prasad, 2003) in Maharashtra. Present sighting record shows a range extension of the bird around 130 Km from Ahemadnagar and 287 Km from Radhanagari wildlife Sanctuary. Figure 2 shows sighting records of the bird in Maharashtra. Recently, several avifauna checklists reported from different parts of the Maharashtra (Kasambe and Wadatkar, 2007; Narwade and Fartade, 2011; Pachlore and Chandrashekar, 2011; Hiragond *et al.*, 2013; Kumbar and Ghadage, 2014; Hiragond, 2014). But the Golden-headed *Cisticola* is not reported. In Maharashtra the said bird is not a common resident, it is a rare bird. Present sighting record shows its presence in Pune and its vicinity. Since, there is no published report on its recent sighting in Maharashtra it is worth of its documentation.

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**Figure-1. Shows Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilllis* recorded in Pune, Maharashtra**



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**Figure 2: Shows sighting records of Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilllis* in Maharashtra**



Note: 1. Blue colored circle indicate present sighting record of Golden-headed Cisticola  
 2. Yellow colored circles indicate earlier sighting record of Golden-headed Cisticola

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