Occurrence of Malabar Whistling Thrush: *Myophonus horsfieldii*, (Vigors, 1831) in Similipal Biosphere Reserve of Odisha

Malabar whistling thrush (*Myophonus horsfieldii*) is resident to Western Ghats, associated peninsular India and some parts of Eastern Ghats including North West region of Odisha (Grimmett et al., 2011, Narayanan et al., 2007). This species is generally native to Eastern Ghats (Ananth, 1982). The *M. horsfieldii* is not migratory in nature but in winter they are wider spread (Praveen, 2006). The species is generally present near rocky hill stream, evergreen jungles, well wooded areas etc (Grimmett et al., 2011, Ali and Ripley, 1987).

*M. horsfieldii* measure up to 22-25 cm, possesses blackish with shiny patches of blue on forehead and in shoulders (Grimmett et al., 2011). The blue is become
visible when expose to light (Grimmett et al; 2011). Bill and legs are black. Sexes are indistinguishable and juvenile is brownish in colour and lack in blue forehead (Grimmett et al., 2011, Rasmussen et al., 2005, Ali and Ripley, 2001).

During our field visit to Sitakund Waterfall, which is situated in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha state, which is situated adjoin to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR). The GPS coordinates is 21°55.44.2” North to 86°34.16.9” East, with an elevation level is 178.8m ASL. A Malabar whistling thrush was seen near water fall, near a cave, the species continuously move inside and outside of this cave. At that time the photo of this species has been taken. The Same species is also found in Barhakamuda region is a core area of Similipal Biosphere reserve, in some few numbers and also tracked at Devkund waterfall from same district (there has no scientific study about this species only reported by some bird watcher). During the sighting of this species show very restless movement and quite shy in nature. The movement is more frequent during morning session and at the afternoon session.

The features and behavior of this bird confirmed it to be of Malabar Whistling Thrush (Grimmett et al., 2011, Ali and Ripley, 1987, Narayanan et al., 2007).

References

Acknowledgement: The authors are thankful to Mr. H. K. Bisht, RCCF cum Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve, forest staff and to Mr. S. R. Mishra, Research Scholar of Similipal Tiger reserve, Mayurbhanj.