

Wild boar predation on White-rumped vulture fledgling

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Predation on fledgling of Old World vultures is scantily reported (Brown and Amadon 1968; Mundy 1982). Only few studies have been reported predation on fledglings by mammalian species (Rodriguez and Balcells 1968; Donazar and Ceballos 1988). In this note we report wild boar predation on the fledgling of White-rumped vulture. This observation was done at Sigur Plateau, Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu.

On 25 March 2016, while monitoring the White-rumped vulture fledglings on the nests, a fledgling's call was frequently observed, initially we associated the call with mother feeding the young one, after a few minutes the sound stopped abruptly. Soon after we went to the nesting tree to observe the fledglings on the nest. Suddenly we noticed four wild boars running away from the site. On further observation in the area we found that some feathers were spread around, and on intensive search we found remains the legs of White-rumped vulture fledgling (Fig 1).

Literature search showed four instances of mammals predated on vulture fledgling on the species of Egyptian vulture and African White-backed vulture (Stoyanova and Stefano 1933; Marlow 1983; Donazar and Ceballos 1988). The previous records shows only carnivores (Jackal, Red Fox, Wolves and Honey Badger) predated vultures but in this observation an omnivore is reported even though it is an opportunistic behaviour.

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Fig 1. Uneaten leg remains of White-rumped vulture fledgling

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