We were camping in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan from 9-13 November 2013 for the wildlife observations. On 12th November, 2013 at 0700hrs, we observed a Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* (Strigidae: Strigiformes) sitting on a low branch about eight feet high on a tree and holding a bird in its claws in a open forest stream of the Nalghati forest patch (26°1'5.93"N; 76°27'45.58"E) of the tiger reserve. Brown Fish Owl was identified by large size, grey-brown colouration with fine white streaks on scapulars. In flight it showed moderately banded, tail and wings. When we looked at the owl closer through the Zeiss Conquest HD 10X42 binoculars, we found that the bird caught by owl was alive and identified as a Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* (Phalacrocoracidae: Pelecaniformes). Little cormorant was identified owing to black colour, small size with short bill and longish tail. A few minutes later, owl stabbed the cormorant with its claws, killed the bird and flew with the bird across the stream and disappeared in densely foliaged trees. The incident happened so quickly that we could not take any photograph.

Brown Fish Owl is a resident bird and distributed in entire subcontinent, south of Himalayas. It is mostly nocturnal but also has semi-diurnal habits particularly in the neighbourhood of water tanks and streams. The food consists of mainly fish, frogs and crabs; occasionally rodents, birds and reptiles (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012; Grimmett *et al.* 2013); reptiles like *Varanus* sp., putrefying carcase of crocodile (Ali & Ripley 1983). Further, Vyas *et. al.*, (2013) have mentioned a wide spectrum of food in Brown Fish Owls, consisting of various groups of invertebrates and vertebrates such as, dung beetle, crabs, prawns, fishes, frogs and toads, snakes, lizards, and birds (Babbler *Turdoides* sp). Our observation reveals that Brown Fish Owls preying on Little Cormorant is an additional record of its food habit.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to Dr. Anil Mahabal, Scientist (Retd) ZSI, Pune for encouragement in writing this note.

References


---

1Biome Conservation Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra. Email: sanjaythakur005@gmail.com (Corresponding Author)

222, Westbury view, Peasdown St John, Bath, BA2 8TZ. United Kingdom. Email: chriskray1974@gmail.com

---

**Announcement**

**SERB School in Herpetology**

(1-15 October 2015)

Sponsored by SERB a statutory body of DST

Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun will conduct the 3rd SERB School in Herpetology (Second Phase) for imparting training in various branches of Herpetology. Twenty young researchers from India and five from SAARC countries having aptitude for herpetological research (MSc. final year, PhD. scholars, postdoctoral fellows or young faculty members) will be selected at an all India level. Exceptional candidates with a lower degree may also be considered. Faculty would be leading researchers in Herpetology from different parts of the country and abroad. The school aims to provide long term scientific human resource with sound technical base for teaching and research and to initiate and strengthen research programs in Herpetology, relevant to current needs of Indian science. For those interested in Herpetology, the school will offer a rare opportunity to learn directly from the leading researchers in the field.

For further details and application procedures, please visit: [www.wii.gov.in](http://www.wii.gov.in)

**Contact:**

Dr. Abhijit Das, Course Coordinator, Email: abhijit@wii.gov.in

Prof. Sushil K. Dutta, Course Director. Email: duttaphrynus@gmail.com

---

[20] ZOO’s PRINT, Volume XXX, Number 7 July 2015