

Red Vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus cafer

Order:Pycononotidae

Family:Passeriformes

Genus:*Pycnonotus*

Species:*cafer*



STATUS

Resident/ Common

MORPHOLOGY

- Size: Somewhat smaller and slimmer than the Myna. (8").
- Field Characters: A perky smoke-brown bird with partially crested black head, scale-like markings on breast and back and a conspicuous crimson patch under the tail. Pairs or parties in gardens and lightly wooded country. Sexes alike.

DISTRIBUTION

- A resident species, upto elevations of about 4000 feet, throughout the Indian Empire.
- Over this wide range five geographical races are differentiated on depth of coloration and minor variations in size

HABITS

- The Red -vented Bulbul is a common bird of gardens and light scrub jungle both near and away from human habitations. it is usually seen in pairs , but wherever food happens to be plentiful —as for instance on a Banyan tree in ripe fruit or at a swarming of winged termites —large numbers will collect.
- Although it has no song as such, its notes have a peculiar air of joyousness which, coupled with the bird's vivacious disposition, always make it a welcome visitor to the garden.
- This bulbul is of a pugnacious nature and ranks high with Indian bird fanciers as a fighting bird.
- Great rivalry obtains among the owners and oft en considerable sums change hands on the bouts. Champion birds fetch big prices

NESTING

- The breeding season,which varies slightly in the different parts of its distribution, is between February and October.
- The nest is a cup of root lets sometimes plastered on the outside with a little cobweb. It is placed at heights of between 3 and 30 feet from the ground, but often under 10 feet.
- Shrubs and creepers growing on or near verandahs, stunted date palms, cactus hedges or pollarded 'Bhendi' (*Thespesia*) and guava trees in gardens and on the countryside are some of the sites chosen.
- The eggs—two or three in number - are pinkish-white, profusely blotched with purplish-brown or claret. Both sexes share in building, incubation and care of the young