Occurrence of Indian Fox in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu

The Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* (Shaw, 1800) is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It ranges from the foothills of the Himalaya in Nepal to the southern tip of the Indian peninsula. In southern India, only few studies were done on this species in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (Manakadan & Rahmani 2002; Home 2005; Vanak 2005; Bhaskaran 2006; Kumara & Singh 2012).

In Tamil Nadu there are only a few distribution records available in Nanguneri (Kanniakumari District) and Vazhapadi (Salem District) (Johnsingh 1978; Gompper & Vanak 2006; Vijayakumar 2020). Here, we report the Indian Fox from Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.

During our bird watching trips during 2018–2019, we had seen seven Individuals of Indian Fox in Tiruvannamalai and surrounding locations (Table 1). In Adiannamalai lake and surroundings, we had seen one adult female Indian fox with two pups and photographed. All the sighting locations are close to human habitation except, Kannamadai Reserve Forest, which is scrub jungle with grassland patches.

Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* (Shaw, 1800) is classified as Least Concern as per IUCN Red List (Jhala 2016). We saw threats like hunting activities by *Narikuravas* and building constructions are going on Kannathampoondi and other locations are very close to highways. Teaching local peoples and forest officials to conserve the species through awareness programmes.
Table 1. Locations of Indian Fox Vulpes bengalensis in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>GPS location</th>
<th>No. of individuals</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Habitat type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adiannamalai Lake</td>
<td>12.253300 79.020067</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.iv.2018</td>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Dry grassland with rocky patches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kannakurikkai</td>
<td>12.262383 78.967383</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.v.2018</td>
<td>0658</td>
<td>Dry grassland with rocky patches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kannathampoondi</td>
<td>12.204283 79.028033</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18.viii.2019</td>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Dry grassland with rocky patches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kannamadai</td>
<td>12.152767 79.083467</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13.ix.2019</td>
<td>0630</td>
<td>Reserve Forest (scrub jungle)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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References


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