

Occurrence of Indian Fox in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu



Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* in Adiannamalai Lake, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu: A—Female Indian Fox | B—Indian Fox pups (© R. Sivakumar).

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 (Kanniyakumari 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.

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

Location of Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu (map prepared using Google Earth).

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